

Puddletown CEVC First School

'Inspiring learners to be the best they can be'

Newsletter No.1

9 September 2016

I hope that you and your family had a great summer, it is good to be able to welcome you and your child back to school. I would like to offer a warm welcome to all our new parents with children in Year R and some of our other classes, I hope that your child has had a positive first week and will be happy during their time at Puddletown First School. We are looking forward to getting to know you and your child.

The term has started well, with the children settling well into their classes quickly. As ever I am very grateful to all the staff for their hard work in preparing for the new year.

We had 2 training days last week before the children started. During which we looked at ways of developing a growth mindset in which the children see themselves as learners with infinite capacity to develop. If you would like to know more about this I would be happy to talk with you about it.

We are currently reviewing our maths target ladders we used last year. We will be sharing these with you on our maths evening on 16th November and sending them out with your child after half term.

Home Reading

By now you may have received a letter from your child's class teacher. In the letter the expectations for home reading will have been explained. Home reading is a central part of our home learning and probably is the single most powerful thing that you can do to help your child in school. Every piece of research done on school outcomes for children indicates that reading is the single most influential factor in being successful in school, not just in the early years but in the later years including GCSEs. At a young age developing a love of reading is of paramount importance and the most powerful influence on being a successful reader. Children's reading isn't just about them reading to you, it is about creating a special atmosphere about reading and enjoying books together. Please do make sure that you support your child's learning by taking time to read with them. There is information on supporting reading on our website.

This year we will only accept payments to school for visits, activities or afterschool provision through our online payment system. Please make sure that you have signed up for this using the link on our website.

After school clubs information will be sent out soon. If your child decides to take part in one of these clubs please encourage them to be committed to attending it.

I am looking forward to a really successful year and working with you to secure the best outcomes for your child.

After school provision

I am pleased to say that we will continue to run our breakfast club, 7.30-8.30am and afterschool club 3.15-6.00pm from Monday to Thursday. At the end of last term I asked whether provision on Friday would be useful. We didn't receive many expressions of interest and certainly not enough to make it viable, therefore we will continue to provide the current Monday to Thursday provision.

The provision is popular and this means that short notice bookings are limited, please make sure that you book a place 48hrs before a session is needed.

Communication

As was the case last year all letters will be sent out on Friday, the newsletter will be put on our website following a text alert.

If you need to contact me at all please do catch me on the gate in the morning, contact the school office or email me head@puddletownfirst.dorset.sch.uk

Parent Governor Elections

We will be seeking nominations for 2 parent governors shortly. A letter explaining the process will be sent out soon. If you are interested in finding out more about this important role please do speak to our current parent governors or myself.

Parking

Just a short reminder for those coming to school by car to park safely and considerately. Please do not use the school car park.

Absence and holiday requests

If your child is unwell and unable to come to school please make sure that you contact the school office to let us know. If your child is sick they should not be in school for **48 hours** since their last 'episode' to prevent the spread of infection.

All requests for leave of absence should be submitted at least 4 weeks before the date requested. Please be aware that requests for absence can only be approved in exceptional circumstances but that I am always happy to discuss this with you.

Diary Dates

To help you plan the year we have included all our planned dates across the year; open afternoons, parent/teacher meetings, sports days etc. please do make a note of them in your diaries. As more is planned in the year these will be provided for you in plenty of time. Where a date or event has to be changed we will aim to provide you with plenty of advanced notice.

Please see the reverse of this letter for the list.