



Aspire, Believe, Succeed

## Newsletter – October 2015



National Outstanding Award 2014

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are now five weeks into the Autumn Term and it is delightful to see that all our children, including Reception, have settled well into the routine. A special welcome to the children who have recently joined us from other schools.

I visit all classes on a regular basis to talk to pupils and check that they have adapted well into the new year and especially into their new classes. This also gives me an opportunity to ensure that they are focusing on learning and are following our Good to be Green Behaviour Policy as well as collecting points for their Houses.

It is also pleasing to see that the vast majority of pupils are in class and ready for their group reading lesson at 9am, as doors open at 8.45am. Well done to all the parents who continue to get their children to school nice and early. By working together we can make a huge difference as our children will only ever get one chance to achieve their best in their primary years.

Following my Autumn Governing Body meeting, Governors have asked me to emphasise expectations from all our parents and children -please remember that:-

- Children need to be in school 98% of the time.
- Children should be in school by 08:55 and no later.
- Children should be in full school uniform, with shoes (not trainers) and all appropriate equipment to help them with learning (including P.E kit).
- Children must **only** bring water to school.
- Parents need to collect children on time.
- Parents are reminded about not parking in front of school gates and on zig-zag lines.

### **Attendance matters!**

Please remember that after 3 days of absence due to illness, medical evidence is required in order for us to authorise the absence. This could be:

A prescription

A stamped appointment card

Any other document supplied by a GP.



### **No Notice Visits to Home Address**

As you know we monitor pupils' attendance on a daily basis. Where parents have not informed us of why their child has been absent from school we follow this through.

In September we made 10 'no notice' home visits, where parents were asked why their child is not in school.

We follow this through by making a referral to Education Welfare to support an immediate improvement.

# SAFETY in School

At Featherstone your child's safety is of paramount importance and we ensure that we spend a great deal of time training staff so that we are always in line with current legislation and kept fully abreast with regular updates.

Listed below are the key areas that Staff and Governors have received recent training on:-

**Female Genital Mutilation Training** (FGM—sometimes referred to as female circumcision) refers to procedures that intentionally alter or cause injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons. In July 2015 all staff received training in order that they have a better understanding of this subject. The training was delivered by Birmingham, Solihull Women's Aid on how to identify pupils at risk and how to raise a concern should they suspect that a child was potentially vulnerable.

**Combatting all aspects of extremism in School.** (Prevent Duty for Schools)

From 1st July 2015 all schools are subject to a duty under section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015, in the exercise of their functions, to have "due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism". All staff (teachers, support staff and auxiliary) have annual training from external providers.

**Child Protection.** Children in our school have been shown how to send an e-mail to the Child Protection e-mail address should they have a concern. We have a central inbox which is monitored daily to enable children to notify us of any concerns they may experience out of school hours. All concerns logged go to a central inbox which is monitored daily by the Head Teacher/Deputy Head/Assistant Head.

**Health and Safety.** The responsibility of Health and Safety at Featherstone is shared by several Managers and includes the following:-

The Head Teacher and Site Manager, who oversee the overall school building.

The Deputy Head Teacher, who oversees Health and Safety within the Curriculum, Staff Wellbeing and Pupil Wellbeing.

The Assistant Head Teacher, who oversees all outdoor areas and school trips.

The Office Manager, together with the Head Teacher, who oversee all staff and visitors' checks.

The Medical Leader, Head Teacher and Deputy, who oversee medicines in school and medicals.

All Health and Safety staff ensure that we carry out regular school site checks to confirm that equipment and school site is always safe for pupils. Our Site Manager carries out a daily site check prior to children being allowed access to school grounds.

**Staff Training on Medical Needs and Medicine in Schools.** The Medical Leader oversees – Paediatric First Aid in School, training for all staff in First Aid. We have two fully trained First Aiders who are always on school site. Each year all staff attend medical training on allergies, the administration of Epipens and other medical conditions.

**Pastoral Team** - All our Pastoral Team have been given training in ensuring that their role extends beyond just supervising pupils whilst having their dinner, but also involves them in continuing to engage with pupils through a range of playground games and activities, ensuring that they are safe and happy during the lunchtime period.

**Dietary Needs** – With children new in school and the introduction of free school meals for all Infant children, we have arranged for pupils with specific dietary needs to be clearly identified so that the kitchen staff know which children have specific dietary needs.

**Prescribed Medicines**— When a parent completes a Consent Form for school to administer prescribed medication, this is only administered by certain key staff, i.e: the Head Teacher, Deputy Head Teacher, Office Manager and the fully qualified First Aiders. All medicines are stored safely in school.

**Child Protection/Safeguarding Training.** Each Year all our staff undergo Child Protection training both in Level 1 and Level 2. Training is also extended to all Governors. We currently have three fully trained Designated Senior Persons for Safeguarding and Child Protection who meet on a fortnightly basis to discuss any concerns, referral updates and further training needs for all staff.

**E-Safety Training and Anti-Bullying.** Each year all our staff undergo Level 2 E-Safety training. This training is also extended to all Governors.

**Vetting and Recruitment (Overseas checks) Safer Recruitment trained.** Our procedures ensure that when recruiting any new members of staff we carry out enhanced checks. Any member of staff who has taught abroad has to undergo an overseas check. All new staff are inducted appropriately by a Designated Senior Person in Safeguarding.

**Visitors and Volunteers.** We have a Visitors and Volunteers Policy whereby any volunteers wishing to carry out a long term placement are required to provide appropriate references. We ensure that all visitors and volunteers in school are always supervised by school staff. We also ensure that any visitors to school who are invited to deliver a talk or presentation to pupils, send details of their presentation in advance, so that we are fully informed of the content.

**Security on School Site.** Our school security system is exceptionally robust. We have invested a great deal of funding to ensure that this is a top priority. All gates are electronically controlled whereby parents and visitors are only allowed access on and off school site with the permission of the office staff. We have CCTV all around school which also includes the main office area in the event that we may need to use this for future reference. To ensure the safety of all, we firmly enforce 'Zero Tolerance' on school grounds.

**After School Club (Little Folks).** We ensure that our systems operate jointly with Little Folks. Pupils attending Little Folks are collected from their classes through a handover process between the Class Teachers and Little Folks staff. We also ensure that Little Folks pass on a regular register to Class Teachers so that they know which children are attending.

**Police -School Connection.** Over the duration of the last three years we have established very close links with Erdington Police and regularly invite them to school to deliver lessons on e-safety, bullying, racism and gangs. We also invite them to walk round the playground to talk to the children so that children know that the police are available in public life to protect them.

## **CHILD PROTECTION**

Parents, we want our school children to know that should they have a concern they can approach a member of staff in school at anytime. We now have three members of our team who are Child Protection trained. These are Mr. Gaibee, Miss Hill and Miss Beach. The key role of these staff members is to ensure that we follow and monitor all Child Protection cases in ensuring children are safe, both during school and out of school times.

In each class we have posters for children so that they know who to approach should they have a concern or wish to raise a concern.

During holiday periods we have set up an online service for our children should they need to contact us to raise a concern and this has been shared with them in school as part of raising their knowledge in keeping them safe.

The e-mail address which the children have been shown how to access is:-

**[childprotection@feathstn.bham.sch.uk](mailto:childprotection@feathstn.bham.sch.uk)**

**[Child.protection@feathstn.bham.sch.uk](mailto:Child.protection@feathstn.bham.sch.uk)**

**Contact the school through the school website to raise a concern**

## Special Education Needs and Pastoral (SENAP)

### SEN Coffee Afternoon

Thank you to the parents who attended the SENAP coffee afternoon.



Some of the points that we discussed are:

- We were able to discuss the stigmatism of 'SEN' and how we wish to break this down so parents and children feel confident to seek help when they are having difficulties.
- The setting of homework—Parents were concerned that their children were sometimes bringing work home that was too challenging for their children. This is something that has been highlighted to staff and will be monitored.
- Reviews— When these will be held and what they entail. Due to training and the development of the department, reviews will now be held a little later, but rest assured that support for your child is ongoing and monitored regularly.

During Parents' Evening I will be available to discuss the schools provision of SEN, and will be asking parents to fill in questionnaires to gather parental views. Please call in to see me if you have a queries.

## Teaching, Curriculum & Assessment



### British Values Trip

Parents in the past have asked for more school trips, which we provide. This year the children in Year 4 and 5 visited The House of Commons and also the House of Lords. The children's behaviour was 'super' and they also had the opportunity to see a live debate in process. It was a long day and I would like to thank you all for your co-operation with our late arrival home.

### Reading at home

All pupils in Years 1– 6 have received a new home reading book and reading record .

Each time you read with your child could you please add a quick note to let us know how they have got on. It is really useful information for Class Teachers.

If your child reads anything else at home that you would like to tell us about, please leave us an extra note. I love hearing about the books children choose to read at home!

Thank you. Happy reading!



Miss Lacey

### Maths

Each Friday children will receive maths homework relating to the learning they have done that week. Should your child need any assistance with this then please see your child's class teacher who can support you in helping them.



**Early Years** - A very big well done and thank you to all the children and families who have joined our Reception classes this year. The children have settled in superbly and the staff are enjoying getting to know you all. We have held two successful curriculum meetings and would like to thank you for your attendance. As we said at the meeting, you are your child's first teachers and we value your input greatly.

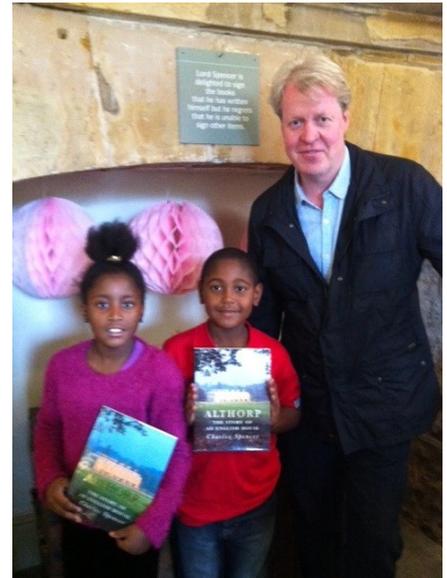
### IMPORTANT PARENT PRESENTATION ON:

NEW CURRICULUM TARGETS FOR YOUR CHILD. WHAT ARE NEW EXPECTATIONS FOR YEARS 1, 2 AND YEAR 6.

WHAT LEVEL SHOULD YOUR CHILD GET BEFORE GOING INTO SECONDARY SCHOOL.

ALL TO BE PRESENTED ON:  
**Monday 12th October—  
5.00pm**

**Special Invite to Marcus from the Anti Bullying to visit the Diana Memorial in Althorp House**



**Dates / Reminders / Workshops / School Clubs**

Phonic Screening Meeting for Year 1 parents is now on: 16th October 09:00 and 4:30pm.

All Year 1 parents are expected to attend one of the given times. If parents cannot attend a genuine reason will need to be given.

This is a very important meeting for you to have information on the following:

What is phonic screening?

What are the pass marks?

What are tricky words?

How you could fully support your child to pass the test.

**Dinner Monies Into School**

We would like to remind all KS2 parents that dinner money must be paid into school in on the first day of term. If your child wants to change from dinners to sandwiches or vice versa you must notify the office of this change in writing as soon as possible. Failure to do so will mean that you may incur charges for any meals that have been cooked for your child.

Thank you for your continued support and as always—Door open!

Yours sincerely,

E. Gaibee (Head Teacher)