
Headteacher: Anna Jones

9 September 2016

Newsletter Issue 1

Dear Parents

I can't believe that I am writing to you at the end of my first week as your new Headteacher already - the week has flown by.

Thank you for making me feel so welcome, I have thoroughly enjoyed the first five days at Shamblehurst! I have had the chance to spend time with the children in assemblies and have enjoyed looking at some of their pin boards that they have made. Thank you for the contributions from home, there has been some lovely photographs brought in.

Thank you also to those of you who have smiled and said 'Hello' to me on the school gate and playground- it's been great to meet you as well as to those parents I met this morning. This was a really positive session! There is another 'drop in' on Monday at 2.45pm - Mrs Mohamed, Deputy Headteacher, and Mr Hatia-Black, Chair of Governors will also join us.

Mornings and Afternoons

We had some very useful and positive suggestions this morning from parents as to how we could improve our start and end to the day. In consultation with the parents we met this morning we would like to suggest the following to start on Monday.

The gates open at 8.30 am. At this time there are at least three members of staff on the playground and Mrs Mohamed and myself on the school gates. If your child is in Key Stage 2, and you feel they are able to be left, you can leave them at this point. Children will not be able to go back through the school gate, only onto the playground.

Children do not need to line up until the bell goes. Teachers will be on the playground at 8.40am. You are free to catch them at this point should there be a small query or message or to arrange a meeting with them at the end of the day.

After consultation with parents, we have moved the line-up points forward. Teachers will be in place in the same order, just in front of Birch Island. If parents can leave from the back of Birch Island it would be much appreciated. Thank you for your continued patience in this matter.

For safety reasons, please ensure that younger children (younger than Year 3) are not playing on the Key Stage 2 adventure playground (monkey bars and red slide).

At 8.45 the bell will go and the children will need to line up.

Yesterday and today all children were learning by 8.50am. The start to learning was prompt and positive.

Parents of Year 4 and 5 at the end of the day

Your children will leave via their classroom doors. Parents are able to wait opposite their classrooms for pick up. This is a busy route so can we kindly ask that you are towards the MUGA side of the path so that other parents can make their way round to the playground.

There will be no need for these children to go on to the playground, unless they are meeting siblings or parents there.

We have a survey on line at the moment asking for your opinion on whether you would support Key Stage 2 finishing at 3.25pm instead of 3.20pm. Our thinking is that this might give Key Stage 1 parents time to pick up and leave before Key Stage 2 come out and again relieves the congestion.

Please let us know what you think.

*Anna Jones
Headteacher*

Open Afternoons

We would love to invite you to come and visit your children's class from 2.45pm to 3.15pm on Wednesday 28 and Thursday 29 September. This is an opportunity to see your child's learning and for them to share their September successes with you! Lessons will continue through the afternoon and you are more than welcome to join in!

Pink Shirt Day – Friday 7 October 2016

On 7th October we are supporting Pink Shirt Day to help Breast Cancer Haven, a local charity, raise money. Children are asked to swap their normal clothes and wear a pink shirt; if not a shirt it can be anything pink, such as pink socks or a wig, in exchange for a £1 donation.

Reading Journals

We would like to let you know that the current format of the children's reading journal is under review. Therefore, we will not be issuing new journals at this stage. The children will continue to have access to a wide range of books in school and the teaching of reading continues to remain a high priority. We ask that you continue to hear your children read and enjoy books with them at home as you would usually do. We will keep you updated and hope to launch something new this half-term. Many thanks for your continued support with promoting the importance and joy of reading.

Home Learning

We will be focussing on reading, spellings and times tables in our home learning. Home learning will commence the week beginning Monday 19th September.

Staff News

Mr Richards

For personal reasons, Mr Alexander Richards, class teacher at Shamblehurst Primary School since September 2015, has decided to say goodbye to the school. I am sure that everyone will join me in wishing him every success for the future.



Shamblehurst Bumps!

Mrs Rhodes and Mrs Heggarty are both expecting babies next year. We will keep Year 1 and Year 3 parents informed of the changes in teachers as the term develops.

Many congratulations to them both.