

Minchinhampton C of E Primary Academy

Newsletter

Newsletter Number 16: Summer Term

Friday 14th July 2017

NEWS:

A Trip to the Seaside

A couple of weeks ago Year 2 went on a trip to the seaside; to Porthcawl. Mr Moss came too. We had lunch and then we went rock-pooling. Maisie Minchin said, 'We loved rockpooling. I especially liked stealing Mr Moss's net and catching a crab.'

By Lyra Moriarty & Iris Manson Whitton.

Dear Parents

In September Kick Off Stroud will be working in the school 5 days a week. As part of this work they will be providing a daily after school sports club. In order to ensure that they are meeting the children's needs and interests they have asked if parents would be willing to answer a quick questionnaire to get some data on what children and parents are looking for. Please do take a moment to fill in the survey and if you have any further questions feel free to email will@kickoffstroud.co.uk directly.

The survey can be found in this link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/KickOffMinch>

FYI: Clubs run by Kick Off will be 'paid' clubs. They will include Year 5/6 football and netball.

SATS

Overall SATS percentages this year remain high in writing but decreased in reading and maths. Over the last year or two tests have been made significantly harder and this drop is therefore predictable. This mirrors all schools nationally.

Our Year 6's are an amazing cohort and have coped really well with the ever-changing expectations of the powers that be. I couldn't be more proud of them.

COMMUNICATION

Please check the school calendar for upcoming events and put them in your diaries.

Open Afternoon— is on the afternoon of Friday 21st July from 2.30 through until 4. This is an informal opportunity for parents to see their children's work and look around the school.

Church Service –for Y6 leavers is on Monday 24th July at 11.00am and will last approximately an hour. It is being held in The Holy Trinity Church; parents are warmly invited.

Pantomime----for your information- Yr1 and Yr2 will be going to The Rose Theatre, Tewkesbury, to see 'Sleeping Beauty' in December.

TEXTS: *'It makes me feel confident generally. It helps me with my writing- it gives me lots of ideas. I think it's an important skill for life. It's calm time away from everything else. I look forward to going and reading my book.'*

LEARNING

The Curriculum

We are changing the way we approach the curriculum next year. In essence we want our pupils better understanding what it is to be say a historian or a scientist and spend more time mastering these subjects' critical concepts. We will aim to cover slightly less content and give the children the time to think more deeply about what they do know.

SCHOOL PRACTICE

Homework

We are reviewing our approach to homework presently. We are wary of a strong evidence base that says the benefits of some kinds of homework are minimal. We are pleased with the feedback we have received about 'Learning Journals,' and mindful of the need for practice of important basic skills and the need to prepare pupils for secondary school. We have taken on board ongoing feedback from parents concerning certain types of homework. We are also mindful that agreement on homework is hard to find.

PLEASE SEND IN YOUR THOUGHTS TO

admin@minchscool.net for the attention of the head teacher

POETS' CORNER

Go and visit the seaside,
maybe you will see the
gleaming, sparkling lights of
a busy funfair, light blue
dolphins leaping from the
water, a chess board of
towels and deck chairs, or
scarlet anemones sucking
in their tentacles like little
furry sweets.

Go and visit the seaside,
you'll hear the sound of
laughter from happy
children playing in the
golden sand dunes.

Go and visit the seaside,
maybe your ears will hear
waves so shiny against the
shimmering and glittering
grey rocks.

Go and visit the seaside,
see birds suffocating in oil.
Run to their rescue.

REQUESTS

Please remember previous::::: no pens ::no nuts :::

Drive through drop off

PLEASE DO NOT park on zig zag lines outside the school .
PLEASE TRY TO AVOID driving up to the area beyond the exit gate to drop off your children. Many children cross here in the morning and cars parking/ turning/ reversing in this area make the crossing dangerous.

Holiday requests

We have had many requests for holidays this term. Please know that, while I am not preoccupied with attendance data, there is a great deal of evidence out there that low attendance leads to pupils not doing as well in school as they could do. In isolation one child going on holiday during term time will of course make not a jot of difference. However the sheer numbers of pupils who have now started taking holidays during term time will affect our overall ability to function and educate. Please consider the big picture when you choose to take holidays during term time. I recognise why it can work for the individual but please also consider the school.