



WELLINGTON STREET, STOCKTON ON TEES

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Head Teacher: Mrs S Skillcorn

18th May 2017

Dear Mum, Dad and Carers

Flamingo Land

176 Mill Lane parents, grandparents and children are heading off for a great family day in Flamingo Land on Saturday. We are really looking forward to it. Just a reminder to those families to be at school for 8:30am on Saturday morning. Buses will leave 8:45am promptly, so please do not be late. The weather looks promising but there is a forecast of a shower at 4pm.

SATs Tests

Our Y6 and Y2 children worked extremely hard for their SATs tests this month and we couldn't have been more proud of their work ethic, determination, resilience and sheer hard work.

Sleep-overs

I know that older children enjoy sleeping at a friend's house occasionally but please make sure that this is not on a school night as children come to school the next day very tired and unable to learn.

Enhancing the Curriculum

We had an alien crash in school this month. Luckily our Y1 children thoroughly investigated the scene and wrote detailed reports. After studying the book, Supertato, our Reception children made amazing potato models for homework. They are proudly displayed in our school library. Y5 worked collaboratively and made some excellent allotments in DT. They are displayed around school. To enhance Y4's history topic on The Romans, Maximus, a Roman centurion, came to Year 4 to recruit soldiers for the Roman army! He was very knowledgeable and entertaining and the children learned such a lot from the experience. Class 7 and 8 went back in time when they visited Beamish. They had a fabulous time. One of our boys told the steam train driver that it was the best day of his life! What a great way to learn about British history.

Camera Watches

In line with our digital images and safeguarding policies, watches with built-in cameras are not permitted in school.

Home Time Changes

After half term, home times will slightly change for those children in our Reception, Y1 and Y2 classes. This will prevent parents having to wait around for 15 minutes in the rain at the end of the day and allow parents to walk around school collecting children from different classes rather than trying to be in two places at once!

New Times will be:

Nursery will remain the same.

Reception will leave at 3:05pm

Y1 and Y2 will leave at 3:10pm

Y3, Y4, Y5 and Y6 will remain the same at 3:15pm

PTO

Attendance

56 children had 100% attendance and no lates during the spring term. They will all receive a Fun City voucher as a reward. Well done to each and every one of them. It is your parental responsibility to ensure that your child attends school **every day** unless they need to see a doctor. If they are feeling a little under the weather, bring them to school and let their teacher know so that we can keep an eye on them. Often they feel fine by playtime. If they get worse, we will ring you. Odd days missed add up to a lot of missed lessons and gaps in learning.

Children receive **13 weeks** allocated school holidays so please book holidays for during this time. Absence reasons such as visiting relatives are not valid reasons for children to miss their education. This is the law and not a school rule. Parents can be taken to court and fined. The local authority has already issued some of our parents with penalty notices for unauthorised absences. We continue to strive for a minimum of **96%** attendance which is the government requirement for all children. At the moment we have 95.06% attendance and each year group is:

Nursery	89.7%
Reception	94.2%
Y1	95.0%
Y2	96.0%
Y3	96.3%
Y4	96.4%
Y5	95.7%
Y6	95.4%

Sporting Achievements

We had our second netball league match against St Paul's. Our A team won 7-3 and our B team drew 5-5. Our A team enjoyed a fantastic 12-4 win in another netball league match against Tilery with some amazing shooting. Our B team also won 10-3 with some great team work. 31 Y5 and Y6 children represented Stockton at Middlesbrough Sports Village in the first round of the Athletics Championships. Mill Lane came away with an incredible 4 first and 4 second places. We wish these finalists the best of luck in the next round. We are so proud of all of our sports stars and the wonderful effort they put in to training and competing.

Language

Please remember that aggressive, abusive or racist language and behaviour will NOT be tolerated in front of children, parents and staff in or around the school premises. These incidents will be reported to the police.

Compliments or Complaints

As you can see from my newsletters, staff work extremely hard at Mill Lane and we welcome your comments to ensure that Mill Lane remains a very positive and happy place for children, staff and parents. If you have any compliments or complaints, then you can always find members of staff on each gate at the beginning and end of the day. If you would like to speak to me directly, I often walk around the playground at these times or you are welcome to phone for an appointment.

Message from Governors

Governors have recently taken school meals with the children and are very impressed with the choice and quality of food on offer. Thanks to Jo and her staff in the kitchen, our children are offered a healthy, tasty and satisfying meal every day. If you have a child on packed lunches, governors highly recommend that they try school meals.

Holidays

May half term: School closes on Friday 26th May and reopens Monday 5th June.

Summer holidays: School closes Friday 21st July and reopens Tuesday 5th September.

On behalf of myself, staff and governors, thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely
Mrs Skillcorn
Head Teacher