

CONIFERS PRIMARY SCHOOL



NEWSLETTER

13th September 2019

Dear Parents/Carers

Just a very quick 'hello' and welcome back to all of our children and of course, yourselves. I hope you had a pleasant summer. It has been a pleasure to welcome our new children into Reception and across the wider school and also a pleasure to meet our new parents, who I warmly welcome to the Conifers community.

It was fantastic to see so many 'old faces' (I mean that in the nicest possible way), at our Rights Respecting School afternoon. Nearly two hundred of you joined us to design and produce your leaf, for our Community Tree and there was, indeed a real sense of community spirit. Thank you for participating.

Myself and Year 6 are off to Dartmoor next week - which means, there's a group of excited and slightly nervous individuals wondering how it's all going to be, away from home.....the children on the other hand, seem really up for it!

Before I continue with some housekeeping - I wanted to take this opportunity to send my condolences to the family of Liz Taylor. Sadly she passed away this week after a long illness. Many of you may remember Liz at Westhaven Juniors and more recently at Conifers Primary School. Liz started work at the Junior School as a TA in April 1994, and continued as a TA and Dinner Lady at Conifers Primary School, so supported the school over a period of 25 years. Our thoughts are with her family at this sad time.

A little bit of housekeeping for your information. Whole school assemblies take place on a Monday afternoon and these are used to; celebrate the class with the best attendance, celebrate children who have worked exceptionally hard in their Maths, or in their English, and often, any sporting successes we have excelled in. Key Stage 1 assemblies, in which parents are welcome to attend, will be held on a Thursday afternoon (a change from last year's running order) and Key Stage 2 assemblies will be held on a Friday afternoon.

Each half term will also see the return of the Golden Tombola - in which children who have held 97% attendance and above, will be placed in a draw to win prizes such as group cinema tickets or passes to Splashdown amongst other goodies. In addition to this children who maintain 100% attendance will be rewarded with a badge each term, starting with a bronze badge for the Autumn Term, a silver badge as they maintain this through the Spring Term and a Gold Badge if they maintain for the entire year

There have been changes, in accordance with Ofsted's new directive, to our curriculum, in respect of the way we are planning and delivering it, but it will still be based around LOTC (Learning Outside the Classroom) and offering children as many opportunities as possible to contextualise their learning. More detail on this will follow, but you can 'get a taste' of what your child is learning by visiting our website and following the links from our Homepage; Our School - Curriculum - Year Group (1-6) - Topic Planning Overview. Or, alternatively, use the coloured pencils, depicting your child's Year Group, found half-way down our Homepage and then access the Topic Overview from there.

Safeguarding - one new element and a reminder please. The first then, is to advise parents that the main school doors at the front of the building will now be closed from 5 o'clock each evening. The second, is to remind parents that access to the school can ONLY be made via the front school office. Parents found within the building, having entered through alternative doors without prior notice, will be asked to leave immediately.

Finally, I would formally like to welcome two new members of teaching staff to Conifers who have already started to make a very positive contribution to the children and the school. In Year 3 we welcome Mr Lyon and in Year 5 we welcome Miss Ramsey. We are very excited to have them join the Conifers team.

I'm looking forward to working alongside you all over the coming months and year, in providing an exciting, safe and happy school for your children.

As always, thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Mr A Johnson
HEADTEACHER