

STAR PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS LETTER



January 2017

Head Teacher's Message

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that it has been a wonderful start to 2017 for all our families. We have some big plans for this year and hope to get some very exciting developments off the ground soon.

We have already launched our new home learning policy. We carried out a lot of research into the value of home learning and felt that termly based project work alongside regular reading, spellings and times tables was a good way forward for our families. What we really want to promote is children and parents working together to further explore topics that we are learning in school. The first project is Shakespeare, which is a family project, so you will notice that all your children have the same project. Please do see your child's class teacher if you have any concerns about the new home learning format.

A big thank you to those parents who attended the PIMs for the Spring term. If you were not able to attend the meeting, just ask the class teacher for a copy of the presentation and curriculum overview. You would hopefully have noticed that we are busy making changes to the playground. We intend to put up more signs and also create an Entrance Mural at the front of the school. I was really amazed by some of the ideas that families generated, and we have passed these on to the artist who is working on them to come up with the final design. Thank you to everyone who contributed. I was really pleased to see how well children and parents understood the key concept of Nurturing and Growing Together. I am positive that we are going to create something really special for everyone to enjoy for many years to come.

Alongside these plans, we are working to make much bigger changes to the playground. We intend to develop the Reception Outdoor Area and also the Main Playground, providing more structures for children to play on. The Head Boy and Girl and their deputies have come to speak to senior staff about some of their ideas.

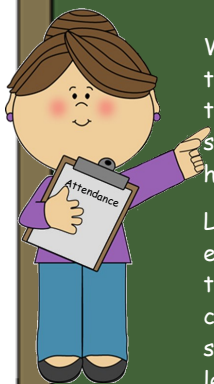
These developments are very costly and we will need to do some fundraising this year in order to achieve a fantastic playground. I will keep you informed about these plans and how we intend to fund raise.

Best wishes for the year ahead.

Regards,
Ms Von
Head Teacher



Attendance News



We have been very sad this week as we said goodbye to Mrs Tovey, our attendance officer. She has moved to another school closer to where she lives, and I'm sure that you will join me in wishing her all the best in her new job.

Last terms attendance was around 96% and we need everyone's help to get this figure up to 97.5% this term. Please consider very carefully whether your child needs to be off school. Coming to school every single day is the best way to help your child's learning.

Christmas Fundraising

Thank you to all those who bought a Christmas Star or Star Newspaper to help raise money for Richard House Children's Hospice. Altogether we raised an amazing £497.79!!! We also had an amazing response to the Year 4 cake sale.

This money was used to buy practical items to put into shooting star boxes which were sent to children in need.

Thank you for helping us support such a great cause.

School Uniform

We were very pleased with the response from parents to improve the PE uniform. It is very important that children look and feel smart in school. Please remember that children must have sensible black school shoes. Girls are not allowed to wear boots to school. Don't forget that you can purchase the school uniform through the school office. Thank you for your continued support to keep our school the smartest one in Newham!

With the new year come new goals and ambitions and here at Star we've hit the ground running!!! Already our Boys and Girls football teams have been taking part in tournaments across Newham. Both teams played extremely well losing by the finest of margins, they're sure to hit the training sessions extra hard now for the upcoming fixtures.

Keeping with the football theme, we're pleased to announce that 2 of our year 1 children have been selected to take part at an event at Chelsea F.C.! Watch this space to see how they got on.



Parentmail... Please do not ignore!

It is really important that every single parent signs up to parentmail. This service is replacing the old text message service and every parent/carer needs to provide us with an up to date mobile phone number and email address. This will allow us to contact you with any key information regarding your child. Most importantly, this system will replace all money payments made to the school as we aim to be a cashless school by September 2017. You will also need to use this system in order to book an appointment for Parent Evenings. If you are unsure of the procedure to download the app, or need any help whatsoever in getting started, please come into the main school office. We will be very happy to get you up and running.



PIM Meetings

Thank you to all those who attended our Parent Information Meetings (PIM). These meetings are a great way to find out about all the different methods we use to teach your children, encouraging them to achieve their potential.

This term we discussed our new homework policies. If you weren't able to attend and would like a copy of the documents handed out please speak to your child's class teacher

Phrase of the week

Every week a new motivational saying will be on display for the children to see at their assemblies. Ask your children to see if they can remember what this week's one says.

Star Mural

A huge thank you to all the ideas put forward for our new outdoor Star Mural!! There were some absolutely stunning designs which our school artist is currently mulling over.

Prizes will be handed out shortly for some of the best designs.

Important Dates

Wednesday 25th January

Year 6 Parent Consultation Day

Friday 27th January

Year 3 trip to Tower of London

Wednesday 8th February

5:30pm Year 6 Residential Visit meeting

Monday 13th February - Friday 17th February

School Closed for Spring Half Term Break

Monday 20th February

School Closed for Staff Training Day

Tuesday 21st February

School Open as normal