

Myton Park Primary School

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Web address: www.sbschools.org.uk/mytonpark

Autumn Term 1 2018

Going Paperless

We are working to be as paperless as we can in terms of communicating with parents. This has been actioned for several reasons:-

Feedback from parents about how effective or not previous communication practices were.

A desire from us as a school family, to be considerate of the environment and as eco-friendly as we can be.

You will be aware that school budgets are tight in this age of austerity, so we are unable to do both letters and the APP, as the cost of the APP basically replaces the costs of the paper. Please do encourage each other to log onto the APP and check that everyone is aware of our new way of working.

We have made the decision not to adopt a "Parentpay" system. Whilst we recognise this would be more convenient for parents, we do have tough financial decisions to make. Our priorities are all channelled into ensuring the children get the best educational experience, so we therefore allocate as much as possible to learning. This is also the reason behind the sign in books. Whilst they may not be the easiest system to use, they are the cheapest that meet new GDPR regulations.

Welcome back

It has been good to see the children settle back into their new classes. The Reception class have been amazing. They have embraced school life so well and it's great to have them as full time members of our school family. They are getting used to being in assembly, are doing so well at lunchtimes and I know Miss Hewitt and Mrs Siddle are really pleased with how they are settling into their new routines. Well done.

In terms of our work in our continuous drive to ensure the children get an excellent learning experience, we are developing our practice even further by focusing on the following aspects;

 *Embedding RWINc approach to early reading and writing following the success of our work last year. (Phonics scores improved even further with an average score of 38.1 out of 40, which is very impressive)*

 *Early writing in EYFS – staff will give you guidance and advice, which we strongly encourage you to follow at home, to enable the children to develop writing and language development alongside their phonics and reading work.*

 *Encouraging children to practice reading at home for a minimum of 4 times a week. The need to develop fluency in reading is strong, with an expectation of 90 words a minute by the end of year 2 and 180 words per minute by the end of year 6. This is the minimum expectations, so we are encouraging our children to exceed these expectations, as good reading will help them to achieve their potential as they move through school and beyond. The only way to develop fluency is to read regularly and often.*

 *We are developing our maths practice even further by strengthening our reasoning approach, which works to ensure the children really understand the why, so they can apply their knowledge and skills in a myriad of situations.*

 *Developing Times Tables – From next year the current Y3 class, will need to complete an on line times tables test, which will include an expectation they can complete it at speed, so the children are working hard to get the most out of times tables rock stars. Key Stage 2 children increasingly need to work at speed in order to meet the expectations of current SATS tests. Staff are working hard to encourage them by devising competitions and league tables, so please do encourage your children to embrace these initiatives so we can work in partnership to*

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help them to achieve their best. The reality is that the modern education system expects so much from the children; but our children really are capable of stepping up and achieving well – many beyond the expectations. By working in partnership to really embed good basic skills, we can really help them achieve and help them to recognise their own potential, which can impact so positively on their self-esteem.

 *To encourage the children to take real pride in all they do – to take great care in presentation and to make sure they are seeking as much support as they need, so we can help them to thrive and be the best they can be.*

 *We continue to encourage resilience by working on Growth Mind-set, which encourages the children to understand that in order to do well and to learn, they will need to go through some tasks that are challenging, learn to respond positively to constructive feedback from staff and understand how we can all work together to be resilient and work in partnership to do their best.*

We continue to encourage the children to make the best of their learning opportunities. We teach them that the skills and knowledge they gain at school, will help them to gain even more choices for themselves as adults. It is important that we instil that level of self-discipline in them in their younger years, as it makes it far easier for them to navigate the teenage years. Intrinsic motivation can be very powerful.

Assembly Themes

The School Council has discussed what they feel the assembly themes should be moving forward. The theme next term will be Kindness. An excellent theme that can only help us to keep our warm friendly atmosphere. The children really do support each other so well and it is heart-warming to see how our older pupils instinctively care for the younger pupils.

Staffing

As you will all be aware Mr Eason retired at the end of last academic year. After a very demanding Deputy Head interview process, Mrs Boddy was appointed. She has made a fabulous start to her new role, working with great passion and determination to inspire the team. Mrs Lawson is beginning to work in partnership with me as SENCO, as we work to transition the role over the next 2 years. Mr Harvey has taken on responsibility for Maths and Mrs Harrison Science.

The children and staff are embracing the new Cornerstones Curriculum and they are working with great enthusiasm.

Lost Property

Following on from the level of lost property last term, I am really pleased to say following our drive for improvements, the lost property box remains empty! I do hope as parents you are seeing the difference and I applaud your children for their maturity and commitment,

Uniform

The children are coming to school well presented. May I remind you that we do have very high standards. As winter approaches, please do make sure the children have warm winter coats that are sensible and not too fashionable (this does impact on behaviour in the playground). They should not wear hoodies, but coats please.

School shoes should always be worn, but please do note that we do have a few children in school who wear footwear that isn't always in line with school policy. In these cases, we work in partnership with

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parents and health professionals to achieve the best outcomes for some individual children. Please do trust that staff do have any necessary conversations and we expect all families to support our expectations.

Jewellery is not permitted. Ear rings **MUST** be very small and just simple studs please, but children must be able to remove them for PE.

Hair adornments must be kept small and simple, with no Jo-Jo bows. Nail varnish and make up should never be worn.

Attendance

As you are all aware, we will now be fining parents when children are on holiday for more than 5 school days. As we always do, we will review the situation regularly to ensure that our children are maintaining excellent school attendance.

We are also developing our late policy. If a child comes through the front door in the morning, whatever the time, without having made a prior arrangement with a staff member for a specific reason, then this will be formally logged by Mrs Mather and Mrs McGahon and the children will receive a late mark. The only exceptions to this will be the older children who use the front door because they are monitors.



Class News

The Hub

I would like to say a big well done to everyone in The Hub for settling back into their school routines after the summer holiday. This half term our topic has been 'Memory box' where the children have been thinking about and sharing their memories and experiences. We started our topic off with a visit from Mrs Hargrave and her two children. The children wrote invitations and planned a teddy bears picnic. They enjoyed exploring what babies can do and how they have grown and changed over time. In English we have been focussing on writing diary entries and recounting our day. We have worked on past tense, time vocabulary and including adjectives.

Last week the children in the hub were learning about toys past and present and enjoyed bringing in their own toys. They have been learning to develop their speaking and listening skills and ability to form and ask appropriate questions.

In Maths we have been developing our knowledge of number and place value. We have been working on recognising quantities on sight as this basic skill underpins children's understanding of number. We have also been exploring number facts and have been trying to build up our fluency in recalling facts for numbers to 10.

Please remember to check the ideas for the topic in your child's homework book for extra ways you can support your child at home. We always love seeing some of these brought into school to share.

Thank you again to the parents who attended our class meeting, please remember that if you have any questions to see me after school.

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Nursery

This half term we have been learning about ourselves and our families. We have talked about people who we love and who love us. We have talked about our bodies and how to keep healthy. We have measured ourselves and created a chart in nursery to show who is the tallest and smallest and used our hands, feet and objects to measure each other.

We have enjoyed getting to know our new children, learning each other's names and have spent time making new friends. We have talked in our key worker groups about what makes a good friend.

Reception

This half term we have looked at the topic "Do you want to be my friend?" We have talked about how to be a good friend and what ways we can show our friends that they are special. We have practised sharing with our friends and playing different games. We have made friendship bracelets for one of our friends and then worked as a team to bake scones.

This term we have made lots of new friends and are looking forward to our next topic.

Year 1

We have had a fabulous start to Year 1. Our topic has been Paws, Claws and Whiskers and we have enjoyed taking part in interesting and fun activities.

In Art, we have made animal puppets, masks and animal skin prints. We have also drawn our favourite animal for our display. In Science, we have learned all about the difference between animals, sorted them into herbivores, carnivores and omnivores and took part in a butterfly hunt in the playground. In PE we have learned to move like a variety of animals and have played some games to help us learn to follow instructions.

In Maths, Year 1 have been learning all about place value, number bonds and adding and subtracting numbers to 10. In English, we have been practising writing sentences and learning the features of poems. We have also made information books about our favourite animals. In gardening we picked apples from the tree and we loved practising our harvest song.

We are look forward to our next topic "Moon Zoom".

Year2

We have had a fantastic start to the new school year. We have loved our topic Beat, Band, Boogie which has given us the opportunity to make musical instruments, compose music using the computer and perform our own poems. We loved writing our own versions of Hans Christian Anderson's "The Steadfast Tin Soldier" and even made our stories into books. In maths, we have been working on place value and are now improving our addition and subtraction skills. We are enjoying our PE lessons but can I remind you that all clothing must be labelled with your child's name please. So many of the children wear the same size and brand so it can get quite confusing!!

Thank you for your continued support.

Year3

Year 3 have had a very busy half term. Our current topic is Mighty Metals, which the children have enjoyed participating in a variety of science investigations, including testing various liquids on copper, testing magnets on a variety of objects, and identifying magnets surface areas around school.

The children have thoroughly enjoyed reading and learning about 'The Iron Man'. We read the story before completing a variety of activities including a news report about an important moment within the story.

In Maths, the children have been busy using concrete objects and pictorial representations to solve number problems. They have really embraced this new approach to maths and have made lots of good progress.

The children all enjoyed swimming lessons. I was very pleased with their attitudes and behaviour when representing the school outside of their usual setting.

Thank you for your continued support

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Year4

This half term has been fantastic, with all of the children adapting to life in year 4. The children have been delving into the undersea world of Jacques Cousteau and produced some beautiful biographies about his extraordinary life. We have also been looking at pollution in our oceans so we decided to write a report about all of the damage that is being done and what we can do about it. As we are looking at Buddhism this term, we decided to try a bit of meditation in class, which the children thoroughly enjoyed, although I think a few of them fell asleep! A highlight has been taking part in Myton Park's first, epic battle of the bands. Year 5 took on the mighty year 4 in a times table battle. After a rigorous battle, that saw some savage fighting (between Miss Harrison and Mr Harvey) Year 5 were victorious! We will get our revenge in the rematch. We have been on our travels this half term, enjoying our trips to the aquarium and the science afternoon at Conyers School.

Thank you for all of you support

Year5

We have had a wonderful start to the year. Our topic this term has been "scream machine" and we have been using rollercoasters and theme parks as a stimulus for our writing, our Science and Computing work. We have made our own rollercoaster cart in Design and Technology and learned how axles and wheels enable a cart to move on rails. Although we haven't been able to go on our trip to Lightwater Valley this half term, we are planning to go on this trip during the summer term.

All the children have settled into the routines and expectations of Upper Key Stage 2. Mrs McFarlane, Mrs Irving and I are looking forward to even more progress being made over the next half term.

Year6

Year 6 have had a very busy half term. Our topic "Blood Heart" has seen us dissecting pig heart, investigating and making blood and learning about how to keep our heart healthy.

We have engaged in lots of fun activities that have enhanced our learning including a tag rugby festival, crucial crew (a life skills workshop), a planetarium visit and ultimately our outdoor residential to Robin Wood.

Sporting events

This term we have been busy with a range of sporting activities.

Year 5 and 6 participated in a tag rugby competition at All Saints. One team managed to win, meaning they went on to represent Stockton at the finals in Billingham.

Year 6 took a football team to Ingleby Manor where they performed extremely well finishing second, narrowly losing in the final.

Some of our children represented the school at the cross country finals at Preston Park. They all performed so well in tough conditions. Joseph Brown finished a magnificent second and will now go on to represent Stockton at the next competition.

Year 4 enjoyed a day out at Conyers practising their tag rugby skills. They thoroughly enjoyed the sessions and we look to continue practising these skills in PE

School Council

This term has seen the elections for school council. Each class nominated four representatives before voting for a boy and a girl. For an authentic experience, we borrowed Stockton council's ballot box and voting booth. The children got into the spirit of the election process. To conclude the process, two members of each class were voted onto the school council. Well done to everyone who participated, and congratulations to the successful candidates. School council members will wear a yellow badge to help you recognise who they are.

School council are happy to announce the reopening of Tuck shop; this will now take place every Thursday. All funds raised will be invested back into school, with school councillors choosing how the money is used to benefit the school.

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Future Dates

29th October – 2nd November 18

5th November 18

8th November 18

22nd November 18

23rd November 18

29th November 18

11th December 18

12th December 18

12th December 18

13th December 18

17th December 18

18th December 18

19th December 18

20th December 18

20th December 18

21st December 18

24th December – 4th January 19

7th January 19

October half term week

Children return to school

Y6 family assembly @ 2.45pm

Y4 family assembly @ 2.45pm

PD Day

Y5 family assembly @ 2.45pm

Y1/Y2/Y3 Christmas Performance @ 6.00pm

Christmas Lunch (Reception to Year 6)

Christingle service at St Francis Church @ 2.00pm (Reception to Year 6)

Y4/Y5/Y6 Christmas Performance @ 6.00pm

Y1/Y2/Y3 Christmas party

Y1 – Y6 pantomime trip to The Arc

Foundation Stage Christmas party

Y4/Y5/Y5 Christmas party

Carols in the Playground @ 3.00pm

Last day of this term

Christmas holidays

Children return to school