

Dear Parents

Time to take stock before Christmas activities begin – just one or two bits of information to pass on to parents.

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES

Recently there have been a lot of changes to education for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). This has resulted in a new Code of Practice which can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/.../send-code-of-practice-0-to-25>. As a result of this the Local Authority has made what is called a “Local Offer” and our schools have put on our websites a statement about Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and our new policy for SEND. If you want any more information about the New Code of Practice, the Local Authority Local Offer or what we provide at Warthill and Sand Hutton, or how this affects your child please do not hesitate to contact school.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLANNING

The governors and staff are involved in regular self-evaluation of the progress of all children and the effectiveness of every aspect of school life. We plan and prepare for ongoing school improvement, genuinely trying to keep the schools slogan of being ‘the best we can be’. Priorities are school driven but are often influenced by change of government policy as new legislation is introduced.

Parents may be interested to know that the schools’ priorities for 2014 – 2015 are:

- Implementation of the new **National Curriculum** introduced in September 2014
- New **assessment** requirements were introduced nationally in September 2014. The national levels of attainment previously used by the majority of schools are no longer to be used except for Years 2 and Year 6 who will continue to use the level system for the rest of this academic year only. Schools are required to choose how they assess and report the progress and attainment children make. Inevitably this is a time of considerable change. We aim to work closely with other local schools to assist with moderation to ensure the accuracy of assessments made.
- As stated above **Special Educational Needs** legislation has also changed and new requirements are demanded of schools. We continue to ensure that the needs of all children are met in the widest sense and work with a wide range of professionals to make this happen.
- All schools receive **sports development funding**. We are traditionally committed to providing a wide range of sporting opportunities for all children so this extra ‘ring fenced’ funding is very welcome. We will continue to provide varied sporting events whilst ensuring staff continue to receive training so they can continue to develop high quality games and PE
- We will revisit the **aims and values of the school** with all members of the school family on the understanding that any policy or mission statement is only as good as the actions that reflect its content. This also will result in a behaviour evaluation and a review of how spiritual, social, moral and spiritual issues are addressed.

- Detailed consideration of how **children are prepared for the wider world** and how they develop to become British citizens in a diverse and global society will be discussed in depth and appropriate adjustments to the curriculum will be made.

A busy year for staff and governors alike but one which aims for high standards and aspirations for all children. Further information concerning the curriculum, assessment and Special Educational needs can be found on the schools' websites.

ONLINE SAFETY

Yet another reminder of the ongoing need to talk to children of how to keep safe online. In school we ask children to remain alert to any inappropriate material that might appear. If this happens they should tell an adult immediately which is straight forward as children are closely supervised. Social media continues to be a worry as children gain access at home and beyond. The following advice is given at school:

- **ZIP IT** Keep your personal details private and think about what you say and do online.
- **BLOCK IT** Block people who send you unkind or nasty messages and don't open unknown links or attachments.
- **FLAG IT** Always flag up and tell an adult if anything upsets you or if someone approaches you on line and asks to meet you

CHRISTMAS FAIR

FRIDAY 5 DECEMBER 5 30 PM

Preparations are under way – thank you to the FRIENDS' committee for their usual hard work, commitment and creativity. Please look out for requests for prizes etc. This Friday is a non uniform day for a donation of £1 which will go towards buying prizes for the raffle

SENDING MONEY INTO SCHOOL

Small amounts of money (and some not so small) are often sent into school loose in the children's book bags. It would help Mrs Free enormously if all money be sent to school in a named sealed envelope to prevent coins being lost.

USED STAMP COLLECTION

As we approach the Christmas card season we wondered if parents, grandparents and friends of the school would begin to collect used stamps and send them into school? There is a fundraising scheme when stamps can generate money that can be used to boost school funds. We would be very grateful if you would be willing to ask people you know if they would collect used stamps on our behalf.

THANK YOU

Finally, there have been a large number of successful sporting events and other extra activities that have relied on parents to provide transport. (Cross country, volleyball, football, athletics, and rugby

to name but a few). Thank you to all parents who have helped out and have provided such enthusiastic support at all these events – such happy afternoons often in spite of the weather!

LOVE IN A BOX

Thank you also for the beautifully decorated boxes sent to school as part of the 'Love in a Box' scheme. These are now on their way to Bucharest in Romania as special gifts to families and children not as fortunate as us. Thank you so much for your generosity.

Best wishes

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "JM Wardell".

Janet Wardell