



Sarratt School Newsletter

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April 27th 2017

This half term's focus is: Friendship

Dear Parents,

A belated welcome back to everyone for the summer term. The recent weather has not been particularly summery but hopefully we will see some warmer weather during the next few weeks.

Mrs Bremner

At the time of writing the Governors have received no fresh news about Mrs Bremner and a possible return date. Consequently they have asked me to continue in the role of acting headteacher, working in partnership with Mrs O'Hare.

SIAMS Inspection

You will be aware that a week or so before the Easter break the school received a Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) visit. This was quite distinct from the Ofsted inspections as it focused on the role of the school as a C of E School. The inspection looked at how the school operated as a church school and whether it had met the targets that were set during the last such visit five years previously. We have now received the report and it reads very favourably. A copy of the report can now be found on the school website in the statutory information section. Although not mentioned by name in the report I would like to congratulate Mrs O'Hare for all of the preparatory work she put in to ensure that the school was in a good position to be inspected. And then again on the day of the visit, it was hugely impressive to see how she had an answer for every question posed by the inspector and could also back up her responses with evidence that she had at her fingertips. I think it highly unlikely that the school would have been awarded the good rating without her enthusiasm and commitment in taking on this particular task amongst everything else that she does.

Trees

You will have noticed that the trees did not get trimmed or removed during the Easter break. The Cricketers pub is now planning for this work to be completed when they complete other refurbishment work in the near future. We have stipulated that any works to the trees can only happen during a period of school closure. The Governors have also discussed what might replace the line of trees. One consideration was to plant a hedge of some sort along the boundary which clearly would not grow as tall as the trees but would, in time, afford a barrier between the school and the pub car park and garden.

Year 6 SATs

The children in Year 6 will be sitting their SATs tests during the week beginning Monday 8th May. The tests will all be held in the morning starting as soon after the start of the day as possible. The children have been working hard to get up to speed with some final revision as well as completing a good number of practice papers and questions. I wish them all every success and hope they can all show the markers what they are capable of when they sit the tests in a fortnight or so.

Admin Assistant

Some of you may already have met our new admin assistant, Ms Sharon Numan. Ms Numan started this week and works in school each morning to take on some of the administrative workload from Mrs Chrysanthou.

Grounds Maintenance

Since being at Sarratt I became aware just how wet and boggy the field was and how it has quickly become very dry and dusty. I assume the problem is one of drainage, particularly in the autumn and winter months, and wonder if there are any parents who either know what we could do to remedy the situation or who know someone they could suggest that we could approach. If so, please do get in contact with me at the school.

Model Railway Exhibition

I have been approached by Dennis Beach, the secretary of the South West Herts Model Railway Society to ask me to include a mention of their forthcoming Model Railway Exhibition. He writes: 'From experience we know that young children enjoy watching model railways and if possible to operate them. To try and foster this enthusiasm we offer free admission to children under 15 accompanied by a fee paying adult (maximum 2 children to 1 adult). We also have a layout, *Thomas Town* which children may operate, there is a small fee which this year will be donated to a local hospice.'

If you are interested the relevant details are:-

Event organiser: **South West Herts Model Railway Society or SWHMRS**

Event: **Model Railway Exhibition**

Venue: **Queens' School, Aldenham Road, Bushey, WD23 2TY**

Date & Time: **Saturday 6th May 2017, 10.00 till 16.30**

Entrance Fee: **Adults £6, Children £3 accompanied children under 15 FREE (max. 2 children to 1 adult)**

Attendance

The school's overall attendance at this point in the school year stands at a little over 94%. This is still some way below the national average. It is noticeable from the records that there have been an increased number of unauthorised absences resulting from holidays being taken during term time. I know that holidays during term time are less expensive than those booked during school holiday periods but I would urge everyone, if at all possible, to avoid taking children out of school for holidays during term time. Children should be in school everyday unless they are genuinely too unwell to attend. The local authority had begun to take a more 'hands-off' approach regarding unauthorised absences following the court case involving the family on the Isle of Wight. However since the appeal hearing was heard, which found that the local authority had acted within its rights in issuing sanctions against parents who removed their children for term time holidays, our own local authority is beginning to take a tougher stance again. This is especially so when relating to children whose attendance falls below acceptable levels or who are removed from school without authorisation.

During the first week back after Easter Year 5 had the best level of attendance with 100%. In addition Year 6, Year 1 and Reception had an attendance level above 95%.

Gold Book Assembly

We had a small (but select!) group of children nominated for the Gold Book Assembly last week. Congratulations to Lauren, Evan, George, Frankie and May. I look forward to seeing many more names in the book over the coming months.

Before the Easter break I was combining my role at Sarratt with one at Bedmond. This term I will be working at another school and so have had to alter slightly the days I will be working at Sarratt. From next week I will be working at Sarratt on a Tuesday, a Wednesday and a Friday.

Wishing you all a good (and hopefully warm) long weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Interim Headteacher

