



Neston Primary School

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Healthy School

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Where learning adventures begin...

12th January 2015

Dear Parents

Happy New Year! The children have already been very keen to tell me how generous Father Christmas was again and all about changes they are going to make this year to make it a good one!

We have got an exciting few terms ahead of us and I have detailed below the changes on which we are embarking.

We are currently working on developing our environment and this has already resulted in moving our library into the "triangle". Many of our children are enjoying the space to browse and read and it is having a huge impact on their enjoyment and enthusiasm for books. A big thank you must go to Mrs Stansfield and her band of merry men/women who kindly helped to move shelves and endless books.

Take a look at the wall by the stairs in the office area, if you get a chance, and the great displays around school. This is only the start!

New curriculum changes are in place and exciting learning experiences are planned. Our overarching theme this term is The Power of Change. Please see our website to see how each year group is organising its learning. It promises to be an exciting few months with Romans, Dinosaurs, Transport and even Super Heroes. We will be holding sessions for parents in term 4 to advise on how these changes impact on each year group.

The school is currently developing our response to "The Assessment without Levels" initiative set out by the Department for Education. We are already making changes to how we identify progress and attainment and are working with other schools, who are using a similar system, to moderate our judgements.

In December, we recruited a number of year 6 children to be Peer Mediators. These children will be available to support children on the playground with minor disagreements. The children completed an application form and underwent a rigorous interview which really tested their knowledge of conflict resolution and emotional intelligence. We were delighted with the response. The children are now undergoing extensive training from a good friend of Neston, Louise Carver, who offers conflict resolution and leadership courses across the country. Our children will receive her support and guidance throughout the process and we are delighted to have her on board.

We are aiming to make a few other changes at playtimes too. As you will have gathered from an earlier email, we are reintroducing football but including all of key stage 2 children over the course of the week. Appropriate clothing must be worn as weather is not always predictable and dry at this time of year. Wet and cold children make uncomfortable learners, as do ones who have not had a good run around.

Our extremely popular parent workshops run by Dr Linda Mallory are continuing this term and will fall on the following dates.

16th Jan 2015

23rd Jan 2015

6th February 2015

These sessions will all start at 9 am and will finish at 10 am and will take place in the hall. The first session will focus on "Self-esteem".

Our chickens are thriving and laying approximately 21 eggs per week so our cook Mandy is putting them to good use in the kitchen in sponges etc. We have just launched a "Naming of the Chickens" competition and look forward to matching names with their varied personalities!

We continue to reflect on the changes we need to make so that we constantly strive to be the best we can be. We thank you for your support in all that we do and hope you enjoy and love Neston as much as we all do.

Yours sincerely



Pam Evans
Head Teacher