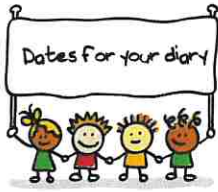


Moulsham Infant School



Motivate, Inspire, Succeed

January newsletter— 16th January 2024



Important Dates

- Jan 16th - Y1 Open Afternoon.
 - Jan 18th - Y1 Open Afternoon.
7pm SMILE meeting
 - Jan 19th - World Religion Day.
 - Jan 22nd— International Week.
 - Jan 26th - Magnolia class parent lunch.
 - Feb 2nd - Cherry Class Assembly & Open Morning.
 - Feb 5th - Children's Mental Health week.
 - Feb 7th - Y1 Lego Workshop.
 - Feb 9th - Oak Class Assembly & Open Morning.
 - Feb 13th - YR Planetarium Visit.
 - Feb 13th - Parent's Evening.
 - Feb 14th - Parent's Evening.
 - Feb 16th - Non-Pupil Day.
- HALF TERM HOLIDAY

Happy New Year—2024

A huge thank you from all staff for the kind cards, presents and wishes that we received before the Christmas break.



SCHOOL DINNER

Next week will be week 1 of the menu. Please ensure your child brings a packed lunch if they have not ordered a hot meal. Please inform the office if there are any changes to your child's choices.



Please remember to name all your children's clothes – then we can return them.

2024- how has that happened so quickly!!!!

The children have come back to school and settled quickly back into routines. It is wonderful to see their smiling, happy faces as they come through the door / gate at the start of the school day.

This term there are some exciting events planned for each year group, EYFS classes will be doing their first class assembly and open morning. Year 1 and Year 2 will have open afternoons and Year 1 will be working together to do a Year 1 production. Year 2 will be taking part in the Chelmsford music festival— this is something that we have not been involved in for many years, but the decision was made to join in again. The date for this event is Friday 15th March (am); we will send out more information to Year 2 parents when we have received it. Keep the date free if possible, as parents will be invited to attend.

We would like to officially welcome Mrs Keely Watling back to MIS, and welcome Mrs Julie Cole who have both joined our LSA team. Mrs Watling is based in Holly class and Mrs Cole is in Magnolia.

Some exciting staffing news that I can share with you is the wonderful news that Mrs McDonagh is expecting her first baby. 'Baby Mc' is due at the beginning of July. We are delighted to share this news with you and we are sure that you will join us in wishing her well.



A message for the children—well done for returning to school with such a positive attitude, ready to learn more and to get even better.

Joe hado Amese

School Closures



Any emergency school closures, for example due to heavy snow, will be notified by text and email to those parents who have signed up to ParentMail. It will also be posted on our website www.moulsham-inf.essex.sch.uk. and Essex County Council website: <http://www.essex.gov.uk/Education-Schools/Schools/Dates/Pages/Emergency-School-Closures.aspx>.

Information will also be announced on local radio stations and be available on their websites. **PLEASE DO NOT RING THE SCHOOL OFFICE** as if the school is closed, staff will be unavailable to take calls.

THIS SCHOOL IS NUT FREE



This includes food products with nuts in them, such as Nutella and cereal bars.

Please ensure there are no nut products brought into school.

First Day Contact



If your child is unable to come to school because of illness, please ensure that you telephone the school office on the first day of absence, preferably before 9.05 a.m.

If you telephone outside school hours, there will be an answer phone switched on for you to leave a message. Please remember to leave child's name, class and reason for absence.

If no message is received, we will need to contact you.

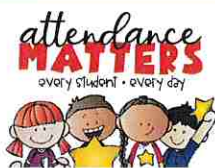
Crèche During Class Assemblies & Year Group Productions.

Due to the lack of volunteers to help run the crèche for class assemblies and year group productions, we have made the difficult decision to not offer this facility from the Spring term.

Alternative arrangements will therefore need to be made.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Attendance — December



This winners of the best class attendance are as follows:-

EYFS - Cherry

Year 1 - Chestnut

Year 2 – Willow

Well done to these 3 classes.

Children late to school



The number of children arriving late for school every day still continues to be very high (approximately 20+ children every day).

Please remember that the school day starts now at 8.45 am (door/gate opens at 8.35am). Children will be missing the start of their learning if they are not in school at this time.

Frequent lateness adds up to a considerable amount of lost learning.

5 mins late every day = 3.4 days in a year
10mins late every day = 6.9 days in a year
15 mins late every day = 10.3 days in a year
20 mins late every day = 13.8 days in a year
30 mins late every day = 20.7 days in a year

PE kit

Please make sure that children have the correct PE kit in school, for both indoor and outdoor lessons.



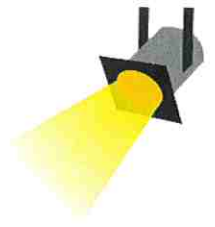
This information was on the letter that went out informing parents of the dates when PE lessons are for each class. Children who do not have the correct kit in school will not be able to take part in the lesson and a letter will be sent home to inform you of this.

Thank you to SMILE for booking **The Toy Box Theatre** group, as a New Year treat for the children. One child made this comment as they left the hall— *"That was so good –it was like having a pantomime in school."*

These events are only possible with the support of SMILE which is our PTA. As parents you are all members of SMILE. There is a SMILE meeting on Thursday 18th Jan at 7pm in school—it would be great to see more parents joining us to discuss future events.



Spotlight on year groups



EYFS

The Christmas break provided a much needed rest for everyone and the children have come back to school full of energy and ready to learn. Some even appear to have grown even taller! Last week, we had a very mysterious incident in our Outdoor Classroom. An alien spaceship had crashed! The following day we met Beegu, a very soft, cuddly, and kind little alien who is helping us to learn lots of different things. On Friday we had a very enjoyable visit from Toy Box Theatre and, next Friday, we will be learning about many different religions as we celebrate World Religion Day. International Week begins on 22nd January and each class will focus on one particular country, learning songs, dances, customs, and languages from around the world. In February, Cherry and Oak classes will each have a class assembly and open morning, 2nd and 9th respectively. Also, on 13th February, we will have our Planetarium visit and it would be great to have some parent helpers in the afternoon, to help us make rockets. You will need a DBS check through school if you would like to help out. We are also looking forward to catching up with you at Parents Evenings on February 13th or 14th when you will have an opportunity to look at your child's work and discuss their progress. Look out for the letter to make an appointment.

Mrs Keogh

Year 1

It has been wonderful to see all of the Year 1 children back in school after the break still full of the excitement of Christmas and happiness at seeing their friends again. We have a new enquiry question this term which is: 'Is it our job to look after the environment?' On Friday 5th January the children received a special video message from an Antarctic explorer. She showed the children the beautiful landscape but was concerned that she had not seen any penguins yet! She has asked the children to help her find them by sharing information about what they look like, where they might be living and what they eat. The children are excited to help her. In English we are learning to write a 'losing' story and have started to read and delve deeper into the story 'Lost and Found' by Oliver Jeffers to help us work out what makes a good one! In Science we are looking at the weather and tracking daily what it is like including how much it has rained! In History we are learning about significant people including Charles Darwin and the children have already learnt lots about him and why he is an important person. Chestnut class were so excited to have their parents at lunch with them last Friday and the other classes are looking forward to their turn with their parents coming in the next few weeks. Our open afternoons are Tuesday 16th and Thursday 18th January and we are looking forward to seeing you there and sharing some of what we do with a focus on phonics.

Mrs Fagg

Year 2

The children returned from their Christmas break excited and ready to learn and we have welcomed some new pupils to year 2. We have already thoroughly enjoyed interacting with Rag Doll and Teddy in our recent Theatre workshop and our mini mindfulness sessions are underway.

Our new enquiry question this half term is 'What's so great about the world anyway?' We received an interesting letter from an alien, claiming that they have been observing our planet and wanted to learn more. We will be diving deeper into this question in Science as we explore living things and their habitats. One habitat we are looking forward to sharing with the alien is the rainforest, and we hope that this will convince them that our world is great! In English we are writing some meeting stories based on the 'Tiger Who Came to Tea' by Judith Kerr and in Maths we have already learnt about shapes and their properties. Other exciting events coming up this half term are World Religion day, International Week and safer internet day.

Mrs Stapleton