

Dear all,

It has been a lovely week back after half term. The children looked amazing dressed up in their Saints Costumes! It was lovely that we had a range of different Saints, many of which the children had never heard of before so we could talk about who they were and what they had done.

Yesterday I saw some lovely videos of the children from Cherry, Willow and Maple doing their 'Talk for Writing' story mapping. They were retelling the stories with great expression and understanding. The videos are now on the website.

Sycamore and Rowan have been reading the 'Disgusting Sandwich'. The children then made a disgusting sandwich which they proudly brought me up in the office!

FSU have been doing some amazing dance in the hall with materials. When I was watching I'm not sure who was more enthusiastic with their leaping – the children or Mrs Clarke!

Canopy

I am really pleased that the canopy is now up over Sycamore and Rowan patios. It means the children can use the outside in all weathers as an extended learning environment. Already it has been lovely to see them out there enjoying the space. I would like to say a huge thank you to the PTA for funding it and to all of you as parents who have contributed funds at recent PTA events or sponsored our walk. We are now looking at buying more resources for their outdoor area. If anyone is looking to get rid of anything that maybe suitable for their patio area, contributions would be gratefully received.

New Footballs

Many thanks to the Adam Stansfield Foundation for the free footballs and mini goal sets. The foundation was set up after Adam died from Bowel cancer in 2010. The Foundation's aims are to give children the opportunity to develop life skills through football and promote awareness of the signs and symptoms of bowel cancer. If you would like more information about the charity we have a booklet and leaflets by the Office.

E-safety

The latest E-Safety magazine is now on our website. It includes a range of articles such as information on account security, apps, as well as new ditto junior which is articles written by children.

Attendance

As many of you will be aware last year we had a big push on attendance as our attendance figures were low. Unfortunately, although attendance has picked up slightly, we are still below national average. Devon County have said we need to rectify this and they recommend we now follow the law and begin to fine parents if their child has more than 10 sessions unauthorised. This has been approved by the governors, so when a child has 10 unauthorised absences we automatically send a letter to County who then decide whether to issue a fine. This also puts us in line with many other local schools. There is more information from County on the back of this letter. This information says maintained schools but we have confirmed with County and it applies to both maintained and academy schools.

PE kit

Please can you ensure your child has the correct PE kit in school all week. Some activities, such as the climbing bars, cannot be used without the correct kit as it becomes a safety risk to the children. We also still try to go outside all year round so it may be useful to include blue or black tracksuit trousers in with your child's kit.

Best wishes and thank you for your ongoing support

Mrs Taylor-Bashford

Headteacher's Awards: Sycamore – Annie W, Holly, Bella E, Elliott S x2!, Rowan – Amber, Cherry – Max, Willow – Ralph, Maple – Jack W

100% Attendance this week: Oak

Bronze certificates: FSU – Archie A, Emma W, Rowan – Amelie, Mischa, Sycamore – Gina

Silver certificates: Willow – Jasmyne, Aariah

Stars of the week:

Oak – William, Sycamore – Charlie, Rowan – Justas, Cherry – Max, Willow – Charlie, Maple – Archie, Beech - Charlie

Breakfast Club Superstar: Annie W

AVOIDABLE ABSENCE IN TERM-TIME

IMPORTANT: Please read carefully the information below.

WARNING: If you allow your child to miss school in term time for an avoidable reason without obtaining the prior approval of the school, you may be issued with a Penalty Notice* per parent per child, or made the subject of court proceedings under section 444 Education Act 1996.

As a parent/carers, you can demonstrate your commitment to your child's education by not allowing your child to miss school for anything other than an exceptional and unavoidable reason.

THE FACTS	THE LAW
<p>School aged pupils in Devon maintained schools are expected to attend punctually on the 190 days that the school is open. Whilst there are a number of unavoidable reasons why a pupil might be away from school (illness, medical appointments, exclusions etc), the legislation is clear that any avoidable absence may only be authorised by a school if there are exceptional circumstances.</p> <p>WHAT YOU SHOULD CONSIDER</p> <p>Research suggests that children who are taken out of school may never catch up on the learning they have missed. This may affect test results and can be particularly harmful if the child is studying for final year examinations.</p> <p>Children who struggle with English or Mathematics may also find it even harder to cope when they return to school, while younger children may find it difficult to renew friendships with their classmates.</p> <p>If the school is unable to authorise the absence and the child is still taken out of school, this will be recorded as unauthorised absence and you may receive a £60* fine per parent for each child.</p>	<p>The law allows schools to consider individual requests to authorise a future avoidable absence. However before the school can authorise any such requests, they must satisfy themselves that there are exceptional circumstances which justify such a decision. It is entirely the responsibility of the parent submitting the request to provide sufficient information/evidence in order to establish this fact. The request for leave must come from a parent with whom the child normally resides</p> <p>If a child then stays away from school for more than the authorised period this must be recorded as unauthorised absence and could be quoted in a prosecution for poor attendance.</p> <p>If the child is away from school for a total of four weeks or more, the school may have the option to take the child off roll subject to the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006.</p> <p>In the case of unexpected extended absence, it is advisable that the parent fully informs the school as to the reasons. If a child is removed from roll, there is no guarantee that the child will regain a place at the school.</p>

<p>Unavoidable absence from school will be authorised if it is for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Genuine illness ▪ Unavoidable medical / dental appointments (but try to make these after school if at all possible) ▪ Days of religious observance ▪ Seeing a parent who is on leave from the armed forces ▪ External examinations ▪ When Traveller children go on the road with their parents 	<p>Other examples of absence from school that <u>will not</u> be authorised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Any type of shopping ▪ Looking after siblings or unwell parents ▪ Minding the house ▪ Birthdays ▪ Resting after a late night ▪ Relatives visiting or visiting relatives
<p>Please contact your child's head teacher if you wish to discuss this issue.</p> <p>The law requires parents to ensure their children receive an efficient full time education, and every minute of every day is important. Please help them not to miss any of this valuable time.</p> <p>We hope that when you have read this leaflet you will consider that your child's education is too important to allow them to miss school for avoidable reasons.</p>	

*Penalty Notice £60 if paid within 21 days, increasing to £120 if paid after 21 days and before 28 days

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