10th September, 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to our first newsletter of the new academic year; we hope you all had a lovely summer. Everyone is settled back to work now, ready and eager for another excellent year in school.

You will find a number of important dates, of which you might want to make a note, and a number of facts that you will need to be aware of. If you mislay this letter and need to refer back to what it contains, we always upload a copy to our website ([www.fensprimary.co.uk](http://www.fensprimary.co.uk)) in the ‘news’ section where the ‘newsletters’ link can be found.

Summer Half-Term Holiday

Many of you will be turning your thoughts to booking next year’s holiday, so we will take this opportunity to remind you of our arrangements for the summer half-term holiday for 2019. We have organised all five of our PD days (days when the children do not attend school, and which are usually spaced throughout the year) for the first week in June 2019 (Monday 3rd June to Friday 7th June). This follows straight on from the half-term holiday (Whit Week) which occurs in the last week of May (Monday 27th May to Friday 31st May). This means that instead of school being closed for just one week, it will be closed for **two** weeks, and, because the first week in June is not school holiday time for the majority of schools, holiday prices will be cheaper than during standard school holiday times. Thus parents have the opportunity to take their holiday during the fortnight Saturday 25th May to Saturday 8th June at cheaper rates without having to remove their child/children from school. We hope you will give this serious consideration.

Bryan Cross Book Launch

Many members of the Fens community will remember Bryan Cross, who was deputy head of the school during the 1970s and 1980s. He has recently published a book chronicling his career in education, and his time at Fens receives its own chapter. On Thursday 27th September, at 4.30pm for a 5.00pm start, we will be holding a book-launching session for Bryan, who will be in attendance to talk about, sell and sign copies of his book. Parents and carers are welcome to attend (any of you who are former Fens pupils from Bryan’s era may be particularly interested), and if any parents/carers are related to, or friends with, any ex-Fens pupils who were taught by Bryan, please let them know about this event as they might well want to come along and meet their old teacher again.

Earrings and Studs

Please remember that school has a no jewellery policy, which means that children should not wear earrings or studs to school. If children attend school having forgotten to remove them, they will be asked to take them out, or if they can’t, parents will be contacted to come to school and do it for them. If parents want to have their child’s ears pierced, then the first day of the summer holidays is the time to do it so that the lobes can heal before school restarts.

Dogs on the School Premises

Please could we remind parents and carers that for health and safety reasons dogs are not permitted to be brought into the grounds of the school. We respectfully ask for your compliance with this request.

PE Award

For the third year in succession, Fens has been successful in regaining the Gold Mark for PE. Congratulations and thanks are due to Mrs Wilkinson for once again leading the school through the award process, and to all staff and children at Fens whose work and effort have contributed to the school’s success. Another excellent team effort all round!

SATs and Phonic Testing

A gentle reminder that the month of May is SATs month for our children and June is the month for Y1 Phonics Screening, so no requests for pupil absence can be granted for these periods.

The Y2 children undertake their assessments over the course of all of May, whilst the Y6 children sit their examinations during the week beginning Monday 13th May. The Y1 phonics screening test will take place during the week beginning Monday 10th June.

Uniform

As stated in previous letters, school uniform can be ordered online from Tesco. The ordering can be done on a mobile phone, tablet, laptop or PC, and the following instructions should be followed: enter ‘Tesco school uniform’ into your browser, select the link, then when the page opens choose the ‘Uniform Embroidery’ option. This will open to another page where you enter the name of our school. Our school name and logo will then appear on a drop-down; select this and you will be taken to the page with our uniform choices. Once you have added the items you require to the basket you can continue to checkout. Delivery is £3.00 to your home address.

School Meals

Could we please remind parents that the cost of school meals is £2.05 per day i.e. £10.25 per week. If your child wishes to change their lunchtime arrangements to dinners or to packed lunches, you will need to complete the amendment form available at the office before the end of half-term.

Could we also please encourage any parents who think they may be eligible for Free School Meals to claim them as it generates a great deal of funding for the school. Instructions on how to apply can be obtained from the school office.

Parental Consultations

The first parents’ evenings of the 2018-19 academic year will take place on Monday 22nd October from 3.40 to 5.30pm and Wednesday 24th October from 5.00 to 7.30pm. Reminder letters with option slips for appointments will be distributed one to two weeks before those dates.

‘Flu Vaccinations

Parents of Reception to Y5 pupils will have received letters inviting them to complete online consent forms for their child/children to receive a ‘flu vaccination (administered by nasal spray). Our day for these vaccinations to be given is Wednesday 17th October.

Yours sincerely,

Mr C P Cornforth

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| **Date (2018 into 2019)** | **Event** |
| Wednesday 19th September | Individual & family photographs |
| Thursday 27th September | Bryan Cross Book Launch 5.00pm |
| Wednesday 17th October  | Rec to Y5 ‘Flu Vaccinations |
| Monday 22nd October | Parental Consultations 3.40-5.30pm |
| Wednesday 24th October | Parental Consultations 5.00-7.30pm |
| Monday 29th October– Friday 2nd November | Half-Term Holiday – school closed |
| Monday 5th November | School re-opens |
| Tuesday 4th December | School Discos |
| Wb Monday 10th December | School Christmas Productions Week |
| Wb Monday 17th December | Christmas Parties Week |
| Friday 21st December | Last day of Autumn Term |
| Monday 24th December – Friday 4th January | School closed for Christmas Holiday |
| Monday 7th January | Children return to school for start of Spring Term |
| Monday 18th – Friday 22nd February | Half-Term Holiday – school closed |
| Monday 25th February | School re-opens |
| Friday 5th April | Last day of Spring Term |
| Monday 8th April – Friday 19th April | School closed for Easter Holiday |
| Monday 22nd April | Bank Holiday – school closed |
| Tuesday 23rd April | School re-opens for start of Summer Term |
| Month of May | Y2 SAT assessments |
| Monday 6th May | May-Day Bank Holiday – school closed |
| Wb Monday 13th May | Y6 SATs week |
| Monday 27th May – Friday 7th June | Whit Fortnight (Whit Week plus five PD Days) – school closed |
| Monday 10th June | School re-opens |
| Wb Monday 10th June | Y1 Phonics Screening Tests |
| Tuesday 23rd July | Last day of Summer Term |