****

**WELLINGTON STREET, STOCKTON ON TEES**

**TS18 1QX, TEL: 01642 860055**

**Head Teacher: Mrs S Skillcorn**

26th January 2018

Dear Mum, Dad / Carer

**Holiday**

Children break up for the half term holiday Friday 9th February and return **Monday 19th February**. This was originally booked as a PD day but this has now been changed to Monday 23rd July.

**Parental and Community Links**

Thank you to parents who came to our Online Safety information meeting last term. Please ensure that parental controls are in place on any device that children are using. If you need support with this, please speak to a member of staff. Please focus on children, **who** are online and the potential dangers of connecting with people or children they do not know. Please remind children that abusive language or swearing is monitored. Parents should monitor the apps that children are using and make sure that they are age appropriate. Minimum age for Instagram and Facebook, like many other apps, is **13** years old. The CEOP Jigsaw video helps to highlight the risks. This can be found at: <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/Support-tools/Films-to-watch-with-your-children/Jigsaw_original/>

**Staffing**

Mrs Naseer moved to a new school in Middlesbrough this term after working at Mill Lane for 20 years! We all wish her well for the future.

**Sporting Success**

Our Y5/6 basketballers took part in the next round of the finals. They won all of their games in their league and then played a quarter final and a semi-final. They qualified for yet another set of finals as they were placed in the top 4 teams of the day. We are extremely proud of their achievements and wish them lots of luck in the next round.

**Extending the Curriculum**

Class 7 and 8 enjoyed a fabulous educational visit to Newham Grange Farm where they learned about lots of different animals as part of their topic. Y3 have learned how to keep safe on our roads by taking part in pedestrian training organised by Stockton local authority. Y5 are working alongside Jenny Harvey from The Children Challenging Industry scheme. They will be taking part in exciting real experiments and have a visit to industry which will hopefully inspire them to be scientists of the future.

**Passwords**

Children’s safety is paramount at Mill lane. Please make sure that your list of adults allowed to collect your child is kept up to date and that those adults know your password.

**PTO**

**School of Sanctuary**

Mill Lane is working towards gaining an award for being a School of Sanctuary.  We are trying to involve any parents who might want to volunteer in school.  If you are happy to help in school or on school trips please speak to Mrs Cole or Mrs Stanyard. We are especially interested in anybody who is able to speak another language in addition to English.

**Tooth Brushing**

Every child who attends Mill Lane has the opportunity to brush their teeth at school each day as part of the Tooth Brushing Scheme.  Every child has been given a tooth brush and tooth paste and our Dental Nurse is very pleased to see how all of our children are now brushing their teeth independently.  Children should brush their teeth after breakfast and just before bedtime each day to help to reduce tooth decay.

**£1 Book Shop**

Our £1 Book Shop will be starting again on Friday 9th February. More details will follow.

**Attendance**

Congratulations to 42 children who achieved 100% attendance in the autumn term. They each received a certificate and a voucher for Fun City. We continue to reward 100% weekly attendance and remind parents that children **must** arrive at school on time.

Attendance

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Year Group | Attendance |
| Nursery | 88.88% |
| Reception | 95.45% |
| Y1 | 96.46% |
| Y2 | 96.24% |
| Y3 | 95.51% |
| Y4 | 96.73% |
| Y5 | 96.72% |
| Y6 | 97.26% |
| Total | 95.63% |

**Dates for your Diary**

*Friday 9th February* School closes for the school holidays

***Monday 19th February*** **Children return to school.**

*Thursday 29th March* School closes for the Easter holidays

*Monday 16th April* Children return to school

*Monday 7th May* Bank holiday

*Friday 25th May* School closes for half term holiday

*Monday 4th June* Children return to school

*Friday 20th July* School closes for summer holidays

**A Message from Governors**

Governors were so proud of our children in their performances last month. The acting, singing, dancing and behaviour of the children was superb and they were pleased to hear so many positive comments from parents.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Skillcorn

Head Teacher