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September 2023 Newsletter

“Believing is Achieving”

Dear Parents/Carers,

A warm welcome to the new academic year. I hope you all had a fantastic Summer break and are looking forward to the new Academic year, I cannot believe Christmas is only a few months away!

I would like to extend my **welcome to all of our new families** who are starting in Early Years and to families who have joined us in other year groups too. New staff include Miss Goodwin, who has joined the Teaching Assistant Team and Mr Stevenson who has joined the Site Team. We bid our farewells to Mr Weeks and Mrs Tribe who left in July.

The **diary dates** are attached and wider curriculum experiences are currently being planned. Any changes/updates will be communicated to you.

Our **INSET Days** are:

11th September 2023
30th October 2023
2nd January 2024
15th April 2024
28th June 2024

HC3S will continue to provide school lunches for the infant children and junior children who are entitled to free school meals. If you are not entitled to free school meals, the meal costs **£3.00 per day**. Menus are on the website, displayed around the school and shared on our Facebook page.

Just to remind you that we ask you to support the **Food Standards** recommended by the government. **Crisps, chocolate and nuts (due to allergies) are items that are politely requested to be discouraged from lunchboxes.** It is important that children have access to a variety of different types of foods so that they are not eating the same thing every day. Please promote other items such as carrot sticks, different types of cheeses, oat bars, etc. If you would like any further advice around ideas for packed lunches, please book an appointment with your child's class teacher.

The office remains cashless, so all payments must be made via the Scopay online system. Please ensure school dinners are paid for in advance of your child ordering. As a supportive measure accounts will not be allowed to go over £6.00 in arrears. Dinners are provided by an external company, HC3S and therefore the school cannot carry the debt. If you are unsure how to access this system or have yet to register, please contact the school offices.

For any children moving up to Y3, you will need to re-register with a new unique link code as the schools have separate bank accounts which will be sent to you over the next few days. As the system is moving over, Year 3 parents please clear any debt by 11th September 2023. Don't forget that this system is also used to book parent teacher consultations and therefore it is important that you are registered to use this.

If you think your child is eligible for Free School Meals, please check the link below and update the school: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>

Three times a year, the school has Census Days:

Thursday 5th October 2023

Thursday 18th January 2024

Thursday 16th May 2024

The census collects information like pupil's background details, special educational needs, free school meals eligibility, as well as educational history. It also helps determine core school funding, which pupils attract pupil premium, support for disadvantaged pupil, universal infant free school meals funding and free early year's entitlement allocations.

A large chunk of school funding for the year is based on how many children eat a bought school lunch on these census days. This funding goes directly to maintain resources and a good quality of education for your children. These really are important days for us.

The children are allowed to wear non-school uniform on that day and can choose from these menu options:

Red – Fish Fingers and Chips

Yellow – Pizza and chips

And a tasty dessert

We continue to be proud of our school results. Here are our achievements:

EYFS (Reception)	45% reached a Good Level of Development (GLD)
Year 1 Phonics	81% passed the check
Year 2 Assessments	50% met Age Related Expectations (ARE) in reading, with 12% meeting Greater Depth 47% met ARE in writing, 5% meeting Greater Depth 52% in Maths, 12% meeting Greater Depth
Year 6 SATs	53%/58% (without disapplied) met ARE in reading, with 20% meeting Greater Depth 49% met ARE in writing, 7% meeting Greater Depth 55%/59% (without disapplied) met ARE in Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling, 18% meeting Greater Depth 47%/50% (without disapplied) in Maths, 7% meeting Greater Depth

To build on the schools' success, **our School Improvement Priorities (SIP)** are:

1. To Meet the Needs of all our Pupils
 - To improve attainment in reading, writing, mathematics and the wider curriculum so that outcomes for Non SEND pupils at least meet the National Average at ARE and Greater Depth. Aspirational target over time will be for 100% of Non-SEND pupils to meet ARE.
 - To improve attainment in reading, writing, mathematics and the wider curriculum so that outcomes for targeted SEND pupils meet Age Related Expectations. Aspirational target over time will be for 100% of SEND pupils who do not have Cognition and Learning as a Primary Area of Need to meet ARE.
2. To Ensure there is Effective Leadership of Foundation Subjects
3. To Empower our Parents and Grow the Springwood Community

To continue supporting our SIP priorities, please come and join in some of the lessons alongside your child. Dates and times are on the attached Dates for your Diary.

Myself and the leadership team will be launching a **'Back to Basics'** program, which is part of the School Improvement Plan. **It will be aimed at empowering you to support your child's wellbeing.** Please watch this space, more information will coming soon.

I will write to you separately regarding Attendance and keep you updated with actions for children who are at risk of not meeting 95% and above. If your child is absent, please contact the school offices before 9.30am to confirm the reason for their absence. Further guidance regarding Attendance and Punctuality will be emailed to you over the next few weeks.

Parent consultations will be face to face on October 16th and 18th from 3:15 to 6:45pm. These consultations must be booked through Scopay so please ensure you have registered. Scopay registration letters for Year R and Year 3 will be coming home this week.

As well as the above dates, **the teachers will be making a phone call to those parents who have children with Special Educational Needs (SEND) on 6th December between 3:30-5:00pm.**

Our children will be bringing their first 'home learning' sheet and home learning book home with them on Friday 15th September. Home learning will continue to be focused on supporting children in **consolidating and embedding previously taught skills** so they develop the confidence and stamina to apply these independently across a range of subjects. One side of the sheet will illustrate the learning to practise and complete. This includes a creative family project with a submission date. There is also a suggested timetable illustrating how to support your child in completing their learning. On the reverse, there is a curriculum overview for this half term to keep you abreast of the broader learning experiences. **Our curriculum is also accessible on the website.**

If your child is walking to and from school alone and requires a mobile phone, they can give it to a staff member outside the junior school office and also collect it there at the end of the school day. They will be stored in the school office. The school will not accept liability for loss or damage to any mobile phone. **Ideally, children should not need their mobile and I would encourage them to keep it safely at home during the school day. This also applies for smart watches.**

Celebration assemblies will recommence every Friday from 15th September, between 8:45-9:15am for Juniors and 2.30-3:00pm for infants. If your child has been nominated you will receive a text invite to celebrate their achievements. Parental invites to the event will start after half term once the children have re-established all the routines.

I want the children to look smart in their school uniform. **For safety reasons and due to our outdoor curriculum, please can I respectfully remind you that children should only wear stud earrings; children will be asked to remove hoop/drop earrings.** School Uniform is available to purchase online through Stitch Design www.stitchdesign.co.uk. Further information is available on our website and an updated uniform price list is attached.

Our **preloved uniform** stocks have been replenished and are available in **both school offices.**

On Friday 1st September, children in Years 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 will bring home a complete school PE kit which I request they wear to school with trainers or plimsolls on the days they have PE (see table below):

Year 2	Tuesday and Thursday
Year 3	Thursday and Friday
Year 4	Wednesday and Friday
Year 5	Monday and Tuesday
Year 6	Monday and Friday

They will wear this PE kit throughout the day and home again preventing them from needing to change in front of others. This will also enable children to wear PE kits which are washed more frequently than we are able to do in school.

Younger children (EYFS and Year 1) will change in classes so will need trainers or plimsolls in school.

Please also be advised these are PE kits the school have bought for all children across the Federation. **If your child has grown out of their current kit, please return it, let your child's class teacher know and then they will source a new one.** There are some **preloved trainers** available in the school offices.

Infant school children are provided with a free piece of fruit every day. Junior school children can bring in their own piece of fruit from home to eat at break time.

Please keep the school fully informed of any medical/dietary conditions/changes and also ensure your child's asthma inhaler/Insulin/Epipen etc is in school and in date. Furthermore, **please keep the school up-to-date if you change home address, telephone number or email.** If you have changed address you will need to provide proof to the office via email before your child's records can be updated. **You will need to ensure that there are three named contacts available at any time your child is present in school. One of these contacts should be for someone living outside of the home address e.g. grandparent. It is imperative that we are able to contact an adult to collect the child should they develop symptoms and to safeguard all children.**

I am delighted to announce our EYFS and Y3 school tours for the next academic year (2023-24). **If you have friends or family looking to start in EYFS or Year 3 in September 2024, please let them know that I am keen to show them around our wonderful schools. Prospective parents must book an appointment through the admin office. The dates for tours are on:**

Tuesdays 9:30–10:30am

Thursdays 3:30–4:30pm

Applications for admission to Year R can be made online from 1st November 2023 and the deadline is 15th January 2024.

Applications for admission to Year 3 can be made online from 1st November 2023 and the deadline is 15th January 2024.

Applications for admission to Year 7 will open on Monday 11th September and the Year 6 parents will receive an email with a letter attached shortly. Closing date is 31st October 2023.

Be sure to get your applications in on time to avoid disappointment.

The school offices are open between 8:30-12:15pm and 12:45-3:30pm. Please note the office is closed between 12:15-12:45pm but if you leave a message on the answerphone the team will respond at their earliest opportunity.

Active8 continue to provide breakfast and afterschool club. Please contact them directly to make any bookings via www.active8minds.co.uk. If you are dropping your child at breakfast club at 7:45am, please be aware that the office is not open. If you have medicine to provide to the school, please give it to Active8 who will ensure it is passed to a member of the admin team.

I am excited to confirm that the children will be producing some fantastic artwork that can be ordered as **Christmas cards and other gifts** through Cauliflower cards. This will be coming home on **29th September** and orders will need to be placed online and the **artwork returned to school by Friday 6th October.**

Best wishes to you all



Mrs J Livingstone
Executive Headteacher