



24th July 2018

Concord Newsletter Summer Term 2 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

As we come to the end of summer term, I would like to update you about school progress, share several important reminders and guidance; and highlight the impact of a number of improvements and initiatives the school and staff have undertaken to date.

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 keeping our school and community agreed values (achieving, respecting others, being trustworthy, being a good friend, being responsible, forgiving and being safe).
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. Parent afternoons and drop-in sessions to work with your child and class teacher on fun and exciting activities linked to your child's learning half termly.
7. The 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. All general (letters/newsletters) are placed on the website.
10. Meetings with the class teacher arranged through the office staff on request.
11. **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 3.30pm and 4.30pm).
12. **Class Dojo**. This continues to be very successful and the overwhelming feedback from parents, pupils and staff remains very positive. If you have not yet signed up and would like support in doing so, please contact the school office to talk to Mr Huckstepp.
13. **Five Star Learner** Five-star learner reports linked to attendance, progress and attitudes to learning. Behaviour for learning and behaviour at social time continues to be strong. Our school improvement inspector and Mr French monitored behaviour in classes and at social time last week and agreed that behaviour was at least good if not better. Well done all of the children and play leaders.

14. A Friends of the School Parent Group

Once again Thank You to the Friends of Concord Parent Group who work tirelessly to support the work of the school, arrange discos and fund raising events for the children and community. We have had a wonderful Street Party to celebrate the recent Royal Wedding and a fantastic Bingo Night! Following on from the tremendous work of the Parent Group, Mr Huckstepp is working on behalf of the community, school and parents and has begun the Parent Partnership Award. Thank you to everyone who has supported this initiative and for your continued support.

15. Accelerated Reader

This has continued to be very successful in raising standards in reading. Our data shows that children who also read regularly at home, discuss books and authors make greater progress in their reading than their

peers. Keep reading during the summer holidays. Your child will take a reading test in the autumn term to see if they have maintained their scores achieved in the summer test. The accelerated reader measures your child's understanding of vocabulary and their comprehension skills. Salford reading tests measure your child's ability to decode words. We recommend your child reads at least one book a week during the holidays to maintain their present reading level.

Wow Words of the Week

This term we have introduced Wow Words to support your child to develop their vocabulary and reading comprehension skills. This has proved very successful and has motivated children and families to create some wonderful poetry. The children have also used the new vocabulary in their writing. Thank you to all of the parents who entered the family poetry challenge. We will certainly continue this initiative in September.

Year 2 and Year 6

The Y2 children were made very welcome and enjoyed their 2 days at Concord and we look forward to seeing them again in September! We wish the Y6 a successful transition to their Secondary school. A big well done for their SATS as they all worked very hard to achieve their very best. Well done the Y6 teaching team too!

Further plans for the playground summer 2

Mr Matterson has met with the contractors to discuss designs for the outside area in the small playground. We are hoping some of the work may be completed during the summer and will be ready for September. This includes some seating and canopies where the children can sit and read, draw and play small games.

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. Your child has sat NFER tests in reading mathematics, and spelling and tests show outcomes for pupils are improving. As a result, attainment is improving substantially across school thanks to the hard work of pupils and teachers. A big thank you to everyone for their hard work and commitment to ensuring every child achieves their best. We look forward to sharing our school data with our Inspector who will be visiting the school in the autumn term

Staffing Update

I am pleased to confirm that additional funding from the Trust will enable the school to have 3 teachers per year group as from September. This means that children will have the opportunity to learn in smaller groups and will receive a greater amount of individual and small group teaching in reading, writing and mathematics. Although there is a named teacher for each class your child may be taught by any one of the three teaches in their year group

Parental Support and Feedback

We have been overwhelmed by the continued support of our parents and friends of the school this half year. Your attendance at events has been very much appreciated. The staff and pupils have worked hard to ensure every child feels safe, happy, well looked after and that all children are well behaved at school.

Leaders in school have worked hard to ensure the quality of teaching and learning is good and outstanding to facilitate good outcomes in your child's recent tests.

Behaviour for learning is at least good in school as reported by our inspector in spring 2 and social time behaviour is also strong. In the autumn term Parent Pupil School contracts will be sent out to all of our families outlining expectations for homework, behaviour in class and at lunchtime. This year it has been known for some children to attend another school in the Trust or go home for dinners if they have broken the school behaviour policy. This has proven very successful and will continue to be part of our policy next year



Friends of Concord

A big thank you to the Friends of Concord for their tremendous support and fundraising this year. An amazing grand total of **£2394** has been raised.

Attendance

Thank you to all of the parents and children who have risen to the challenge to be in school for 100% of the half term. The whole school attendance is currently 93.2%. Thank you for your continued support.

Finally, thank you for taking the time to read the summer 2 newsletter.

On behalf of the staff and myself I wish you a happy and safe summer holiday. I look forward to welcoming families and children back to school on **Wednesday 5th September**. Should you have any questions or have any suggestions please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Kind regards,

Michelle Kouni
Headteacher