**HAPPY NEW YEAR & CLUB OFFERS FOR SPRING TERM**

Welcome back to a new term and Happy New Year to everyone. Please find attached this week, the Spring Term’s club offer. Please remember that these clubs are offered free of charge and we need to have the forms returned by **Friday 12th January.**

**This is so clubs can start Tuesday 16th January.**

**YOUR BIRTHDAY – YOUR CLOTHES!**

Please remember that if it is your child’s birthday on a school day, we would like them to come in to school wearing their own clothes as a treat and to make them feel special.

****We look forward to being able to wish your child “a Happy Birthday” when we see them in ‘normal’ clothes rather than uniform.

Some parents have asked that if it is a child’s birthday during a holidays would it be acceptable for the child to wear non-uniform on the last day of the half term.

This is fine with us so we look forward to seeing the children on the last day of term before their birthday in their own clothes.

**BLUE PETER CHALLENGE TABLE**

All the children have been challenged this school year to gain a Blue Peter badge through a variety of ways. To date this is the tally for the classes so you can see who is currently in the lead.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Class** | **Rec** | **Y1** | **Y2** | **Y3** | **Y4** | **Y5** | **Y6** |
| **No of children who have got one** | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 15 | 2 | 2 |

**COLD WEATHER**

Please remember each day to send your child into school with a warm winter coat, hat, scarf, gloves and sensible shoes.

Boots may be worn to school, **but** when the children are **indoors they need to change their footwear to either shoes or their P.E. pumps.**

Children **MUST** have their P.E. kit in school every day so that if they get wet they will have something to change into.

Please ensure that you inform the Office of any changes to your telephone numbers so that if we need to text you in the event of an early closure we can ensure that you have got the message.

**Should the decision to close early or to not open because of heavy snow, where possible we will text everyone, and will also place an announcement on the following local radio stations:-**

**Signal Radio, BBC Radio Stoke or Silk FM**

***96.4FM 94.6FM 106.***

**GOVERNMENT FINES FOR LATENESS**

As many of you might be aware the Government has decided to fine parents of children that are persistently late to school. Research shows that lateness has a significant impact on a child’s self-esteem and socialisation; being just 5 minutes late every day can add up to 3 days lost learning by the end of the academic year.

With this in mind Marlfields would like to inform you of how this will affect you as a family from September 2015. In order to comply with the Government regulations Marlfields keeps a daily log of late arrivals, your child is deemed late if they arrive after registration. Should your child arrive late to school on more than 7 occasions over a term you will be sent a notification of lateness and be issued with a warning. After 10 days of lateness the matter is referred to the Local Authority.

A fine notification will be sent to the Local Authority and a fine issued. The fine is **£60,** which has to be **paid within 21 days or it doubles to £120** and a prosecution may be enforced.

We understand that at times your child may be late due to attending medical appointments etc. as such we will take this into account so long as you give 24 hours’ notice of the appointment in writing to the school office. We cannot accept phone calls on the morning of the appointment as being given notification unless it is accompanied by a letter from the doctor/dentist etc. to say an appointment was kept. If you have any concerns please call the office and ask to speak to Mrs Isherwood.

**FRIENDS OF MARLFIELDS MEETING**

As we texted out during the holidays the Friends of Marlfields are holding their Spring term meeting on the **17th January at 9am and again at 7pm.** All parents are members and we need new ideas and members who will help organise events for the children to enjoy. Please sign the slip if you are hoping to join us. There will be tea and biscuits on offer.

I\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ intend to attend the FOM meeting at **9am / 7pm.**

I cannot make either meeting but would like minutes sent to the following email address please.

Email\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**SAFEGUARDING ON SOCIAL MEDIA INFORMATION**

Cheshire schools are advising parents to be vigilant following a report from the Government on the positives and negatives of social media.

Many young children can *reveal personal information on social media without knowing and they ask that parents are vigilant reminding them that it is important not to put personal details on social media. It is a way of modern communication social media sites but they need to be monitored to ensure that all keep safe. Further guidance is given as to how to protect yourself online:*

* Only accept friend requests and other types of communication from people who you know and trust.
* Adjust your privacy settings so that you are in control of your profile and you know who is able to view it.
* Be aware that Facebook, Twitter and other forms of social media usually have some form of age restriction; Facebook for example is 13 years and upwards.
* If you are unfortunate enough to become a victim of online bullying, be sure to block the communications from the person sending them to you and report them to the site administrators.

Advice for parents:

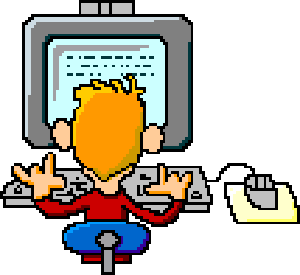
* Try to put the computer in an easy to see place at home so that you can monitor what sites your child is visiting.
* Check out the websites your child is using, just like you’d check out a school or a youth group they might visit. Have a look and make a judgement whether you think it is a safe environment for them to be involved in.
* Set up reasonable guidelines and limits for internet usage. Understand that it may be a big part of their life but that it needs to be regulated.
* Explain to your children why it is important for them to never give out personal details or post pictures of themselves publicly, just like you would when you explain to them not to talk to strangers

To find out more about keeping safe online go to <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

Or visit :

Resources and ideas for activities for parents and professionals aimed at EYFS and KS1 <http://kidsmart.org.uk>

NSPCC guide for parents to the social networks used by children and young people [www.net-aware.org.uk](http://www.net-aware.org.uk)

**HEAD LICE**

We have been back to school for a week and there have been no cases of reports of children with head-lice and nits. Please carefully check your child’s hair after them being at any outside club such as Brownies or football and if you find any evidence treat them appropriately.

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Half Term** | **16.02.18** | **26.02.18** |
| **Easter** | **29.03.18** | **16.04.18** |
| **Half Term** | **25.05.18** | **04.06.18** |
| **Summer Holidays** | **20.07.18**  **23.07.18**  **24.07.18**  **INSET DAYS** |  |