

SOPLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Autumn Newsletter - Issue 1

Welcome Back

All of the staff at Sopley would like to welcome you back to an exciting new school year. We hope that you have had an enjoyable summer break. The children have been very keen to share the wide variety of experiences they have had over the past six weeks and it sounds as though you have all been very busy. We hope your children have enjoyed their first two days back at school and are settling in to their new year groups and for some children, their new classrooms. If any of you have any concerns then please do not hesitate to pop in at the end of the day to talk to any member of the school team.

School Day

School starts at 8.50 every day. Classroom doors will be open from 8.45 am and learning tasks will be out in every classroom for your child to complete. The first formal teaching of the day begins at 9am, when the school classroom doors and side entrance gates will be closed.

Morning playtime is at 10.30am. You are welcome to send your child into school with a healthy snack.

Lunchtime is from 12pm until 1pm

School ends at 3.15pm. The entrance gates will be open from 3.10 to allow parents time to walk to classroom exits. If for whatever reason you are going to be late collecting your child, please let the office know as soon as you can.

School Gates

Please be aware that the gated entrance at the edge of the field will no longer be in use. Please use either the front gate and walk through the school carpark or the side gate entrance outside of Mrs Kearley's classroom.

Dinner Money Price Increase

Please can we remind you that school dinners are now £2.40 a day

Children in Reception Year, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to free school meals so please remember if your child is moving to Year 3 next term, you will have to pay for school dinners. You can claim your entitlement for Free School Meals if you are in receipt of one or more of the benefits below:

- Income Support
- Income-based Job Seekers' Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The Guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit, provided you are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit, and have an annual gross income, of no more than £16,190 as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

How to Check Entitlement and Apply

Come to the school office and we will help you.

Or, use the online service <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/hc3s/freeschoolmeals.htm>

Attendance

Sopley Primary School is committed to ensuring the best for all of the children and want to work with parents and carers to ensure that all children have the best possible attendance.

I know you are all aware of the importance good school attendance has on your child and by attending school every day they will develop the very best attitudes towards life-long learning. We are very grateful for your commitment as parents and carers to ensuring your child attends school. While we certainly do not expect you to bring your child to school if they are genuinely poorly, we do value the effort you make in bringing your child to school when they have minor sniffles or are feeling a bit under the weather.

There is a clear link between school attendance and achievement and at Sopley we are aiming for all children's attendance to be above 97% for the school year. It is also important that children arrive at school on time. Classroom doors open at 8.45am and will close at 9am. If you arrive after 9am you will need to sign your child in at the school office where a late mark will be recorded.

I would also like to remind all parents that children are not permitted to go on holidays during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. Any time away from school must be approved by the school and families who take their children out of school unauthorised will be issued a Penalty Notice.

If you would like any support from the school regarding attendance please do not hesitate to contact the school office. We are always happy to support you and work with you to ensure your child arrives on time to school and attends every day.

School Uniform and Kit

The children have come back to school looking very smart. Can we please remind you all that children must be in full school uniform every day, including wearing school shoes, as trainers are not permitted. PE kits need to be in school every day and consists of a red t-shirt and black shorts and trainers/plimsolls. As the weather gets cooler please send a warm top and bottoms in with their kit.

School provide all of the stationary equipment your child needs for the school day so please do not send your child in with a pencil case.

We actively encourage children to drink throughout the school day so are happy for children to bring in a clearly named drinks bottle. These can be refilled throughout the day if needed.

Nut Free School

Please be reminded that we are a nut free school so packets of nuts in lunchboxes and chocolate nut spread in sandwiches is not permissible. We do have children who are allergic to nuts in our school so this is essential to ensure they are safe.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Monday 14th October– INSET DAY (school closed)

Saturday 26th October to Sunday 3rd November – HALF TERM HOLIDAY

Tuesday 12th November – Parents Evening (3.30pm – 5.30pm)

Thursday 14th November - Parents Evening (4pm – 7pm)

Friday 20th December - INSET DAY (school closed)

Saturday 21st December to Sunday 5th January – CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

Helen Morris and Nanette Allies