



Newsletter

AUTUMN 2017 – NUMBER 2 – THURSDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER

Dear Parents and Carers



If you buy the Express and Echo, you will see that Oasis Day Nursery has made the front page! Things are going really well with the building and we hope to have our youngest children in there as soon after October half term as possible.



The old nursery rooms will then be re-fitted through our partnership with Exeter College ready for full occupation before the end of the school year. A big thank you to Mrs Wills, Mrs Williams and our brilliant nursery and office teams who have got us this far so successfully. You can see the Echo article online via our Facebook page or in all good Exeter newspapers!

Governor request

We have a couple of vacancies for community governors. These are people not usually linked with the school but who live and work in the community and want to help schools improve. If you know anyone in and around Exeter who might be interested in joining our governing body, please let me know either in person or via either school office.

Parent Questionnaires

Thank you to the eighty seven people who came in to the infant and junior school halls last term to complete

our parent questionnaire. It was quite an eye-opener for us and has given us a few things to think about. The biggest issue coming up for you seems to be the behaviour of some children in both schools.

Interestingly, this is something that the children picked up on too, so it is something we will address. Having said that, I revised the federation behaviour policy last year and the recorded rate of behavioural incidents has dropped significantly since. To see the policy, go to <https://goo.gl/tL3MPE>, in the short term, we are taking a stronger line on the use of bad language. This is not common but is something which when it does occur is upsetting to other children. If any child is heard using bad language, I will be informing parents by letter and will include in that, the actual language used. The child will automatically lose the next day's lunch-break and if there are additional incidents, I will meet with parents to explain the consequences. On a positive note, see below what we will be doing to improve the children's lunchtime experiences.



We are beginning a significant project to change the culture of lunchtimes. Like most schools, it is at lunchtimes that most of our behaviour difficulties occur and we are determined to sort this out. We will be working with an organisation called Outdoor Play and Learning to involve our children and staff to discover together what really makes for a happy lunchtime. For me, it is about ensuring all children are catered for and all children take responsibility for their play. You might like to see a short video of a school who has been through this process. This could be us in a year or so: <https://youtu.be/x3s83qVp0mE>



Parking – Rennes House

While we're on behaviour, there are continuing difficulties surrounding parking outside school, particularly in the Rennes House car park. Without wanting to sound like a stuck record, it is a private car park for the use of elderly residents. It is not our car park and nor is it public. I have recently had a visit from a member of the residents' committee saying that some of our parents have been aggressive and abusive when challenged about parking. This really isn't on and although outside my control, I want to appeal to everyone's better nature to do the right thing. These are our neighbours and it is damaging the reputation of our schools. Having spoken to Exeter City Council about this, I know that the parking company who monitors the area will be in more frequent attendance and will be issuing more tickets. Don't run the risk.

Communication

Another thing that came out of the questionnaire and something which I have picked up in conversations with parents is communication. We have Facebook, text, email, website, letters, posters, a daily presence in both playgrounds by teachers, Heads of School and me and, when we had our questionnaire, tea and biscuits to entice you in to give your views. We also have our first round of parents' evenings coming up, too, at which you and your child's teacher will be able to discuss your child's progress attainment and general attitude to school and learning. Together, we need to make sure these lines of communication work well. I'm a bit confused about why, when I've asked parents recently if they have received a newsletter or text, they have said no. We can email newsletters if you don't trust pupil post. Just let either school office know your email address. With texts, let us know if you have changed your number so our messages don't drift off into the ether ..

Number Facts

We are having a bit of a push on the children's knowledge of number facts from Y2 to Y6. There are some basic facts that children should just know and have at their finger-tips and some of our children are not secure. The teachers will find out what the children can do this week and I will let you know if there is something your child needs to work on. Meanwhile, all the teachers will be firing number questions at the children during the next couple of weeks

- Y2: bonds to 10 (eg: 8 and 2, 3 and 7)
- Y3: 10 and 20 (eg 17 and 3, 13 and 7 etc)
- Y4 and 5: As above, plus pairs of multiples of 10 that make 100 (eg: 60 and 40, 30 and 70 etc)
- Y6: as above, plus pairs of multiples of 5 that make 100 (eg: 75 and 25, 15 and 85 etc)

Please do your best to let the children know that we are doing this and encourage them to learn their facts!

Potatoes for Sale

Mrs Bamsey will be selling potatoes from the school garden for £1 a bag in the junior playground tomorrow. A real bargain for tasty, organic spuds. Bring in your cash.

Good luck

Mrs Wills will be leaving us on maternity leave at the end of next week. We wish her all the best for the arrival of her second child. We will miss her. Taking her place as head of school in the infants will be Mr Norman and Miss Hardinge will be taking on his role as head of school in the juniors.

