4th October, 2017.

Dear Parents/Carers,

Our first newsletter of the year sees the term well under way and everyone hard at work once again. You will find a number of important dates in this document which you might want to put in your diaries; if you lose your copy at some point and need to refer back to this information, you will be able to find this letter on the school website ([www.fensprimary.co.uk](http://www.fensprimary.co.uk)) as well as the school app.

PE Award

Fens has once again been successful in gaining the Gold Mark for PE. This is the second year in succession that this award has been achieved. Congratulations and thanks are due to Mrs Wilkinson for 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. An 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.

PD Days

Could we also remind you that school will be closed for staff training (PD days) on Friday 20th October, 2017 and Friday 29th June, 2018.

Free School Meals

Could we 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.

Family Support Officer

Should you require the assistance of our FSO, Mrs Samantha Pugh, with regard to attendance or any other matter she can be contacted via the school number above. If Mrs Pugh is unavailable at the time of your call, a message can be left with the office staff and she will contact you at her earliest convenience.

Jewellery Policy & Hairstyles

We would like to remind parents/carers that the school has a no jewellery policy. Children who attend school wearing earrings or studs will need to remove them if they can, or if not parents will be called to attend school to do it for them.

School Uniform

School uniform can now be ordered online through Tesco. The decision to use Tesco was taken to make it easier for parents to check sizes by using their local store before ordering. The Tesco system is easy to use and delivery to home is reasonably priced. The ordering can be done on a mobile phone, tablet, laptop or PC. You will need to 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 be shown; 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, and delivery is £3 to your home address. Parents who wish to order from Emblematic can still do so through their online ordering system: <http://studentuniform.co.uk/fens145>

Efforts on Behalf of Charities

As reported on the school app recently, the Macmillan Cake Appeal raised £432.40, which is a fantastic effort. Many thanks to all who contributed cakes and spent money at the sale.

Thanks also to those who have started to send in contributions to our appeal for support for Hartlepool Food Bank.

On Tuesday 10th October the school will be recognising World Mental Health Day with Key Stage One and Key Stage Two children attending assemblies to explain what the day is about. School will make a donation from its charity fund (proceeds from events like shows) to the mental health charity ‘Young Minds’.

Friday 17th November is the occasion of the ‘Children in Need’ appeal, so school will hold a non-uniform day, and children may bring in a small donation to this charity if they wish to.

Key Stage Two Christmas Shows

We have reviewed our seating capacity for the Key Stage 2 Christmas shows this year in line with current fire safety regulations. In order to ensure that all parents of children in Key Stage 2 have the opportunity to see their child in one of the three shows, we have needed to restrict tickets to two per family instead of two per child. Therefore, if you have more than one child in KS2 you will no longer be able to get two tickets for each child; the tickets will be allocated in your eldest child’s name only. Any remaining tickets will go on sale at 8.30am on the day of the show at the school office.

Attendance

We are constantly striving to improve children’s attendance at school, and our target is for all children to be present for at least 96.1% of the school year. In order to help parents/carers monitor their child’s /children’s attendance through the year, at the end of every half term a text message will now be sent to parents/carers stating that their child’s/children’s attendance is in one of the following categories: above 96%, between 90 and 96% or below 90%. If parents/carers would like to discuss their child’s/children’s attendance on receipt of this text, please contact Mrs Pugh via the school office (number above).

Car Parking

We would like to remind parents that the school car park is strictly for staff parking only, and no parents/carers should use it at any point during the day. We also receive complaints from time to time from local residents with regard to parents parking across private drives resulting in them being unable either to leave or enter their property because of this. We would respectfully request that parents give consideration to local residents when parking. Again, many thanks for your cooperation on this matter.

Dates

Monday 16th October, 2017 Parental Consultations 3.40pm – 5.30pm

Wednesday 18th October, 2017 Parental Consultations 5.00 – 7.30pm

Friday 20th October, 2017 PD Day - school closed

23rd – 27th, October, 2017 Half Term Holiday - school closed

Monday 30th October, 2017 School re-opens

Tuesday 5th December, 2017 Disco Night

Wb 11th December, 2017 School Christmas Productions week

Wb 18th December, 2017 Christmas Parties week

Friday 22nd December, 2017 Last day of Autumn Term

25th December – 5th January School closed for Christmas Holiday

Monday 8th January, 2018 Children return for start of Spring Term

Friday 29th June, 2018 PD Day - school closed

Yours sincerely,

Mr CP Cornforth

Headteacher