



Newsletter

AUTUMN 2016 – NUMBER 2 – WEDNESDAY 28TH SEPTEMBER

Dear Parents and Carers

"I hope you are all well into the routine of the school year and all that entails. This is the second of my yellow Newsletters; I plan to keep them short and informative. You will, though, receive a more substantial "celebration" newsletter at the end of every half term which will focus entirely on the children's achievements in school so far. Look out for the first one towards the middle of October."

Parents' Evenings

Parents' Evenings for both schools will be after school on 12th and 13th October. Please keep these dates free and look out for a letter giving more details soon. I've heard that there is always a good turnout which is important as every bit of interest you show in how your child is doing at school works wonders for their self-confidence.

Sensory Garden in the Infant School

A sensory garden in memory of Leia Dare has been planned for some time. I am pleased to say that the project, funded jointly by the school and PSA, will be going ahead over the October half term break. In an addition to the garden, children from current Y2 and Y5 (Leia's year group) will be working with ceramic artist Michelle McQuinn to create a mosaic "hippo" seat. Children from both year groups will submit hippo drawings and designs which will be incorporated into the overall design. They will the work with Michelle on the mosaic bench in the first week back after the October break.

Could you be a Swimming Volunteer?

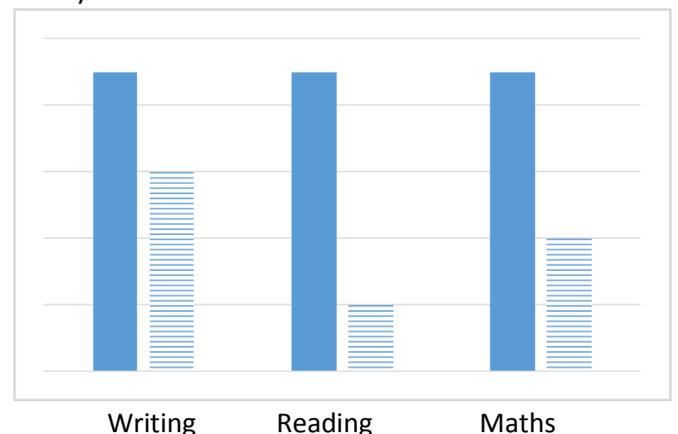
In Whipton Barton Federation, we take all Key Stage 2 children swimming. It is a part of the national curriculum and a vital life skill especially if children want to take up surfing, the king of all sports ... Currently, our year 5 children are attending on a Tuesday afternoon. For trips off-site like this, we do require additional support so that we can help ensure the safety of our pupils. Unfortunately, we

currently do not have any voluntary help for these sessions. This can mean drawing our staff from other classes for the afternoon which obviously has a knock on effect on learning.

I am therefore asking if any adults are free to offer support for these sessions in escorting children to and from the pool. One class travel up at 12:30 and back at 2:00 and a second class leave school at 1:30 and come back at 3:00. The second class do get back shortly after the bell but, if you were able to help with this session, we would obviously provide free child care in our School's Out until you returned to pick them up. I hope that you will consider helping with this and request that you let the office know if this is something you can assist with.

How often is your child in school?

It might sound obvious, but the more often children are in school, the better they learn. Rather than just believe me, here is the proof at Whipton. The lined columns represent the attainment of children whose attendance was less than 90% last year. The cylinders show the attainment of children who were in school more than 90% of the time. On average, children who were in school for more than 90% of the time are nearly a term ahead of those who are in less than this.



You'll be aware that we have been working hard to get attendance at Whipton up for some time and although it is improving it still needs to be better. I hope you can help us and your children in achieving this. Thank you.