

Friday 8th September 2017

FINHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Dearest Parents,

We've had a wonderful first week back and it is so lovely to see the children settling in and ready to learn so quickly after the summer. It makes such a difference to the year and is testimony and credit to your support of the school and the children's learning.

As always, we are asked, 'What can I do to help my child in school?'

I've attached our school reading policy that was shared with you last year. It has examples of how school and home can support reading.

The three things that support children's development in school and to achieve, more than any other measure, proved time and time again as many international studies have shown are:

A healthy attitude towards food and diet.

An active lifestyle.

A love of reading....

All within the shared experience of the family.

There is not a lesson or an app for that.

As you can imagine, being a head teacher in school with a 12 and 15 year old at home can be frantic at times. We made a family decision this summer to completely switch off, but together. As you can imagine, the conversations around no phones, no Instagram, no snap chat etc. etc. were quite heated...but we stuck with it. We planned what we ate and took it in turns to cook. We all had to try something new. We walked and discovered new places, climbed trees, swam in lakes and went on bike rides together. We shared stories and read to each other. I didn't send a single tweet and we didn't have our phones or Wi-Fi or TV. The first week was hard, very hard and I was very close to calling it but we stuck with it. I can honestly say as we returned after our summer, my children have flourished. They are happier. They get on better with each other and with us. They are more relaxed and what can often be the toughest week of the year - the first week back - school uniform, work, teacher days, new challenges, routines, everybody busy - has been noticeably different and relaxed from everybody.

I've made a pledge to protect our together time this year and we have put set days down in the diary on the kitchen wall where no-one is allowed to put anything in, as I now know it will make the biggest difference to their success as they grow as well as their success in school. I know it will be a challenge – but it will be worth it!

So, eat well, walk more and read, read, read and I am certain, we will have the best year ever at Finham.

Have a great weekend.

Kindest regards

Richard Machin
Headteacher

Values Points

We have started the year with a few changes. The main one is we are no longer giving out team points. We launched our Values Points this week and everyone in school is giving them out. They are being collected and can be seen in the Values section of FROG. Each Year group are working together to earn the points and we celebrate their achievements and how they have put their values into practice every Friday in assembly.

FROG

On Monday morning FROG will look different. Mr. Davoudian has worked with the team at FROG to redesign our site to make it much more user friendly and it is now mobile device compatible. It's amazing and we are all going to benefit from his hardworking and talents as it is rolled out in Finham and subsequently across all the schools that use FROG. Thank you Mr. D :-)

Staffing

A warm welcome to Mrs. Hainsworth who has joined Mrs. Thompson (Formally Miss. Pritchard) in Year 1. We have had an overwhelming response to our music provision offer which is fabulous and I know the children are going to get an amazing experience from the multi-talented Mrs. Thompson.

Mrs. Hobman is expecting a baby - a massive congratulations to her. She will be with us up until Christmas and we will be letting the parents in year 3 know what the plans are for the second and third term ASAP.

Dinner Money

Please can you ensure that dinner money is paid promptly every Monday. The weekly cost of school meals is £10.50 a week and this should be paid via Parentpay. If you experience any problems with using Parentpay then we will accept cash or a cheque, made payable to 'Finham Park MAT'. If you require a Parentpay activation letter, please contact the school office.

Year 4 Swimming Lessons

Year 4 are starting swimming lessons next Wednesday 13th September. They will leave school at 10.30am and travel to and from the Xcel Leisure Centre by coach, returning to school at approximately 12.15 pm.

The children will require a swimming costume, **not** a bikini or tankini / short trunks, and a towel. All long hair needs to be tied back and **no jewellery can be worn**. If your child wears a religious bracelet they will need to cover it with a sweatband or remove for swimming.