

Sydenham Primary School Newsletter

In-Service Training Days

A reminder that school will be **closed on Friday 25th October** for staff to be trained on 'The Taking Care Project'. School will also be **closed on Monday 4th November** for training on the National Gallery's 'Take One Picture Project'.

Data Collection Forms

Your child will be bringing home a Data Collection form. Please update your phone number and other contact details, and provide us with an email address so that we can email you letters. Thank you.

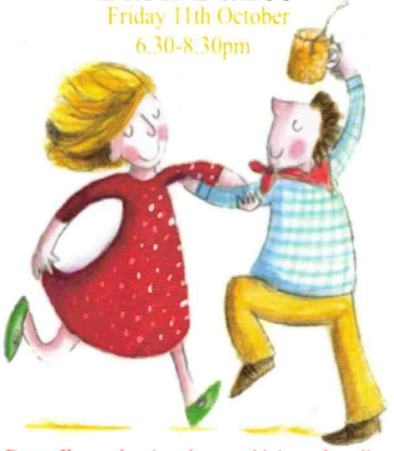
Half-Term

A reminder that school is closed for the half term holiday from Monday 28th October ~ Friday 1st November.

PTA Barn Dance

Come and buy your tickets for the PTA Barn Dance on Friday 11th October ~ yeeha!

Barn Dance
Friday 11th October
6.30-8.30pm



Dust off your dancing shoes and join us for a live Band, dancing and free buffet.

I would like.....tickets at £3 each/or a family ticket for £10 (2 adults 3 children max)
Name.....Child in year.....
*Please hand money to the school office by 4th October.

In aid of Sydenham Primary P.T.A.

Sydenham Super Stars!

Congratulations to all of this week's Sydenham Super Stars! Friday 27th September, 2013



Names in Clothes

Already the items of lost property are beginning to build up!! Please make sure that all items of clothing are clearly labelled to help your child. Thank you.

Bikes and Scooters

A reminder that whilst we encourage children to come to school on bikes and scooters, once in school they should not be used on the playground or paths. Please can you help us by reminding your child to dismount from their bike or scooter once they go through the school gates.

Admissions 2014

A reminder that the closing date for applications for Reception Class places for September 2014 is 15th January 2014. It is very important that forms are returned on time to ensure your child is given a place! Text STARTSCHOOL to 07950 081 082 for a text message reminder on how to apply. Telephone 01926 742037 or apply online at

<http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/primaryschool>

Parent and Teacher Learning Reviews

Your child will be bring home an appointment request letter tonight for the Learning Review Meetings with parents and carers on Wednesday 23rd and Thursday 24th October. Please return the tear-off slip by next Friday at the latest. Thank you.

Children's University

We are re-launching the Children's University in Key Stage 2 with 'passports' for children attending out-of-hours clubs. The children will collect 'stamps' in their passports whilst they work towards achieving 'Award' level, then 'Certificate' level, then 'Diploma' level, and finally 'Degree' level. Children who already have a passport will keep their current one, so that their points are still valid. There will be an annual awards ceremony at Warwick University for children achieving high level awards. Please encourage your child to take really good care of their passport.

Christmas Cards

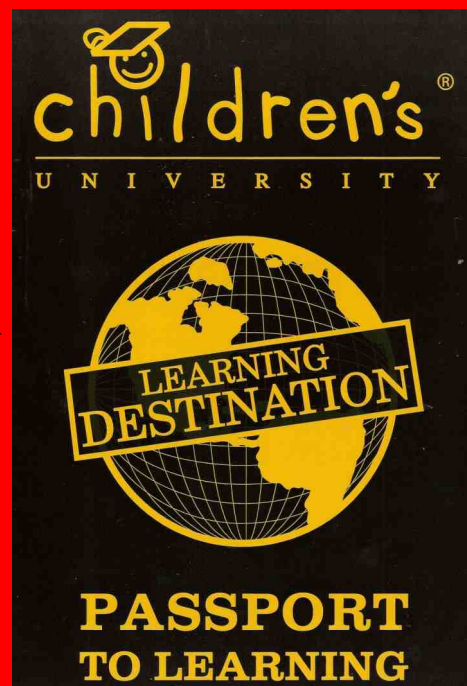
Your child was given a book mark earlier this week about the PTA Christmas card and wrapping paper event. Your child will be designing and creating their pictures which can be turned into printed Christmas cards and other exciting products. If you have more than one child in the school, and would like them to produce a family card, please contact Julie Wall in the school playground and let her know or pop into the office and leave a message for her.

National Film Week ~ Free Cinema Trips

Year1 will be going to see 'The Croods' on Tuesday 22nd October, and years 2, 3 and 4 will be seeing 'Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs' on Monday 21st October. Children will need to be in school at 8.55am promptly in order to walk to the cinema in Leamington.

Harvest Festival

Years 1, 2, 5 and 6 (Years 3 and 4 will not be participating due to rehearsal commitments for The Lion King) will be taking part in a Harvest Assembly on Thursday 24th October, led by Miss Glenney. Parents and carers are welcome to attend. Please send in any fresh produce or tinned goods that can be distributed to local charities. Thank you.



Have a great weekend!

Best wishes, Juliette Westwood, Executive Head Teacher



Sydenham Primary School Procedures for Administering Medication in School

Sydenham Primary School recognises that a number of children, because of their medical condition, will require medication whilst at school.

Staff have no obligation to administer or to have involvement with medicines for children. Wherever possible, responsibilities must remain those of the parents/carers and medical practitioners.

In general, treatments should be managed so that it is not necessary for medicines to come to school. Most medication can be managed by doses timed to be outside the school day, i.e. 3 times a day: before school, after school and in the evening.

Parents are discouraged from sending children to school with non-prescribed medication. Non-prescribed medication will not be administered by school staff.

In cases where prescribed medication has to be administered in school time and staff have agreed to do so, the following procedures should be followed:

- Parents/carers should arrange delivery of all medicines to be taken or administered to the school office;
- Medicines should be clearly labelled with the child's name;
- Parents/carers will be asked to complete and sign a form specifying preparations, storage arrangements, dosage and circumstances under which it should be given;
- Medication will be stored securely, out of reach of children;
- One member of staff will administer the medication, witnessed by another member of staff, and then both will sign to say that the medicine has been given;
- For medication in which training is required to administer it, only trained members of staff should be responsible for administering the medicine.

Parents/carers of children who suffer from asthma must complete an 'Asthma Inhalers in School' form.

Self-administration of certain prescribed medication can be found in the Warwickshire Schools Health Directory.

What is Forest Schools?

Forest Schools is a type of outdoor education in which school children visit forests or wooded areas, learning personal, social and technical skills. It has been defined as "an inspirational process that offers children, young people and adults regular opportunities to achieve and develop confidence through hands-on learning in a woodland environment".

Forest schools use the woods and forests as a means to build independence and self-esteem in school-age children. Topics include the natural environment, for example the role of trees in society, the complex ecosystem supported by a wilderness, and recognition of specific plants and animals. However, the personal skills are considered highly valuable, such as teamwork and problem solving. The woodland environment may be used to learn about more abstract concepts such as mathematics and communication.



Schedules within forest schools vary, but a typical approach is to take school children to woodland areas for once a week, for perhaps 6 weeks. The duration and frequency of visits influences the degree of outcome; more time spent in forest schools brings greater benefits. Visits should ideally continue throughout the year, allowing children to experience all weathers and the changing seasons.



Forest schools are often led by the child's interests. The main goals of forest schools in primary age children include encouraging curiosity and exploration with all of the senses, empowering children in the natural environment, and encouraging spatial awareness and motor development.

Children learn about flora and fauna but gain more abstract benefits in social skills such as team-building and cooperation,

project planning and recognition of each pupil's own achievements. By setting children small manageable tasks and giving praise, they are given a good foundation for future learning.

With high adult:child ratios, children can safely experience activities that are often prohibited, such as climbing trees or lighting fires. The programme allows children to grow in confidence and independence and extend their abilities. Currently, Mrs Thorneywork and Miss Rhian Jones are trained Forest Schools practitioners at Sydenham Primary School. Forest Schools sessions take place every Friday, and this year, we are delighted to be able to offer this exciting curriculum opportunity to every child in our school over the course of the year. All children are provided with smart new red waterproof trousers and jackets, so they do not need to bring in a change of clothes, but they do need wellies or old trainers. Juliette Westwood