

12th September 2017

Dear Parents,

I'm writing to you today about three important events in the school calendar which are coming around quickly and can't really wait until Friday to communicate with you about:

Miss Tregunna's Jury Service

From Mon 18th Sept, Miss Tregunna has been 'summoned' to do her jury service and will therefore not be in school – she has already deferred it once as we were on residential when it came around first time. We are hoping that she isn't needed and returns quickly but we must plan for it to be the full two weeks.

In her absence, Horsebridge (Year 2/3) will be taught by Mrs McClue most mornings and Mrs Jefferies most afternoons. We will all plan together to make sure children's learning is seamless.

Homework

We ask parents and children, regardless of the year they're in, to do the following at home currently. They are things we just can't do enough of in school and things you can easily support at home:

- Spellings – at least 4 times a week
- Reading with an adult – at least 5 times a week
- Times tables – learn whichever one your child is on in a 3 week rotation.
- Mathletics – an online system for practicing maths.

This week, there will be a change to homework for Key Stage 2 children (Years 3-6). In addition to the above, we are asking children to do an English and a maths homework in a special book which will allow us to pull together all the log-ons for mathletics, a place to do spellings, times tables dates and which times table your child is learning etc.

Homework will be set on a Thursday and sent home with your child that night. If they leave school on Thursday without their homework book, you can expect to send them back into school to get it because they'll definitely have homework!!

It needs to be handed back in on the Tuesday of the following week.

We have purposely decided on this timeline as I know some of you don't like to do homework over the weekend so there are 3 school nights to do it on, some of you are busy with outside clubs on school nights so prefer to do it at the weekend and some of you don't mind when your child does it but might need to seek clarification from the teacher in which case, you've got 2 school days to do this.

We know that homework can be a bone of contention for you at home and we don't mean it to be this at all. Our purpose for introducing it is to give you more of an insight about what is expected from your child in school and what they're learning so that you can feel more involved in their education – it's a shared job between home and school and we very much want to work in partnership with parents on this. The things you can expect from us at school are detailed on the front cover of the homework book and we will keep to this.

Look out for the homework book in your child's book bag on Thursday!

Great Stockbridge Bake Off

On Friday 29 September, we will be raising money for two very worthwhile charitable causes;

1) Macmillan Nurses as it's their annual coffee morning



2) Amazing Alice – a local charity set up by our Catering Manager, Debbie Razza, after her daughter Alice died from cancer in May this year. Debbie, her husband and their family are committed to raising as much as possible to support families affected by children’s cancer. This is their mission:

“The aim of the Amazing Alice charity is to help families make amazing memories. Southamptons Piam brown paediatric oncology ward sees around 90 children a year diagnosed with cancer. Unfortunately some of these children although they fight so hard are not cured and sadly don't make it. We want to help those families to make special memories, that they can remember forever.

Our beautiful brave daughter Alice fought very hard for over 4 years. In her last 6 months friends set up a just giving page to help us make special memories with Alice that we look back on now and smile. We want to help other families to do the same.

Alice also designed a poster when she was poorly with "what makes a good nurse" from her eyes. We would like to raise money to help nurses from Alice's local hospital to explore courses not available to them in their training to help them develop to help children with terminal and life limiting conditions.”

This year, we will be holding a ‘Great Stockbridge Bake off’ to find the best baker amongst our community. We will have 4 categories:



It's £1 to enter a category and Debbie (hopefully along with some of her family) will be coming to judge the entries. As a manager for Hampshire Catering, Debbie will be a tough judge so do get a practice bake or two in beforehand (I can help you eat this if you'd like). All entries need to be brought into school on the morning of Friday 29th September. Any cakes will be sampled and then sold – if you can bake a cake but don't want it entered into the competition, that's fine too!

Good luck!

Emma Jefferies
Headteacher

