



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 lunchboxes. We do allow special treats, however, and children can bring in lollipops or other 'treats' in to school for their birthday which are given out at the end of the day. They are also allowed special treats for school parties etc.

Important Dates for the Diary so far

September

Tuesday 9th	2CD to Meir Tesco
Wednesday 10th	2ST to Meir Tesco
Tuesday 16th	Year 3 to Westport Lake
Thursday 18th	Year 4 to The Monkey Forest
Friday 19th	Musicians to Penkull Music Festival
Wednesday 24th	Theatre visit : Oliver Twist
Friday 26th	Titus the Roman visits Year 3
Monday 29th	Year 6 to Blists Hill

October

Tuesday 7th	2CD to Ford Green Hall
Wednesday 8th	2ST to Ford Green Hall
w/b 13th	Year 6 to Standon Bowers Centre for the week.
w/b 20th	Parent Consultations during the school day.
Wednesday 22nd	Parents' Evening 3.45 - 7pm
Thursday 23rd	School Harvest for the children
Friday 24th	Non-uniform Day

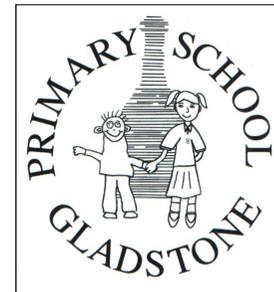
November

Monday, 3rd	School re-opens
Monday 3rd	3GA to Bearstone Farm
Tuesday 4th	3LM to Bearstone Farm
Thursday 6th	Year 6 Victorian Day
W/b 10th & 17th	Remembering World War 1
Monday and Tuesday	10th / 11th School Photographer in
Tuesday 19th	Year 2 to Longton Fire Station
Wednesday 26th	Year 3 Roman Day
Friday, 28th	Christmas Fayre 3.45pm—5.30pm

*School breaks up for Half Term on Friday,
October 24th.*

This will be a NON-UNIFORM DAY.

GLADSTONE PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENTS' / CARERS' NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2014



Dear Parents / Carers,



Welcome back after the long school break and welcome to anyone who is new to Gladstone. You will be glad to know that the children have settled into their new classes and routines really well and we have had a super start to the new school year. All children look incredibly smart in their new uniforms, so thank you so much for supporting our school dress code.

Many of you will already know that last week we celebrated Gladstone Primary School's 10th birthday — hence the purple balloons! It is hard to believe that we have now been together for 10 years - time really has flown by since we closed the former Adderley Green Infants and Woodhouse Junior Schools to come together as a large primary school in September 2004. All of the children had a special treat at the end of the day and we all enjoyed singing Happy Birthday to ourselves in assembly!

As you may have heard on the news, the new National Curriculum came into effect on 1st September and we have a new SEN Code of Practice. We have also had to make changes to the way that we assess children's progress across the curriculum. I am pleased to say that, as a result of a lot of hard work by staff we have been ready to implement these changes and adapted things as necessary, without sacrificing what we do well as a school.

Finally, I would like to remind you that all children are expected to read at least 5 times a week and complete any homework activities set. Thank you in anticipation of your support with this matter. We look forward to working with you over the coming year.

Mrs Elaine Preston

Headteacher

***** WHERE DO I FIND DATES FOR MY DIARY ? *****

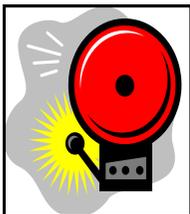
A number of parents commented in our Parent Survey that we did not give them enough notice of school events such as concerts or assemblies etc. Please remember that dates for the term are included in this newsletter each month and are on our website www.gladstone.stoke.sch.uk on the News / Diary pages. We also send out individual letters a little closer to the event as a reminder and to give more relevant details such as cost and last year we introduced the new text system which often acts as a reminder re dates and times. At the moment we are loading next year's dates on to the website, so please keep checking for any updates and keep checking the bottom of those bags for any 'stray' letters.

>> >> WE WILL REMEMBER THEM >> >>

This year we are planning a number of events to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the start of World War 1 for 2 weeks starting the 10th November. I am sure that you will agree that it is vital that we make sure that we do not forget the sacrifice of so many young men, who gave their lives for their country, fighting in such horrific conditions in the trenches of Belgium and Northern France. Your child's teacher will be sending out information with more details over the coming weeks.



>> >> >> FIRE SAFETY >> >> >>



As many of you know we had a rather unexpected end to our first day of term last Wednesday. The fire alarms sounded just as the children were about to leave for home and we had to complete a full evacuation of all 420 children and staff as, at the time, we were unaware that this was as a result of an over sensitive sensor. At this point we had not had our first fire drill of the year as we usually give the children and staff a day to settle in — particularly the younger ones who often get distressed by the loud siren. I am very pleased and proud to say that your children were amazing! They evaluated calmly and were out of the building within minutes of the siren sounding. Their behaviour was impeccable.

Thank you to those parents who waited so patiently while we completed the 'drill' on the MUGA and then walked the children back to the classrooms to be dismissed safely. I am sure you will understand why the children were a little late on this occasion.

Welcome to New Staff



You will have noticed a number of new faces on our staff. Miss Kate Lockett and Miss Dionne Dyas have joined our Reception team, working as Early Years Practitioners alongside Mrs Davies and Mrs Lovatt. Similarly, Miss Kimberley Needham and Miss Megan Wood our 2 new apprentices, have also joined our Foundation Stage Team. Mrs Carla Rammell has joined us and will be working with Mrs Clowes in our new Nurture provision to be based in the school house during the school day. We also welcome back a familiar face to many of you, Ms Sue Reeves. Ms Reeves has worked in the Office at Adderley Green in the past and has now come back 'home' to take Mrs Carter's place as Clerical Assistant, working in our front Office now that Mrs Carter moved to Year 3 to work as an Educational Associate.

+++ +++ DINNER TIMES +++ +++

You may have read in the newspapers or seen the news on the T.V. that from September 2014 all children from Reception to Year 2 are eligible for a free school meal. I have to admit that, as the first day of term approached, we were rather anxious wondering how we would manage to get 270 hot dinners served during dinner time and have had to make some changes to the Community Room to enable us to use this space, as well as the School Hall, at Lunchtime. Our first Lunchtime of the new school year was planned rather like the D-Day Landings, but I am pleased to say that Mrs Bentley and her team and our Lunchtime Supervisors did a wonderful job and we managed to ensure that all of the children were well fed in plenty of time for the start of the afternoon sessions without having been rushed in any way. Fingers crossed that this will continue once our Nursery children start school and stay for their dinners as Mrs Bentley and her team will then be preparing at least 330 meals each day! I know that many schools across the Country will be struggling to feed so many children and have lost valuable hall time as a result. We are very fortunate at Gladstone that we have a wonderful school building and grounds — probably the best in the City, if not County — otherwise things could have been very different.

