



Dear Parents and Carers,

It was lovely to see many of you yesterday evening for teacher meetings. I hope you found it useful to talk to the teacher about how your child has settled into the new academic year.

Parents often ask me how they can help their child to do well in school. I thought sharing this would be helpful for new parents or a little reminder for everyone.

*How can I help my child develop and progress well in school?*

Ensure your child has good **attendance**. Two weeks absent from school every year in Primary Education equates to approximately half a school year! Teachers have a lot to teach and every lesson counts. Obviously we understand that your child will be ill at times and this cannot be avoided but regular absences can have a negative impact on pupil progress.

A good nights **sleep** is essential. Generally speaking there are four lessons every day – this is tiring for pupils. If pupils arrive in school tired, this will reduce their concentration levels.

A nutritious **breakfast** before school. No-one can concentrate being hungry - least of all me! A mid morning snack is also helpful. We do provide fruit for pupils through from Nursery to Year 2 and Year 3 -Year 6 are permitted to bring in a healthy snack such as fruit or a breakfast bar.

Ensure you **read** with and to your child at home. We cannot stress this enough. Regular reading (daily if possible) helps pupils progress in all subjects. It is common for pupils to lose interest in reading as they get older and it can then be a battle at home. In these circumstances finding books from the library or bookshops that interest pupils can help. **Reading to** pupils is still important at this stage - if you can instil a love of reading in your child they can make rapid progress because not only do they develop an excellent reading ability but they also increase their vocabulary and wider knowledge; this massively helps improve writing and therefore all areas of the curriculum.

Help your child **practise spellings** and any **maths targets**. Along with this there are lists of words that children need to be able to read and spell. These are often tricky words – words that cannot be sounded out and just have to be learnt. You should have received a copy of these. If you haven't they are available on the school website. Pupils need to be able to **read and count numbers** confidently. By the time they reach Year 6 they need to be competent counting to and back from 1,000,000. So encouraging pupils to count during daily routines can help eg: on a car journey. As pupils move through school they also need to know their **times tables** - ideally by the end of Year 4 - so knowing these by heart can give your child a helping hand. Two concepts that children find hard in maths are **time and money**. If you can teach your child to be able to tell the time on analogue clocks initially and then digitally then this is a great help. Pupils often get confused with money - knowing the value of all coins and notes is important. Then being able to make amounts in different ways as well as adding and subtracting amounts can support your child. Using money in real life situations is excellent- so getting them working out totals and change at the shop – this is the best kind of practise! For written calculations a document explaining how and when we teach this is available on the website. It is important to teach pupils in the same way, to avoid confusion.

Helping children with their weekly **homework** task is of course important. These homework tasks help pupils develop independence and encourage them to learn or find out about wider areas of the curriculum and make links and connections. Some children spend a significant amount of time on weekly homework tasks and if they enjoy doing this then it should be encouraged. However, home life is busy and 20 – 30 minutes is plenty of time to work on tasks.

It is just as important for children to be relaxed and happy – I wouldn't be encouraging children to work for hours at night or the weekend. It is important that they have a break and 'be children'. Playing and socializing is incredibly important. This obviously develops social skills. Talking together with family and friends is essential – good talkers make great writers!

I hope the above helps.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs C Robinson  
Headteacher BEd Hons. NPQH

## WEEKLY FOCUS

Assembly Focus: International Day of Peace (Phase Assembly)

Judaism (Faith and Belief Assembly)

Musical Inspiration: Epilogue from La La Land

Language Word of the week: to say hello in French you can say 'Salut'

Fact: This word is linked to the French verb 'saluer' meaning to greet or salute

Talk Topic: peaceful places; linked to international peace day

## LETTERS TO PARENTS:

Year 2 – 6 – Club Letters

**REMINDER: TO RETURN YELLOW DATA COLLECTION**

## VACANCY FOR CASUAL CLEANER

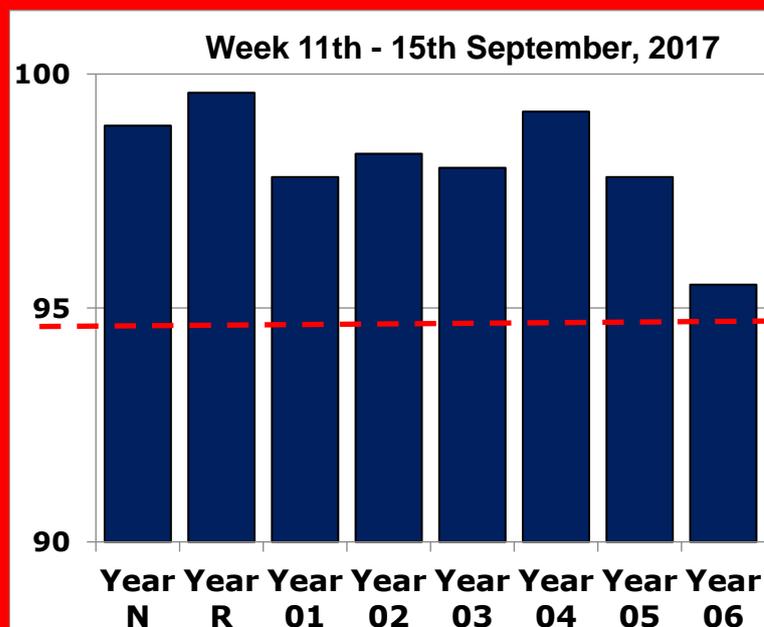
Governors are seeking to appoint a Casual Cleaner. The Job description and application form are on our school website or you can collect one from the school office.

## PLAYPALS OCTOBER HOLIDAY CLUB

Playpals will be open during October half term – Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> to Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2017 inclusive.

Booking forms are now available from Playpals or from the School Office. Please book asap to avoid disappointment. Robyn: 07720212417

## ATTENDANCE BY YEAR GROUP



## PRINCETHORPE COLLEGE – OPEN AFTERNOON - Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2017 2.00 – 5.00 pm

This is an informal opportunity to look around the College and for children to participate in a variety of fun subject-related activities whilst parents chat to staff.

## SPORTS NEWS

Our sports coach Mr. Coyle has been very busy in the first few weeks of this term arranging sports competitions for our various teams. The girls and boys Football Teams will be involved in league and cup tournaments this year, both 7-a-side (outdoor) and 4-a-side (indoor).

We have also entered a High Fives Netball League again this year as well as the Cross-Country championships. Later in the year the school will be involved in other sports too such as Cricket, Rounders and TAG Rugby. Clubs start next Monday and Mr. Coyle was delighted to see the enthusiasm of the children around school. Many of them have stopped to tell him which clubs they are in and how excited they are.

Last Friday, Mr. Coyle held a vote with the Year 6 children to decide this year's House Captains. The children voted to select a boy and a girl for each of the four houses. Branson, Donaldson, Devonish and Goodall. The poll was very close and the results will be shared with the Y6 children and the rest of the school this week. Mr. Coyle will be arranging inter-house sports competitions this year which the House Captains will help him with.

# Pupil of the Week Awards



## Pupil of the Week Awards go to:

Eva-Marie - 2K: a perfect start to Year 2. Eva-Marie has worked extremely hard in all her lessons and followed the Golden Rules.

Evan - 2A: impressing his teacher by following and knowing the class rules. Well done Evan for working really hard during your first week back.

Lucy - 3T: being an extremely helpful class member with a positive attitude, always willing to help!

Jake - 3B: a brilliant start to Year 3. Jake has shown an excellent attitude towards his learning and is a pleasure to have in class!

James - 4T: drawing a superb, detailed map and for his careful consideration of vocabulary when describing it.

Emily - 4N: her excellent attention to detail and care taken when illustrating her archaic map

Lucas - 5P: his enthusiasm and confidence when taking a spelling test

Leah - 5G: creativity and precise construction skills

Safiyah - 6H: a fantastic start to Year 6! Her helpful nature and enthusiastic contributions in lessons have been much appreciated.

Scarlett - 6L: her fantastic home learning over the Summer and an exemplary start to Year 6! Keep it up!

**Well done to all of the above pupils**

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY (further dates/information to follow, please be aware that some dates may change):**

Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> September 2017	Parents – Y1-Y6 Meet your child's teacher (letter sent out)
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> October 2017	School Photographs
Tuesday 31 <sup>st</sup> October 2017	Secondary School Transfer – deadline
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> November 2017	Nursery Photographs and siblings
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> November 2017	Children in Need
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> November 2017	Reception Open Day (for September 2018 intake)
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> December 2017	Nasal Flu Vaccinations R,1,2,3,4 (further details to follow)
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> January 2018	Year 6 Young Voices (further details to follow)
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> January 2018	Mid-Year Reports to go out
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> January 2018	Drop in re: Mid-Year Reports
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> March 2018	World Book Day
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> March 2018	Sports Relief Day
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> April 2018	Parents Evening
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> April 2018	Parents Evening
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> May – Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> May 2018	KS2 SATs week
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> May 2018	Skern Lodge Parents Meeting
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> June 2018	Reception/Year 6 Photos
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> July 2018	Moving on Day/Year 6 Ball
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> July/Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> July 2018	Year 6 Performance tbc
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> July 2018	Reports sent home

## **School closed to pupils on:**

**Staff Training** Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2017, Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2017 and Friday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2018