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## Quality, Creativity, Consistency, Collaboration

Dear Parents and Carers,

This is the first newsletter of 2016- so Happy New Year! I hope that you all have had a fantastic (if blowy and wet) holiday and that 2016 has been kind to you so far. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of you on behalf of the staff for the cards and gifts that we received at the end of last term; we really did appreciate the gesture of kindness.

As always there is going to be an awful lot of important information in this newsletter- keep it somewhere safe and keep referring to it until you get the next one in a few weeks' time.

Best wishes

John

### CT newsletters

You should all have received by now a termly newsletter from your child's Class teacher; this sets out all the important information particular to your child's class, like assembly and trip dates, PE times and homework expectations. Please make sure that you pay particular attention to this letter so that you can help your child be organised ready to start learning at school as well as being able to support them with their learning at home. If for some reason you do not receive this newsletter then please look on the school's website (where copies of all newsletters are also available) or go to the main office where a copy can be made for you.



We need to work with you in partnership if our children are going to have the best experiences possible, and clear communication is key to this- trying to have a long conversation with the class teachers as they bring the children in at the start of the day isn't really a good idea as we need to get the children into their rooms and settled as quickly as possible. If you would like to speak to your child's class teacher, please make an appointment to see them either directly in the morning or through the office, outlining what you want to discuss with them.

### Core Values

Our Core Values are agreed concepts that underpin everything we do; they have helped make the school a better, more positive place for the whole community, but most importantly for our children!

- **Respect each other; Every Individual matters; Take responsibility; Strive for excellence**  
**Try your best!**

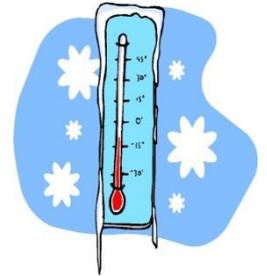
Our Core values are for the whole school community not just for the children. They support and inform the relationships we have with one another as we all have a responsibility to set all children, not just our own, a good example when we are on school property. Please remember this when you are on the school site.

## Uniform

99% of the children looked very smart on their first day this term, but already there are some strange variations on our uniform creeping in! Our uniform is a bright blue jumper, sweatshirt or cardigan, white t-shirt, shirt or polo shirt, dark trousers, skirts or tracksuit bottoms. Children also need a school PE kit made up of a white t-shirt, dark shorts or track suit bottoms, and black pumps or trainers a PE bag and a book bag, all of which are available from Wearabouts and School Wear United. We are keeping some spare used but clean uniform at school- if you are having difficulty in supplying your child with uniform, please let the school know.

## Cold Weather

January and February are often the worst months of a British winter- and this month so far has lived up to this reputation! Please make sure that your child is appropriately dressed to keep them as warm as possible- with a warm coat, hat, scarf and gloves. If the weather is particularly wet, windy or cold then we will keep the children in at play and lunchtimes. If the weather is particularly bad at the beginning of the day then all of the children in Y2-Y6 need to come straight into the old hall where they will be supervised by members of staff (with parents saying goodbye in the playground.)



## School Dinners



We would like to offer parents the opportunity to come in and sample a school lunch, to see the kind of quality of food that is prepared and served to our children. If you would like to take advantage of this opportunity, please contact the office to book a place. We'll open the hall to those of you who would like to come in and have a try each Wednesday. The cost of an adult school lunch is £2.40- great value I'm sure you'll agree! We obviously can't have 300 parents all wanting to come and have a school lunch on the same day- we just wouldn't be able to fit

everyone in! To ensure that there is enough space we'll set a limit of 5 parents each Wednesday to come in and dine with us- so this really will be on a first come first served basis.

## Assessment changes- update

You might have seen in the news that there has been a Government led national overhaul of the way that we assess in primary schools; you may also call to mind that information related to our assessment system at Sunnyhill was shared in a newsletter back in November last year.

Basically, for a number of reasons, the Government has given schools the freedom to design their own assessment systems.

After a lot of thought we have developed a system that we hope is clear and that shows progression in year and across year groups.

Each child will be assessed throughout the year for Reading, Writing and Maths using three domains- we have developed this way of assessing as it is closely related to the way that we already assess children in the Nursery and Reception.

Our three domains are **Developing, Secure and Exceeding**:

A child may start the year in the 'developing' domain- our aim is that for the vast majority they will progress to being at least secure by the end of a year. A minority of children will remain as 'developing' throughout the year. We aim to challenge our more able pupils to be 'exceeding' by the end of each year.

We have now worked through the assessment system for one term- it is time consuming to analyse, but we have been able to look at how well children are achieving as individuals against their own targets as well as part of different groups they may belong to in their classes.

The children have made impressive progress over the Autumn Term and the majority are set fair to meet their targets if they continue to make this progress over the rest of this academic year.

Teachers may use some of these terms in parents' evenings at the end of March - **please don't get too worried by this, it will become easier to understand over time!**

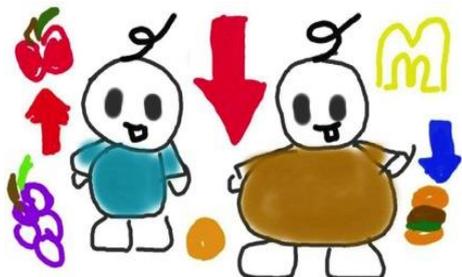
## Important Dates

The dates for this academic year have been sent out twice (at the end of the summer term and as an attachment to the newsletter at the start of the Autumn Term). If you need to refer to this information and you can't find your paper copy it is available on the school's website. The following table contains the important dates for the next few months - major dates do not change- but some information will be added as trips are booked and dates agreed over the course of the term. Wherever possible, timings for events are also given.

January	February	March
4 <sup>th</sup> / 5 <sup>th</sup> : INSET day for Staff <b>27<sup>th</sup>: Family Learning – Reading and Choosing books coffee morning (9.00)</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup>: Family Learning- Emotional and Behaviour development coffee morning (9.00)</b> 9 <sup>th</sup> : KS1 Talent show organised by School Council (2.00- 2.45) 10 <sup>th</sup> : KS2 talent show organised by School Council (2.00- 2.45) <b>12<sup>th</sup> : End of Spring Term1</b> <b>22<sup>nd</sup>: Start of Spring Term2</b> 23 <sup>rd</sup> : Y1 class out at City Learning Centre- Robots and Computing <b>24<sup>th</sup>: Family Learning- EAL coffee morning (9.00)</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup>: World Book day</b> <b>11<sup>th</sup>: Spring Term Exhibition of children's work (8.30- 9.00, 3.15- 5.45)</b> 15 <sup>th</sup> : R classes out at CLC- Investigating the World trip <b>16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>: Parents' evenings</b> 18 <sup>th</sup> : Play leader sports relief challenge <b>24<sup>th</sup>: End of Spring Term (2pm)</b>  <b>Summer term starts for pupils- April 11<sup>th</sup></b>

Events that you may be particularly interested in are highlighted in **blue**. If you would like more information regarding these or any other service we provide then please contact the school office. Please note- our **Spring exhibition is on 11<sup>th</sup> March** and **parents' evenings** this term are going to be held on **Weds 16<sup>th</sup> and Thurs 17<sup>th</sup> March**.

## Children's birthdays



Please be reminded of the procedure regarding children's birthdays. A birthday cake may be dropped off at the school office for 3pm (already cut up into the required number of pieces for the number of children in the class). Please remember we are a nut free school so cakes cannot contain nuts or traces of nuts. Some parents have expressed concerns regarding party bags and feel that they encourage unhealthy eating so we do not permit party bags in school. Please do not bring in party bags to be distributed at school.

## Parent ideas

We are at the point of beginning to plan for our next phase of school improvement at Sunnyhill. This is when we collect the views of as many members of the school community to build into the direction that we map out for ourselves for the next two to three years.

During parents' evenings this term we will have questionnaires and suggestion sheets out for parents to complete so that we have an idea of improvements or additions that you'd like to see to what we already offer. We will also be looking for volunteers to give up a little time to meet with members of staff or governors to have a more in depth involvement in the school improvement planning process. This isn't the only opportunity for parents to share their ideas- suggestion sheets will be available throughout the year from the office.



Alternatively if you prefer to email ideas then please do so to [info@sunnyhill.lambeth.sch.uk](mailto:info@sunnyhill.lambeth.sch.uk). We'll use the newsletter to keep you up to date regarding any suggestions that are made.

## Passport signing

Recently we have had quite a few parents coming in to the office to ask for their passport applications to be signed by members of staff at the school. Unfortunately this is a service we have not been able to provide for many years.

## Term Dates 2016-17

Term Dates for the next academic year have been set and full term dates are available on the school website. For those of you wanting to book your summer holidays now, the start date for the Academic Year 2016-17 is **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2016**.

## Attendance and Punctuality

**Our attendance target for this academic year is 96%.**

As a parent/carer you can help us achieve this by:

- **Telling your child how important school is;**
- **Praising your child's achievements and celebrating their success;**
- **Organising non-urgent medical appointments after school;**
- **Helping your child get into a routine at breakfast and bedtime;**
- **Encourage healthy eating and exercise to boost your child's immune system;**
- **Encourage your child to prepare their school uniform ready for school the night before;**
- **Organising your child's equipment (or getting them into the routine of laying everything out) the night before they're needed (E.G. Book bag and PE kit);**
- **Taking time to talk to your child about what they have done in school – showing that you are interested and what they do at school does matter!**



We need your support to smash our target this year! Our attendance for last week was **95.3%** and we are running at **95.8%** since September. The KS1 class winners were **1Esk (99.2%)** and the KS2 winners were **3 Severn** and **4Avon** (both with **99.3%**.)

The best attendance winners in each year group were as follows:

Reception and Key Stage 1	Key Stage 2
R Thames= <b>96.9%</b>	3 Severn= <b>99.3%</b>
1 Esk= <b>99.2%</b>	4 Avon= <b>99.3%</b>
2 Beam= <b>97.8%</b>	5 Creedy= <b>93.2%</b>
	6 Rife= <b>95.3%</b>



Year 1 display - Journeys Exhibition, Autumn 2015