

CAGE GREEN NEWSLETTER

"FOR EVERY CHILD TO REACH THEIR POTENTIAL"

November 2015



Dear Parents/Carers and Children,

Welcome back to a new term—it definitely feels winter is upon us with the weather changing as well as the clocks. I would like to begin this month's newsletter by thanking all the parents/carers who attended the two Harvest Festivals last term. I'm sure you will agree the children performed brilliantly and the service was led very professionally by our Head Boy and Head Girl. The Year R children will be visiting Penruddocke House today singing songs for the residents as well as donating food on Friday. Unfortunately parents/carers will not be able to attend due to the space restrictions within Penruddocke House.

This term we will be saying goodbye to Mr Bennett our Assistant Site Manager—he has been with us for just over two years and has played a key role in redeveloping the interior and exterior of the school. The classroom environments are now all fit for purpose and Mr Bennett has worked hard as part of a team in bringing my ideas to fruition. Therefore on behalf of the school I wish Mr Bennett the best of luck in his new job.

Mr Stares will also be absent during Term 2 for personal reasons and you may have seen Mr Gower on the playground during the last couple of weeks of last term. Mr Gower will be working at the school until Easter covering Mr Stares and Mr Bennett's duties.

The staff and I have been looking at timetables and curriculum coverage within the school ensuring we fit as much learning in as possible. As a result, starting on the 9 November, the **Key Stage 1 gate will now be closed at 8.55 am**. If you arrive after this time please take your child to the main entrance and they will be taken to class from there. Key Stage 2 children will follow the same procedure as before with the whistle being blown at 8.55 am and the children being in class at 9.00 am ready for their first lesson. As I've mentioned previously, bringing your child in on time is essential to their education and lateness seems to be on the increase.

As E-safety is a key part of our lives now I came across the website detailed below. This gives excellent guidance on how to discuss this issue with your children to help ensure they keep themselves safe online. We regularly talk about this issue with the children during lessons and assembly times especially since it seems to be on the news more frequently. The web address is as follows:

www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/

On the topic of ICT Mrs Boorman and I have been looking at increasing the technology within the school. As children become more and more familiar with touch screen technology the school and PACT have invested in a bank of iPads. With this in mind, if any parents/carers have any 'old' iPad's that aren't being used the school would very much like to bring them 'back to life' and add to our own collection. Any old material will be wiped from the iPad and any donated will be greatly appreciated.

Children In Need

Once again, we will be participating in Children in Need which is next Friday, 13 November, trying to raise as much money as possible through your donations for this worthy cause. This will be a costume day and the theme is Super Heroes. We thank you in advance for your support.

Parental Questionnaire

This year's parental questionnaire is now closed and if you receive this via email, the results are attached. Hard copies are available from the front office. The main areas of strength and the areas of development are detailed below:

Areas of Strengths

- Children are happy at Cage Green, have friends at school and parents/carers feel welcome when they come into school (1 response in Q2 and Q3 were unsure)
- Parents/carers feel the site is safe and secure
- Homework expectations are understood by parents/carers
- Educational visits are worthwhile experiences and the school provides a varied range of enrichment weeks and activities
- Parents/carers feel confident the school deals with inappropriate behaviour effectively
- Children enjoy playtimes and lunchtimes
- School is led and managed well

Areas of Development (actions already undertaken in red)

- School buildings need to continue to be updated
(Focus has been on the classrooms as well as a lot of interior decoration/building work. Outside panels have been painted and shuttering replaced on the Music Suite. Work will continue once funding has been secured.)
- Outdoor learning environment to be more effective in supporting creativity and learning
(As part of the Science Improvement Plan work is planned for an outdoor learning resource/space. Markings part funded by the PTFA have been completed and other areas planned.)
- More information to be provided to parents/carers in how to support learning at home
(Information sessions planned for this academic year.)
- A broader range of clubs to be available to children
(90-95% of staff run clubs therefore to increase the amount of clubs parents helpers and/or outside agencies will be needed.)
- School website to be clearer and detail future events
(School website is up to date and is constantly reviewed. The missing link is a 'Virtual Learning Environment' which would allow teachers to update their area daily with 'class news'. Hopefully this will happen this academic year.)

This concludes this month's newsletter and the next one will be published on Friday 4 December 2015.

Yours sincerely

G Garthwaite

Headteacher

Academic Year 2015-16

Term 2	Monday 2 November—Staff Development Day Tuesday 3 November—Staff Development Day Wednesday 4 November—Staff Development Day Thursday 5 November — Friday 18 December
Christmas Break	Monday 21 December—Friday 1 January
Term 3	Monday 4 January—Friday 12 February
February Break	Monday 15 February—Friday 19 February
Term 4	Monday 22 February — Thursday 24 March
Spring Break	Friday 25 March — Friday 8 April
Term 5	Monday 11 April—Friday 27 May Monday 2 May—Bank Holiday
May Break	Monday 30 May—Friday 3 June
Term 6	Monday 6 June—Friday 22 July

Academic Year 2016/17

Monday 31st October 2016 to Friday 4 November 2016—Staff Development Days