

Concord Newsletter Summer Term 1

Dear Parent/Carer

As we begin the summer term I would like to provide an early up-date about school progress, share several important reminders; and highlight the impact of a number of improvements and initiatives the school and staff undertook in the spring term. It also includes our response to several requests made by parents / carers in sections called 'You said, we did!'

Communication

We try very hard to communicate with you regularly and do this in a variety of ways. This includes:

1. A half termly newsletter.
2. Celebration assemblies on a Friday morning (rewarding children for attendance, achievement and promoting our school and community agreed values).
3. Text messages (usually as a reminder or in an emergency situation).
4. The website (this is regularly up-dated with news and archived written communication).
5. Termly Pupil Progress meetings.
6. Parents' afternoons and drop in sessions to work with your child and class teacher on fun and exciting activities linked to half termly learning focus.
7. Parents/carers of children with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND) have a minimum of three face to face meetings with staff each year.
8. Special events such as Easter assemblies, Harvest assemblies and Christmas assemblies.
9. Meetings with the class teacher arranged through the office staff on request.
10. All written communication is also archived on the school website www.concordschool.net

However, we have further strengthened communication in the spring term with the following:

1. Drop Ins

Weekly after school drop in on a Tuesday for parents who wish to speak to their child's class teacher by arranging an appointment through the school office (between 3.30 and 4.30).

2. Class Dojo

This has proved to be very successful and the overwhelming feedback from parent's, pupils and staff is very positive.

3. Five Star Learner

Five star learner reports linked to attendance, progress and attitudes to learning (sent out week ending 7/4/17). Based on the large number of reply slips returned this appears to have been strongly supported by all!

4. A Friends of the School Parent Council

This was set up to include a randomly selected parent representative from each year group. The group invited all parents to join them to set up a range of community and school events. The first event was a school disco for year 3 and 4, and one for 5 and 6. A big thank you to the Parent Council and all of the parents who attended and supported the event. It was a great success. Please look out for forthcoming events which will be communicated by text and by letter. A summer Fayre is being planned and further details will be announced shortly.

You said we did!

A request has been made for the class teacher to be on the door first thing in the morning in year 3 so parents can pass on information directly to the teacher. Teachers will endeavour to be available every morning but please keep in mind they are responsible for all of the children who arrive at 8.40 am and should you need a longer conversation please call the office to make an appointment.

School Initiatives

1. Golden Time

To further improve behaviour at social time, learning and attendance; and reward children for doing the 'right things', Friday 'Golden Time' has been introduced across school. This has proved to be very popular with the children and almost every child now achieves Golden Time each week. During this time children chose from a range of options such as dance, football or board games. A pupil survey has been completed across school and the overwhelming majority of pupils agree or strongly agree the initiative is motivational and has improved behaviour at social time.

2. Attendance

Following our Inspection OFSTED have asked the school to further improve attendance. The school has sought advice from the designated School Improvement Partner and strengthened the attendance strategy to provide a range of rewards for pupils who attend regularly. The range of rewards include;

- £5 for the class with the highest attendance each week. Well done Miss Davidson's class they have a grand total of £55 which I believe they are saving up to go ice skating!
- A half termly trip for every child whose attendance is 97% or above.
- Children are provided with an opportunity to catch up on lost learning if they have been absent from school during the week. If your child has very good attendance (above 97%) they will be encouraged to complete the missed work at home and can still attend Golden Time. If your child's attendance is below 97% your child may be required to complete the missed work at school during Golden Time.

Summer Term Parent events

To further promote engagement school will be offering the following for parents:

- *How to support your child with calculation in Mathematics in Year 3 and 4?* (18th May 3.15pm). Bring your child with you! Coffee and biscuits provided. Mr Huckstepp and Miss Welsh will lead the session.
- *A Career Day for you and your child* (20th June - further information to follow from Mr Huckstepp).
- *Lunch and Play*. An opportunity to see the excellent behaviour at lunch time and spend some quality time in school (further information, time and dates will follow).
- *A reading Café*. An opportunity to read with your child and have coffee with friends (further information and time and dates will follow).
- *Guidance to support your child to develop their reading and comprehension skills*. Mr Matterson and Mr Huckstepp will lead the session on 16th May at 3.15pm (details will follow shortly).
- The school will be working with the Parent Council to develop their role in working in partnership with the school to drive improvement still further (additional information will follow shortly).

3. Play Leaders and playground equipment

Staff and pupils have worked together to purchase a range of exciting equipment which is available at lunch time and playtimes. Play leaders have been elected and support and lead games and activities during social time. Each class has been taught a range of traditional and contemporary games to support constructive and imaginative play. The spring pupil survey indicates the majority of pupils are happy, feel safe and strongly agree social time has improved! A tremendous result after just half a term!

4. External Challenge

Concord has been on a rapid improvement journey and the leadership team and staff are committed and ambitious in providing an outstanding school for the children, families and community to be proud of. Our School Improvement Partner continues to work with the leadership team staff and parents each term to evaluate the school's progress and provide external challenge and support. During his visit on 7/4/17 he spoke to pupils and parents

about the impact of the new initiatives, looked at pupil books and visited lessons. I am delighted to say he was very impressed with the work of the school and impact to date.

I would like to thank the parents who spoke to our School Improvement Partner and for their enthusiasm and praise for the recent initiatives.

5. Mobile classrooms

Some parents expressed a concern to school about the mobile classrooms due to the motor on the shutters not working. The shutters were broken during the inspection and have now been fixed. Please be assured the classrooms meet all health and safety standards and are well maintained.

6. Clubs

Some parents have asked if a broader range of after school clubs can be offered for children to attend. Early this term the children will complete a brief survey to capture what activities / clubs they would like to attend. We can't of course promise to provide every club the children request. However it may be possible to buy in an expert to deliver the clubs that are requested. Please be aware there may be a charge to cover the cost of external providers delivering after school clubs.

7. Staffing update

Miss Stanton awaits the arrival of her first baby and has started her maternity leave. Mr Roe has kindly stepped in to cover breakfast club and after school club until the end of the summer term

Finally, thank you for taking the time to read the summer term letter. Please find attached the results of the spring term parent and pupil surveys.

Should you have any questions or have any suggestions please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Kind regards,

Michelle Kouni
Headteacher