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Tilston Parochial CE Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers

Key Stage 2 Poetry Evening

Well done to all the children who took part in the Poetry Evening. We were all very impressed with the performances and it was great to see every child having the opportunity to take part. Speaking in public can be quite daunting and some children had lots of lines to remember but everyone performed really well. Thank you for your support on the night and for the positive feedback afterwards.

Parent Committee Feedback

Last week's Parent Committee meeting was really productive and each year group across the school was represented. A number of discussions took place and there are a few points that I'd like to follow up in this newsletter.

Lunch Menus and Kitchen Refurbishment

One issue that arose was our school lunch menus. While parents are happy with the quality of the food, there were some concerns aired regarding the lack of variety in the menus. We are currently on a three week rolling programme and some parents felt they would prefer two 'proper' options for lunch and that jacket potatoes were on the menus too frequently. I have raised this issue with both our school cook and Edsential, the catering company which serves the school. There are already some changes planned to the school menus in the spring term while the school kitchen undergoes refurbishment work to install a new servery area. Once this has been completed, we can then look into developing a little more variety to the lunch options on offer. Some parents mentioned that their children weren't always clear what they were choosing so we will put together a visual menu, particularly for the younger children, to help them make the right choices.

Homework

There have been some changes to the homework programme this term and parents at the committee meeting offered their feedback. There appeared to be good support for the Athletics activities but a few issues arose relating to Spellodrome and spelling work in general. Some parents felt they weren't always sure how well their children were doing with their spelling and I reminded them about the weekly report you can receive. Instructions were provided last half term. Here they are again if you missed them...

Spellodrome

Remember, there is no app for Spellodrome and the resources cannot be accessed via the Mathletics app. Instead, children need to **sign in** at <http://uk.spellodrome.com> using their Mathletics log in details. Once signed in, they can earn awards with 'My Word List' and 'My Word List Games'. Class teachers will be able to see the points earned by



the children, time spent on the site and areas that need a little more work.

You can register for a weekly parent report to see how your child is doing with Spellodrome and Mathletics. To activate your free access to the Parent Console visit www.mathletics.com/parent

Spelling

I have spoken to the staff about the spelling homework they set and what their expectations are in each class. In Reception, the children have a focus sound to work on each week and this may involve the practising of letter formation. In Years 1 to 6, children will have a list of (up to 20) words from Spellodrome and it is helpful if they write these words out at home. Children in these classes will also be given an additional 3 words to work on; these may be words that class teachers notice in the children's literacy work which need some extra practice. If you require any further guidance, please do speak to your child's class teacher/s.

Fundraising

The Tilston School Association has been exploring a number of initiatives to help us with our hall fundraising. One of these was a 'Buy a Brick' or 'Wall of Support' scheme and the idea was discussed at the Parent Committee meeting. Amanda Barr has researched the possibility of the school creating a large piece of art work which families could buy into. Her idea is to develop a 'Tilston Family Tree' which could be made of metallic branches and leaves. Children, family members and friends of the school could buy a named leaf and the money raised would go towards our fundraising. There was great enthusiasm for this idea and I look forward to sharing more details with you as the project develops next term.

Applications for School Places (September 2017)

Please remember that if you are applying for a **Reception** place for next September, the closing date is **15th January 2017**. All applications can be made online at www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/admissions. Even if your child has an older sibling in school, the application process must still be completed. If you know of any families with children ready to start school or nursery, do point them in our direction. Thank you.

Personal Development

This week, we have been looking for children who can **improve**. We have discussed how successful people are always trying to make things better and how small adjustments can make a good idea a great one. Well done to the following children who have taken their own small steps to greatness:

★ STARS OF THE WEEK ★

YR	Chloe: for improving her rhyming skills in Letters and Sounds
Y1	Corey: for great improvement in his practical work
Y2	Alice: for improved confidence in her maths
Y3	Imogen: for making great improvements in her maths work
Y4	Reuben: for a huge improvement in speaking aloud
Y5	Savannah: for clearly identifying areas for improvement whilst also understanding her strengths
Y6	Emily: for working collaboratively to help identify improvements

After School Clubs

Please note that our staff-led clubs have now finished. The final Trekkers session for the term will take place on Wednesday next week (7th December). I would like to thank Viv and Trish for all their hard work this term running their club for the children.

Lunch Menu for week beginning 5th December 2016

Monday	Sausage, mash, gravy & veg or jacket potato with cheese
Tuesday	Beef pasta Bolognese & veg or jacket potato with beans
Wednesday	Roast dinner
Thursday	Beef and vegetable casserole or jacket potato with tuna
Friday	Fish and chips or omelette and chips

Dates for December

As we begin one of the busiest months of the school year, here is a reminder of key events taking place in the weeks leading up to Christmas:

7 th Dec	Y3/4 visit to Grosvenor Museum , Chester
8 th Dec	EYFS visit to Threapwood Christmas Trees
9 th Dec	Christmas Fair 6.00 pm (village hall)
11 th Dec	Fabulous Family Christmas Tree Service at St Mary's Church 4.00 pm
13 th Dec	New Vic Theatre visit Years 1 to 6 (due back in Tilston approx. 6.00 pm) Stay and Play at Bluebell Nursery 1.30 – 3.30 pm
14 th Dec	Flu vaccinations for pupils in Years 1, 2 and 3
15 th Dec	EYFS and KS1 Nativity 2.00 pm and 6.30 pm (village hall)
18 th Dec	Carol Service at St Mary's Church 6.30 pm (school choir needed)
20 th Dec	Christmas Dinner
21 st Dec	KS2 Christingle Service at St Mary's Church 6.30 pm (all junior children)
22 nd Dec	Christmas Parties Break up for Christmas



Don't forget, the **Christmas Fair** takes place **next Friday** from **6.00 pm** at the village hall. The TSA and the school need your support!

Yours sincerely

Richard Harley
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