



Arkwright News

September 2013

Changes in school.

Reading Challenge.

The reading challenge still exists to promote reading at home but we have changed it a little. Children will be awarded certificates and prizes depending on how many times they read at home during the year. 32 times is bronze certificate, 64 silver certificate, 96 gold certificate, 128 platinum certificate and 160 diamond. Children will have a chart to record their reading at home. Staff will continue to check reading records on a weekly basis so please ensure all reading (not just school reading books) is recorded and signed by an adult or older sibling.

A reading challenge display can be found outside Miss Seward's office.

Behaviour and attendance

To promote good behaviour and good attendance (including arrival at school on time) the school has introduced the 'Arkwright Ark'. On a daily basis the children can move up the ladder towards the animals in the ark, to do this they need to be at school, arrive on time and not lose any golden time or had time out. When they land on an animal they will receive a certificate for good behaviour and attendance. Some of the animals have an additional reward.

All classrooms have an ark and there is one on display in the hall outside the school office.

This has been explained to the children.

Children still have golden time on a Friday afternoon. Letters will continue to be sent home if a child misses 15 minutes or more of golden time.

Attendance

OFSTED identified attendance as an area for improvement during the last inspection. The government has decided that holidays in term time are unauthorised and the local authority may issue a fixed penalty notice. Parents will be sent by the school a copy advice issued by the local authority on fixed penalty notices.

To promote good attendance the school will continue to monitor attendance on a regular basis. Please ring if your child is not at school for any reason, or send a note with your child on their return to school. All absences have to be explained.

Every half term parents will be issued with a coloured letter regarding children's attendance. Green means your child's attendance is good and above 95%. Orange means your child's attendance needs improvement because it's between 90 and 95% which is below national expectations. Red means your child's attendance needs significant improvement as it is below 90%, it will be discussed with Miss Seward and a possible referral to the Education Welfare Office may be required.

All attendance information will be displayed on the attendance and behaviour display in the school hall.

Staff non-contact time.

Teaching staff are entitled to non-contact time on a weekly basis, time to be used for planning, preparing resources and assessment. Mrs Wells or Miss Seward will cover staff planning time. All planning time is in a morning.

Monday	Mrs Wells
Tuesday	Mrs Weretelnikow Miss Davies - 1 morning every 3 weeks.
Wednesday	Miss Fletcher
Thursday	Mrs Frost
Friday	Mrs White - 9am til 10.30am.

School Priorities 2013-14.

The school continues to strive to be an outstanding school and build on the good grade awarded at the last OFSTED inspection.

The following areas are priorities for the forthcoming year.

Attendance - To increase the percentage of children attending at national expectations. 95% is the national expectation.

Writing - To increase the percentage of children achieving national expectations at the end of year 2 and year 6. To ensure all children make good progress. To increase the opportunities for children to write at school and at home.

Curriculum enrichment - To increase the number of visits and visitors the children experience. To participate in more sporting activities in and out of school. To promote outdoor learning throughout the school. To link with schools beyond Chesterfield.

After School Clubs

The following after school clubs are available this half term. Please pick up a consent form.

Tuesday - Street dancing, 3.15pm til 4.15pm, £2 per session, reception children to Y6, starts 17th September.

Thursday - netball, 3.15pm til 4.15pm, free, Y4,5 and 6 girls, starts 10th September.

School is still awaiting details from Chesterfield football club but they will be running an after school club this term.