Newsletter

Autumn 2, 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

NSPCC

After half term we are going to continue our work with the NSPCC programme from the summer term. During the summer the NSPCC ran their Speak Out Stay Safe campaign in school encouraging the children to tell someone if they had any concerns about themselves or others. The next step in this work is for us to focus on the 'Talk Pants' underwear rule lessons which builds on the pupils being able to keep themselves safe. This is done in a child friendly and fun way to encourage the children to talk sensibly about how they can do this. It will be built in to PSHE lessons throughout the first week but doesn't use scary stories or technical terms. It is all 'age appropriate' and delivered by the teachers.

More information about talking PANTS including the short cartoon film and a Parents Guide can be found at www.nspcc.org.uk/pants

This programme will support the next step in our work on pupil wellbeing during the national Anti Bullying campaign which starts on November 13th. During that week we will be focussing on pupil resilience and knowing how, where and from whom they can seek help whenever they feel low, unhappy or upset.

Parent Governors

We would like to welcome Mr Longden to our school Governors as a Parent Governor. Mr Longden has taken up post without election as there were less candidates than posts available.

Parking

We have been asked by the Crossing Patrol to remind parents that parking near to her blocks the view she has of the road. Recently there have been people parking within 2 car lengths of the crossing point and her view has been completely blocked. This is dangerous at such a busy time and can cause avoidable accidents. Can you please make sure that you are at least two car widths passed the crossing point to maintain safety of our pupils. There are no markings to indicate this because of the position of junctions around school. However we are sure you can understand that the safety of our pupils is paramount.

Bolsover Team of the Year

We would like to congratulate our basketball team from last year who have been awarded the Bolsover Team of the Year award by the School Sports Partnership. We are very proud of their achievements.

Holidays during Term Time

We wrote to you before the summer break letting you know that the 'holiday' test case has fallen in favour of the Government and the Local Authority in question (Isle of Wight). **Therefore, it is now the case that Derbyshire County Council will consider a fixed penalty notice for any period of holiday absence that has not been authorised by the school.**

The school now has a revised attendance policy available on line on our website and we would urge all parents looking towards requesting term time absence to seek this out first here:

http://www.pilsleyprimary.co.uk/about-us/key-information/school-policies

The basis of the new policy is that any request for absence in school term time will only be approved in circumstances that are regarded as **'exceptional'** and each one will be looked at individually. Where the

absence is not approved and the holiday is still taken then this will be forwarded to Derbyshire County Council for consideration of a fixed penalty notice. Current high levels of attendance are no longer a factor. This is the same for all schools.

Issues over holiday absence not being approved are a cause of friction between all schools and parents. It regularly puts schools in a difficult position but please understand that we have to follow the guidance to ensure fairness and consistency.

Diary Dates / School Events

20th October	Last day of term
30th October	Pupils return to school
19th December	Last day of term

2018

2nd January	INSET Day
3rd January	Pupils return to school
16th February	Last day of term
26th February	Pupils return to school
23rd March	Last day of term
9th April	Pupils return to school
7th May	May Day Bank Holiday (one day)
25th May	Last day of term
4th June	Pupils return to school
20th July	Last day of term