



Newsletter

AUTUMN 2016 – NUMBER 4 – MONDAY 17TH OCTOBER 2016

Dear Parents and Carers



Harvest Assembly

We are holding our annual harvest festival assembly tomorrow and this year across the Federation we are raising money for **child.org** - you should have received a collection tube and letter. The idea is that our children complete simple jobs around the home to earn some change or otherwise collect loose change to go into their container. All money goes towards improving the health and education of children in Sierra Leone, Kenya, Ghana and Uganda. The collection tubes need to be back in school by half term. If your child has filled up his/her tube already, I will be happy for it to come to school tomorrow so we can show it in assembly. I thank you in anticipation of your generosity.

The joy of mobile phones

Hands up who doesn't own a mobile phone? Of course we all do; they are everywhere and we are connected all the time. This is obviously convenient but does have its downsides. I've recently drawn up a mobile device policy with staff, mostly to clarify safe use of mobile phones by staff in school. It's always struck me as strange that if you work in M&S you have to switch your phone off and lock it away whilst you are working. I've never had to queue to buy socks and pants and wait for the person on the till to finish chatting to her mate. In schools, where we work with children and young people, we are currently free to have our internet ready camera phones within reach during the day. Staff are now clear that their phones are always off and only used in non-public areas such as staff-rooms. Part of our policy relates to parents and I have an appeal to make to you. Firstly, I would really

encourage you keep your phone in your bag or pocket when you are on the school site. There is a simple reason for this: when your children come out of school to see you at the end of the day, they want to know that they are the most important person in their lives (I know they are; don't get me wrong!). The fact that you might be on the phone when they bound out to see you doesn't reinforce that message. The second thing (and we will enforce this rather than encourage) is that if you are anywhere inside the school building, your phone should be in your pocket or bag and not answered if it goes off (unless you leave the building). The exception to this is when you bring your phone into the hall for assemblies and shows and use it to take photos. This is fine as long as you follow the long established rule of not posting the photos online/on social media without the permission of the parents of other children who appear in the photo. I'm happy to discuss this with anyone. Catch me in the playground, but make sure you have your phone in your bag.

School Prospectus

I showed a prospective parent around the other day and had nothing to give her which said "This is the Whipton Federation". We have two good schools here and I am keen to show them off, so I am going to produce a simple prospectus which does this. The best way to do it is through pictures so I have hired a professional photographer to spend the day in school on Friday of this week. He will spend time in both schools trying to capture the spirit of Whipton Barton. I'm giving you the heads up so you can make sure that your children are all immaculately turned out. We won't be photographing anyone wearing red trainers or an Adidas hoodie!

Running Club

Mrs Crocock and Mrs Steer are leading Running Club on Mondays after school (3.20-4.20). They have lots of children who would like to take part but they are also looking at getting parents involved too! They won't hold you to coming every week, but would love to see you. If you are interested, come along to the juniors with your trainers!

Y3 Build a Bear

Earlier in the term Y3 went in to town by train to visit the Build a Bear shop as part of their English work. What has building a bear got to do with writing? Well the children have produced some good recount and instructional writing as a result. From the pictures below, they appear to have had a great time.



Things to do at half term

Halloween Crafts – Wednesday 26th October – 2pm until 4pm at Younghayes Centre, Cranbrook. Join the Country Park Rangers to make and autumnal and Halloween themed crafts using natural materials. No booking required - £3 per child.

Woodland Skills Day – Wednesday 26th October – 9am until 4pm at The Knapp, Sidmouth. Learn skills to manage woodlands for wildlife and woodland. Includes charcoal making, coppicing, firewood processing and more. Tea and coffee provided. Moderate level of fitness required, minimum age 8. Booking required: www.wildeastdevon.co.uk – 01395 517557. A free event

**We have a non-pupil day on
Monday 31st October. Children
start back on Tuesday 1st
November.**