This Week's News 8th September 2023



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Head Teacher Update

Welcome back! I hope that the children were excited to come back to school and that you managed to have a relaxing and enjoyable holiday, despite the slightly dodgy weather. It has certainly made up for it this week when we are all back inside! It has been a very busy week getting all of the systems back up and running again. I have been particularly pleased with how quickly the children have settled and got back into routine. We have changed a few things but not in a significant way.

I think I had better start by reassuring all of you that the school has no RAAC in it. We double checked first thing on Monday before the children started, with a surveyor visit. I for one am very pleased we don't have any in the school, especially due to the age of the building.

One of the main changes this term has been the introduction of a new hot school meal provider. I have been very impressed with the quality of the food and the children have certainly been eating well. It is also better for the environment with less miles being travelled to deliver them and of course they are fresh when they arrive. The main change is that the children are choosing what they want to eat in the morning, which is working really well. It is a skill for them to develop to make their own choices and to think about how they are feeling and what they want to eat that day.

We will continue as we were last year with Google Classroom, but we will be reintroducing the knowledge organisers again as we feel this is important to ensure the children and yourselves have the key knowledge that they are expected to learn. Obviously, we had an Ofsted inspection right at the end of last year, which although wasn't great timing, it was an opportunity to evaluate the school and the work we had done to make improvements.

We obviously need to continue to develop and don't need an Ofsted report to know what needs improving, so we have school development priorities this year. One significant one is to try to improve children's spelling. We have been really pleased with progress in phonics and times tables, with the children performing in the top twenty percent of children in the country. We still feel more can be done to improve their spelling though, so we will be working on this again this year along with a number of other aspects. Once we have finalised the plan it will be available on the school website.

We are again reviewing the Educational Visits Policy and procedures to ensure that any visits have the greatest impact for our children with the minimal impact financially to you as parents and carers. We are planning for our Year 4 children to take part in a residential visit again this year to Avon Tyrell, as well as a number of other visits and visitors to the school to enhance the children's learning.

Attendance will remain a priority to ensure all of our children are attending regularly in order for them to keep up. Fines have had to be issued for last year as a result of holidays taken during term time. This is a process that we work in partnership with the Local Authority to ensure children are not being removed during term time. It was an area that was scrutinised by the Ofsted inspectors. Although I understand the importance of good quality family time and the pressure that is put on families to be able to afford holidays, I have very limited options available

Finally from me this week , I have some very exciting news about two of our staff members. Mrs Leith is due to have her first child in January with her husband. Mrs Leith will continue as a class teacher until Christmas and will then take maternity leave. We have now started the recruitment process to recruit a new teacher for January. We also had some lovely news this week that Mrs Westerman had her baby on Sunday evening. A little boy called Alfie and both are doing very well.

I hope you can enjoy the weather this weekend.... I have the event I have been looking forward to for a very long time to enjoy now. The Rugby World Cup!

John Bagwell - Headteacher

Diary Dates

Link to Key Dates

Fri 15th Sept

Chinwags 8.30 - 9.30am

Deadlines

Breakfast & After School Club bookings must be made on ParentMail 7 days before the date you wish to book.

Please ensure bookings are made in advance to avoid disappointment.

School Attendance

Whole School - 96.8 %

YR - %

Y1 - 97.7%

Y2 - 97.4%

Y3 - 97.2%

Y4 - 96.6%

The school day begins at

8.45am.

Gates open at 8.30am

Sickness Absence

Just a reminder that children should not attend school for 48 hours following diarrhoea and/or sickness, Please refer to our 'What to do if my child is unwell' tab on our website. This has always been important to reduce the spread of bugs and germs, but is especially important now as we have a child who is immunocompromised. Because of this, it is essential that you contact the school straight away if your child were to become ill with either chicken pox or measles. Thank you very much for your support.

Earrings

We have seen an increase in the number of piercings over the Summer. Please may we remind everyone that piercings need to be taped in the morning **before school** on PE days. Hair should also be tied back and no jewellery should be worn. Thank you very much.

HCS3 Meal Changes

We have been advised by HCS3 that the Chicken Meatball Sub on Week 3's menu will *always* be Meatballs and Tomato Pasta **NOT** a sub as previously advertised due to a supply issue. Thank you very much.

Min Athletics Club

There are still a few spaces available at Mini Athletics Club on Fridays after school. The club is open to children in Reception and Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2). Please refer to the flyer on page 3 of this newsletter for further information and contact details.

Water Safety - PLEASE READ

Please read the following information from Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service:

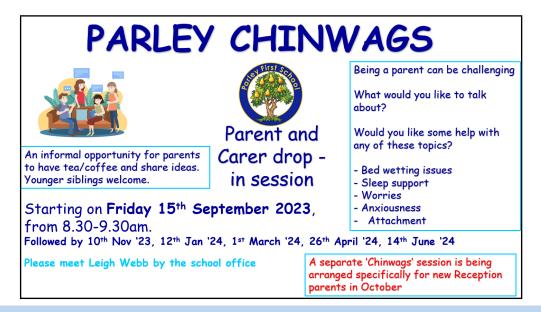
With the warm weather still with us, please help your children remember how they can stay safe when in or near water. Please take a few minutes to go through the quizzes linked below with them, to remind them how to enjoy the water safely, especially if you are considering going to one of our lovely beaches, rivers or other waterways this weekend. Every entry will be sent a certificate and one winning entry will be chosen from each quiz and win a VIP trip to DWFRS fire station and a Playmobil or Lego set (please see quiz for details of which prize).

During this warm weather, there is an amber wildfire alert. Please avoid having BBQs and open fires in the countryside.

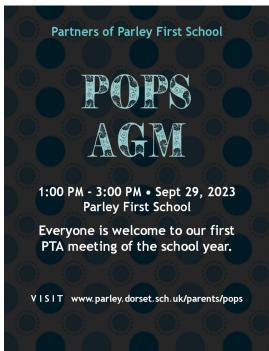
All children https://forms.office.com/e/mTeYPWqQWw

Reception and Key Stage 1 children https://forms.office.com/e/jPCVnGHGjw

Key Stage 2 children https://forms.office.com/e/7r6XZbKJb7



Community News









Ismaa Karate Club

Ismaa Karate Club starting Wednesday 20th September 2023.

Little Ninjas

4 - 7 year olds

4.30 - 5.15pm

Teaching basic karate getting children ready for the next class up. This is taught in a more relaxed manor to the next class up. Ninjas have a grading system different to the next class up.





Child / Parent class

8 years +

5.15 - 6.15pm

A stricter class learning karate to get ready for full coloured belts. Open to children and adults. You do not have to be parent and child to come along, the reason we say parent and child is that you are learning the same things.

www.ismaakarate.co.uk | Tel: 07536 077001