



Head Teacher: Mrs S. Marsden  
Deputy Head: Mr P. Forster  
Chair of Governors: Mrs K. Dobson



November 2023

## Autumn Newsletter

**What a great start back to this school year and the longest half term complete!**

### Parent Questionnaire responses

We had a fantastic response in the summer term, with over 170 parents & carers completing the questionnaire. I have attached the analysis document. It really helps us to identify what we can improve on and make positive changes year on year.

#### **The following needed some follow up:**

**School has a wide range of afterschool clubs available for children to attend – 5% disagree & 24% Unsure.**

We offer after school clubs to every child from Year 3 upwards. In the past clubs have been organised for KS1 pupils but staying after school has proved quite tiring for the younger children and the drop out after the few weeks has been high. We are considering some spring/summer term opportunities to see how this would work.

### Parents' Evenings & Engagement Sessions

Thank you for your attendance at Parents' Evening - it was a great turn out. As always, a great opportunity to discuss your child's progress and any concerns you may have had. The children enjoyed their engagement sessions when you had the opportunity to come into school to work with them – more have been planned for this half term so please look out on Parent Mail for further information.

### Attendance

As you will be aware, the government are having a real focus on school attendance and the importance of both regular attendance and punctuality. Steel River Academy Trust have implemented an 'Every Day Counts' system which some of you may be familiar with. A slip may be sent home if your child's attendance dips and they are at risk of becoming a

persistent absentee. The attendance policy has been sent out recently but please refer to this if you are unsure about anything or contact:

Attendance & Welfare: [ljohnson@caedmon.steelriver.org.uk](mailto:ljohnson@caedmon.steelriver.org.uk)

Mrs Marsden & Miss McGee are also happy to help with attendance queries.

A late mark is given for any child after the register at 8.45am and an unauthorised mark if arrival is after 9.15 am. We have a lot of pupils who regularly arrive late. Our electronic registers close in classrooms at 8.45am so children must be signed in at the main office.

The nursery gate is locked promptly at 8.45 am as well so please try to be punctual as the younger children become upset when they have to be taken right through the school.

### **Fruit**

A reminder that the children in KS2 can bring fruit from home as a playtime snack. Please can you make sure that grapes are cut in half to minimise the choking hazard. Reception and Key Stage 1 children are provided with a piece of fruit every day.

### **Collection from school**

We are inundated with last minute arrangement and changes at the end of the school day. Many phone calls are taken close to 3pm and office staff struggle to deliver all messages in time. Please can you help by doing your best to ensure that your child knows what the arrangement is at the end of the day (specifically KS2 children). Any adults that you require to collect must be named on the collection form so please update it if you want to make any changes.

### **School Uniform**

Thank you for supporting our uniform policy and ensuring that your child is wearing the correct clothing. It is a good leveller and the expectation is the same for all. Unfortunately, lots of children are starting to wear coloured trainers and not ALL black as our policy states. We would appreciate it if you can ensure that shoes/trainers are all black and without white/coloured ticks and stripes etc.

We also ask that children do not wear nail varnish or gel nails – please save this as a treat for holidays along with coloured hair and patterns shaved in the hair.

Please remember to name all items of uniform so that we can return lost property to its owners.

### **Bikes & Scooters**

A reminder that only Year 5 and 6 pupils can ride their bikes and scooters to school and leave on the premises. Sadly, we haven't got enough space in our scooter and bike store to accommodate all pupils.

A gentle reminder that bikes and scooters should be dismantled and pushed from the gate into the school playground to minimise the chance of an accident at these busy times.

### **Stay & Play/Breakfast Club**

Please remember to book places for Stay & Play and Breakfast Club the week before. Booking closes on Thursday at 10am. We have an increasing number of people not booking and just turning up. Unfortunately, you will be turned away as we allocate staff according to the number of children booked in.

### **Drinks in school**

In response to a number of parents concerned that their children don't drink enough fluid through the day we changed our only water policy last year. Clearly, we would rather encourage children to drink water as this is by far the best for hydration, but we will accept **well diluted sugar free juice or flavoured water only**. Please avoid sending in Lucozade, Prime, fizzy drinks etc. If such drinks arrive in school, we will provide water and return their drink at the end of the day.

### **Mobile Phones**

We have an increasing number of Year 5 and Year 6 children bringing mobile phones to school. Our policy is that phones should not be in school unless pupils walk home alone and parents are at work. Consent from the Head Teacher must be sought and a consent form completed with the phone then locked away safely until home time. Mobile phones in school pose a safeguarding risk if pupils have access to them (please refer to the mobile phone policy on the website).

### **Head lice**

We have an increasing number of children in school with head lice and untreated children will continue to spread this to others. Please can you check your child's hair regularly.

### **NHS advice**

Treat head lice as soon as you spot them. You should check everyone in the house and start treating anyone who has head lice on the same day. There's no need to keep your child off school if they have head lice.

**Wet combing** Lice and nits can be removed by wet combing. You should try this method first. You can buy a special fine-toothed comb (detection comb) online or from pharmacies to remove head lice and nits.

There may be instructions on the pack, but usually you:

- wash hair with ordinary shampoo
- apply lots of conditioner (any conditioner will do)
- comb the whole head of hair, from the roots to the ends

It usually takes about 10 minutes to comb short hair, and 20 to 30 minutes for long, frizzy or curly hair.

Do wet combing on days 1, 5, 9 and 13 to catch any newly hatched head lice. Check again that everyone's hair is free of lice on day 17.

### **Medicated lotions and sprays**

Ask a pharmacist for advice if you have tried wet combing for 17 days, but your child still has live head lice.

They may recommend using medicated lotions and sprays. These kill head lice in all types of hair, and you can buy them from pharmacies, supermarkets or online.

Head lice should die within a day. Some lotions and sprays come with a comb to remove dead lice and eggs.

Some treatments need to be repeated after a week to kill any newly hatched lice.

Check the pack to see if they're OK for you or your child and how to use them.

If lotions or sprays do not work, speak to a pharmacist about other treatments.

Some treatments are not recommended because they're unlikely to work.

For example:

- products containing permethrin
- head lice "repellents"
- electric combs for head lice
- tree and plant oil treatments, such as tea tree oil, eucalyptus oil and lavender oil herbal remedies

### **Dogs on the premises**

We are really sorry, but dogs are not allowed on the school grounds. We have recently noticed this happening and have had issues with dog dirt on out field and playgrounds. Many children are frightened of dogs, and we want to safeguard against any injury to pupils and adults.

### **Important Dates:**

**14<sup>th</sup> November** - Reception Parental Engagement (2-3pm)

**17<sup>th</sup> November** - Children in Need (Non uniform & 50p donation)

**1<sup>st</sup> December** - PD Day school closed  
**6<sup>th</sup> December** - Nursery Parental Engagement  
**7<sup>th</sup> December** - Christmas Jumper Day (Christmas clothes/colours - no donation required)  
**8<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> December** - Christmas Games (children in reception -Y6 can bring change to play some Christmas Games) details and days to follow  
**12<sup>th</sup> December am** - Reception Christmas Performance (tickets to follow)  
**12<sup>th</sup> December pm** - Y2 Christmas Performance (tickets to follow)  
**13<sup>th</sup> December am** - Y1 Christmas Performance (tickets to follow)  
**13<sup>th</sup> December pm** - Reception Christmas Performance (tickets to follow)  
**13<sup>th</sup> December** - Choir/Band concert (evening time to confirm)  
**14<sup>th</sup> December** - Christmas Fair  
**18<sup>th</sup> December** - Y4 and Y1 Christmas Party  
**19<sup>th</sup> December** - Y5 Christmas Party  
**19<sup>th</sup> December** – Y6 Parental Engagement Session (9.00 – 10.15)  
**20<sup>th</sup> December** - Nursery, Y2 and Y3 Christmas Party  
**20<sup>th</sup> December** – Christmas Dinner (form will follow)  
**20<sup>th</sup> December** – Y4 Parental Engagement Session (9.15 – 10.30)  
**21<sup>st</sup> December** - Reception & Y6 Christmas Party  
**21<sup>st</sup> December** – Y3 Parental Engagement Session (9.00 -10.15)  
**22<sup>nd</sup> December** - Break up for Christmas  
**8<sup>th</sup> January** - School reopens

(Y5 parental engagement to be confirmed)

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you want to discuss anything.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Marsden