



REMINDERS *** REMINDERS**

Please remember that we are a Health Promoting School. Children should not be bringing chocolate and sweets in to school for their break time snacks or in their lunch-boxes. Similarly, though children are allowed to bring in squash or fruit juice to drink during break times we do not allow children to drink anything other than water during lesson times. This may seem strange, but all of the evidence shows that plain water helps to keep the brain

hydrated and therefore, helps children to concentrate and learn more effectively. Sipping fruit juice and squash, on the other hand, causes tooth decay and additives may cause a lack of concentration.

Important Dates for the Diary so far

*For more information check out our school website
www.gladstone.stoke.sch.uk*

October

- w/b 5th Year 6 to Standon Bowers for the week
- Mon. 5th The Den to Longton Clinic
- Tues. 6th 3GA to Westport Lake
- Thurs. 8th Year 5 Assembly for Parents
- Thurs. 8th 4HA to Dimensions for winning the Copper Trail
- Mon. 12th The Nursery to Longton Park
- Tues. 13th The Nursery to Longton Park
- Tues. 13th 2.30 p.m. Year 6 'SATS' Meeting for Parents
- Tues. 13th Year 4 to the National Space Centre
- Tues. 13th Fire Safety talk for the Whole School
- Wed. 14th Mrs Annese and 4 pupils to take part in Local Democracy Week activities at the Civic Centre
- Thurs. 15th 3LM to Bearstone Farm
- w/b 19th Parent Consultations begin
- Tues. 20th 3GA to Bearstone Farm
- Wed. 21st Year 2 to Longton Fire Station
- Wed. 21st Parents' Evening from 3.45 - 7p.m.
- Thurs. 22nd Harvest Celebration for pupils and staff only

*School breaks up for Half Term on Friday,
October 23rd.*

This will be a NON-UNIFORM DAY.

We re-open on Monday, 2nd November

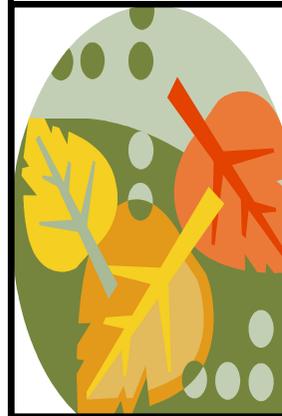
GLADSTONE PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENTS' / CARERS' NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2015



Dear Parents / Carers,

A belated 'Welcome back' to everyone after the long Summer break. Time seems to be flying by already and I find it difficult to believe that we are now in October already!

A special 'thank you' to those of you who spent time during the long holiday helping your children with their homework projects. Staff have been bowled over by the quality and quantity of the work produced and, in some cases, the size of the finished products! Last week we had a visitor in school who is a Lead Ofsted Inspector and he too was impressed by



the quality of the work that the children had done and the Brain Busters Homework books from last year. A massive thank you to all of you.

An additional thank you as well for the way that the children have come in to school over the last few weeks, They are all looking extremely smart in their new uniforms and are a credit to the school.

As this is the start of a new academic year we have welcomed a number of new staff - Miss Hermione Alston and Ms Deborah Laws join our teaching team, working in Year 4 and Reception respectively. Mrs Lisa Daws joined us on a full time basis, working as an Early Years Practitioner in the Nursery.

Obviously, we also have a number of new pupils across the school and we want to say a big Gladstone 'welcome' to them and their families. We look forward to working with you all over the coming academic year.

Best Wishes,

Mrs Elaine Preston

Headteacher

>> PLEASE DO NOT USE THE TIDESWELL GATE >>

When the school first opened Tideswell Road was jam packed every morning with dozens of cars as parents dropped their children off for school. As you can imagine, in such a small, narrow road (with limited pavement space) this was an extremely dangerous situation. As a result, we are asked by the Police to limit the use of the electronic pedestrian gate on Tideswell and, therefore, changed our systems and asked that children **did not** use the top gate on Tideswell to enter the school grounds at the start and end of the school day. We also asked that parents did not use Tideswell Road as a drop off or pick up point; making the main entrances to school as the gate opposite the Main Office and the large gates off Anchor Road. Sadly, at the moment, there are a small number of parents dropping their children off at this gate each morning - which seems unfair on the overwhelming majority of parents who use the correct gates. In light of the background given above I would ask that for health and safety reasons - and out of courtesy for our neighbours on Tideswell - that all parents encourage their children to use the correct gates at all times. I thank you in anticipation of your support with this matter.

>> >> >> CHANGES TO OUR I.T. SYSTEMS >> >> >>

As you know we are fortunate in relation to the I.T. provision in school - i.e. all classrooms now have new state of the arts interactive touchscreens which complement our 116 iPads and 140 laptops.

Over recent months we have had a major over haul of our I.T. management system for the iPads, as well as installing many new APPS on to them, to make them work more effectively and better support the children's learning. Obviously, this has meant that there has been some disruption to the use of some progams - such as Accelerated Reading - over the past few weeks. We are now all up and running, however, and I am pleased to say that the children are already seeing the benefit of all of the improvements that have been made.

NEW PLAY EQUIPMENT

I am sure that you will have noticed our new play equipment in the Giant Yard and the 'changes' to our Foundation Stage Yard. These changes see the start of a major improvement project to our Giant Yard and F.S. outdoor provision. There will be more improvements over the coming weeks as we create a new area by the side of the Nursery which will include a Mud Kitchen, Growing Area, new sandpit and an improved covered Jungle Hut.

A HUGE 'thank you' goes to Kier who sent a team of volunteers who spent a very hot Saturday ripping up some of the old tunnels and grassy areas to prepare for these changes free of charge.



CHANGES TO THE MATHS CURRICULUM

Over the coming months you will notice that we have changed the way that we teach Maths to the children. To go alongside this we have purchased an on line system called 'My Maths' which will support your child with their Maths at home. With this new system children will have their own password and teachers will be able to set individual tasks for their class on-line. This Maths homework will go alongside the other homework set as part of the Brain Busters projects. Don't worry if you don't have internet access at home, as Mrs Rammell is going to be running some Lunchtime clubs to help the children.

We will also be having a additional 'push' on Multiplication Tables as it is vital that the children learn these tables both in school and at home if they are to succeed in this subject. Obviously, the children practise their tables during the school day, but, if they are to learn them adequately it is VITAL that they practise them regularly at home. It is very clear in the National Curriculum that children MUST know all of their tables to 12 by the end of Year 4. We know that the children will not achieve this without the support from both school and home and thank you in advance for your support regarding this matter.

November

