



Newsletter

26th September 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you to all parents who came to our curriculum evenings. For those of you who couldn't attend, please note that all the Powerpoints from the four meetings have now been uploaded to the school website. Feedback from these included asking for extra resources for parents, especially how we teach various maths concepts. Please be advised that we are in the process of reviewing the curriculum we provide for our children, so we are hoping that this is something we will be able to do.

We thank you for your continued support of our school.

Kind regards,

Mrs HL Sehné
Deputy Headteacher



Whole School

Admissions

Families with children in Year 6 should be considering their High School options at this point and must complete the Cheshire East Admissions form for **Secondary School** before the October deadline. If anyone needs support in doing this please contact the School Office.

Now is also the time for completing your Admissions form for **Reception places** from September 2020. That is any child born between 1st September 2015 and 31st August 2016. Please visit Cheshire East Admissions for more details. Please remind family and friends who don't attend Pikemere of the January deadline.

Child sickness

Please note that if your child has had sickness or diarrhoea, they should remain off school for 48 hours after the last episode. We also work with the children to make sure they use tissues and wash their hands properly after going to the toilet.

After School Clubs

Teachers are currently planning their extra-curricular clubs and will send letters out next week. Some of these clubs will take place at lunchtimes, due to other commitments, and some will take place after school. Please note that once your child has signed up for an after school club, their name will be added to the register. Please advise the class teacher or the office if your child is unable to attend.

All clubs will begin after half term, the week beginning 4th November 2019, and will finish for this term, the week beginning December 2nd 2019.

Parent Consultations

Having time to talk with parents about how their child is settling into their new class is very important, so we have set up our autumn parent consultation appointments on Parentmail. Please log on to your account to book your 10 minute appointment. In our experience, 10 minutes is plenty of time to talk about how a child has settled into class, what they are enjoying and what they are finding more difficult. Please note that it is very important that we try to stick to these times as if we over run on one, it impacts on the appointments that follow. This is particularly frustrating for those parents who have to see more than one teacher. If you think you will need to speak to your child's class teacher for more than 10 minutes, please talk to them to

arrange a mutually convenient time. If your child's teacher thinks they need more than 10 minutes with you, they will approach you before too.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Just to remind you of our Macmillan Coffee morning this Friday morning from 9am – 10am. Donations of cakes would be gratefully received. If any parents are available to help on the day please let Mrs Shortland or the school office know. The entrance fee is £1 and will entitle you to a drink and a piece of cake. Parents can attend on their own or ask for their children to join them once they are in the hall, so please drop your child off as normal so they can be registered. You can buy additional cakes if you wish. If anyone has any raffle prizes they would like to donate this would be appreciated and will assist with our fundraising for this very worthy cause.

Stoke City FC

We are proud of our involvement with the Stoke City Community Programme and our children enjoy the many varied curriculum activities that they participate in throughout the year. Last week, the Stoke City 7s delivered a fantastic assembly to the whole school and gave each of our Year 2's a football shirt. They also gave every child the chance to buy heavily discounted tickets for the Stoke match against Fulham on **Saturday 19th October**. If you would like to take advantage of this offer, please return your ticket requests by **Tuesday 1st October**. Tickets will be processed and posted to the pupil's home address.

Family and Friends of Pikemere School AGM

Please note that this meeting will now be on **Tuesday 1st October** at 3.30pm. Please come along and get involved and find out what we do. Remember, **OUR SCHOOL NEEDS YOU**.

If you want to get in touch, catch us on the playground, message us via facebook @friendsofpikemere or speak to Mrs Sehné, our PTA teacher rep.

Parent Forum

As a school, we are constantly looking at ways to involve stakeholders in moving our school forward. To that end, we would like to invite interested parents to join our Parent Forum to discuss priorities on our school development plan and results of the recent parent questionnaire. Future topics that we would welcome parent views on are; how to promote the joy of reading, feeding back to parents about their child's progress and developments around Sex and Relationship Education in school. Please speak to Mrs Sehné if you are interested in joining this group and let her know your availability so that she can plan the first meeting.

Whole School Harvest Celebration

Our whole school Harvest celebration will be on Tuesday 1st October and we would like to support the wonderful work that Alsager Food Bank provides for our local community. We will be having a whole school celebration assembly and ask that if families can, they supply a carrier bag containing items needed by the food bank, e.g. tinned foods, breakfast cereals, household cleaning products. We will make sure that all donations are collected that day. Please NO perishable items.

For more details please log onto the website.

www.Alsagerfoodbank.org.uk

We have traditionally also provided Harvest gifts to elderly people in our community. If you know of someone who would appreciate a Harvest gift, please let the school office know and we will ensure that a gift is made up for them for you and your child to deliver. Thank you.

Website

Copies of all letters and newsletters are on the school website www.pikemereschool.com along with a wide range of helpful information including sports activities, after school clubs and holiday dates. Please refer to the web site on a regular basis to ensure you have all the relevant up to date information. Medical forms are also available on this site.

Safeguarding Information

Please take care when parking near to school at either end of the day. Please be respectful of our neighbours on Pikemere Road, and do not block their drive ways. The police will be patrolling our area in the next few weeks. The staff car park is strictly for staff, and parents or guardians who have a disability and need closer access to the school grounds.

As mentioned in our previous newsletter, we invited the local SCIES team (Safeguarding Children in Education) into school to conduct a Safeguarding review. One of their recommendations was about the locking of our gates at the end of the school day. We have been trialling closing them earlier at just after 4.30pm but many parents, whilst appreciating the need to keep our children safe, have found it difficult when they come to collect their child from an after school club, especially if they have parked on College road. It has meant that they have come through this gate, but by the time they have collected their child the gates are locked so they have to walk around.

We have therefore decided that after half term, when the nights are closing in, we will close all but the KS1 gate at just after 3.30pm. This will mean that if you have a child attending any after school club, you will have to come through the KS1 gate and collect them from the KS1 playground. We have made this decision to prevent people who are not associated with our school, entering the premises and taking a short cut through the school grounds.



EYFS and Key Stage One

EYFS

Morning Routines

The children are developing their independence and we have been so proud of them for the way that they have been coming into school and putting their belongings away. Please could parents stand back when the children are coming into the building so that the class teacher can see them all and lead them safely inside.

EYFS Passwords

In order to keep all of our EYFS children safe at the end of the school day, we use a verbal password system. Please inform your child's class teacher if anyone different is scheduled to collect them from school, and provide them with a verbal password that has been previously agreed with the teacher. We recommend that all children are collected by somebody over the age of 16.



Key Stage Two

Walking Home

We are aware that some of our older KS2 children are walking to and from school. For their safety please do not let them arrive at school before 8.40am. At the end of the day, we will encourage them to return straight home. If you are happy for your child to walk home, please advise us in writing, either in their planners or via email to the school office.

Biking to school

We would always encourage children (and their parents) to walk to school wherever possible, however we know that this isn't always convenient. We have noticed a few of the older children are coming to school on their bikes, so would like to remind them to be respectful of pedestrians. We have had a couple of comments from parents with younger children who have nearly been knocked over by children riding their bikes on the pavement. We have a bike shed on the school field where children can safely store their bikes and helmets during the day.

And finally...our positivity quote

Don't let what you can't do stop you from doing what you can do. ...

Diary Dates

27.09.19	Macmillan Coffee Morning in school hall.	9.00am - 10.00am
1.10.19	Pikemere Harvest Festival – Donations for Alsager Food Bank	
1.10.19	Family and Friends of Pikemere School AGM	3.30pm - 4.30pm
5.10.19	One World Celebration - CIVIC CENTRE	9.30am - 1.00pm
10.10.19 - 16.10.19	Book Fair	
15.10.19	Tempest Photographs	8.30am - 12.00pm
16.10.19	'Crucial Crewe' Child Safety event for Year 6 children-see separate letter	Am only
22.10.19	Parent consultations- book appointments through Parentmail	3.30pm - 6.30pm
24.10.19	Parent consultations- book appointments through Parentmail	3.30pm - 6.30pm
24.10.19	Fluenz Team (Nasal Spray - FS2-Y6)	9.00am - 2.30pm
25.10.19	Break up for Half Term	
4.11.19	INSET day	
5.11.19	Children back to school.	
Friday 8.11.19	Year 6 Class Assembly	9.00am - 10.00am
Wednesday 13.11.19	Year 5 Class Assembly	9.00am - 10.00am
Wednesday 20.11.19	Year 4 Class Assembly	9.00am - 10.00am
Wednesday 27.11.19	Year 3 Class Assembly	9.00am - 10.00am
6.12.19	EYFS Christmas production for parents and family members-details to follow	9.30am - 10.00am
9.12.19	Key Stage 1 Christmas production dress rehearsal	
10.12.19	Key Stage 1 Christmas production matinee	2.00pm - 2.45pm
10.12.19	Key Stage 1 Christmas production evening performance	6.00pm - 6.45pm

16.12.19	Key Stage 2 Christmas Carol Concert at Christ Church Alsager-all KS2 children to attend please	6.00pm - 7.00pm
18.12.19	EYFS/Key Stage 1 Christmas parties - details to follow	
19.12.19	Key Stage 2 Christmas Parties – details to follow	
20.12.19	Whole school Christmas Carol concert at Christ Church Whole school Christmas lunch	
20.12.19	Break up for Christmas	
6.01.20	Spring term begins	