



Dates for your diary:

November

- 14 - Anti-Bullying Week
- 14 - Y5 Performance [7-8.30pm]
- 15 - Y5 Performance [7-8.30pm]
- 17 - ParentPay activation codes sent out
- 17 - Parents' Evening [4-8]
- 18 - Cake Sale 3RM
- 21 - ParentPay goes live
- 25 - Non-uniform Day [Blue day / PTA]
- 25 - Cake Sale 5NB
- 30 - Potential Industrial Action

December

- 2 - Coffee Morning [Cashless Office]
- 2 - Cake Sale 3RA
- 8 - Y3 Performance [Shirley Methodist Church, 7-8.30pm]
- 9 - Christmas Fair
- 9 - Cake Sale 5HS
- 15 - Christmas Parties
- 16 - Cake Sale 4RL
- Term Ends

January

- 4 January - School Improvement Planning [INSET - school closed to children]
- 6 - Coffee Morning
- 26 - Parents' Forum [7-9]

INSET DAYS

- 23 April - TBC
- 3 May - TBC

Thought for the week

Does it matter if your glass is half full or half empty?

Industrial Action

I'm sure that many of you will have been following the news regarding the planned public sector industrial action scheduled to take place on the 30th November. On Wednesday of this week my own union announced it's ballot had come out in favour of taking action.

The union's current intention is to use that mandate to further dialogue with the Government and come to a solution that will hopefully negate the need to take any action. Other unions are also taking a similar stance.

I am presently assessing the situation, determining which staff would be absent from school without pay on that day, including teachers, teaching assistants, admin staff, lunchtime staff and cleaners, and what risks that would pose to the children. Once I have a clear picture of this, and once the bigger national picture takes shape, I will notify you as to whether the school will be open, partially closed or closed. My intention is to reach this decision by the 16th November, a fortnight prior to the proposed action.

Obviously everyone in school hopes that the situation can be amicably resolved without the action having to be taken.

Cashless Office

Following on from the announcement in the newsletter prior to half term, we are going cashless from the 21st November. We are presently setting up the systems to make this transition as smooth and easy as possible. Over the next two weeks, you will be receiving letters, notifications and most importantly username and password details. Indeed there are details on the back of this newsletter and a more detailed letter accompanying it.

Final Chapters

It is with much sadness and regret that I have to announce that Mrs Long, Mrs Morgan and Mrs McGibbon will be leaving the school at the end of December. All have served the school well for a number of years and I know from conversations with each of them that they are very sad to leave. We will also of course be sad to say goodbye, but wish them all the very best for the future.

Should anyone wish to make a contribution to their leaving collection, please visit the ParentPay website, www.parentpay.com, after 21st November to do so. More details about this system can be found on the school website as a letter to parents and on the back of this newsletter.

Have a good weekend!
Mark

Parking

As a parent , I have concerns about the parking issues outside the school in the afternoons. Today Brian had to wait for several minutes before he could cross the children due to cars being parked inappropriately. With the nights drawing in and visibility getting worse this time of year, do we have to wait for one of our children to have an accident before a solution is found ?



We have once again contacted the police, traffic wardens and crossing patrols services to ask for help regarding this situation. It is our intention to have patrols around school at the start and end of days. Unfortunately this can never be a permanent solution and we very much depend upon the consideration of parents when parking to visit the school. I do strongly support the statement above from a parent on the discussion blog and very much hope that it will not take the injury to a child before such careless parking stops!

ParentPay

Our coffee morning on the 2nd December will mainly focus upon the new electronic way to pay for school meals, trips, voluntary contributions, etc. We will have computers set up for parents to come in and use, finding out more about the system and how to use it with school based support.



Please be aware that cash payments can also be made with either a barcoded letter or a plastic card at the following PayPoint locations:

One Stop Stores, Danford Lane; The Co-op, Longmore Road; Martins, Longmore Road; Barry's News, Stratford Road and One Stop, Stratford Road.

More locations can be found by typing in your postcode to the PayPoint website, www.paypoint.co.uk/locator.

More details will be given over the next few weeks through letters and via the website.

Book Fair



On Monday 14, Tuesday 15 and Wednesday 16 November we will be holding a Book Fair in school. This will be held in the school library between 3.30 and 4.15 pm. Please come along and have a browse and maybe find a few Christmas presents. By supporting this event you are helping to provide extra books for school too.

Reminders

Year 5 residential visit to York

Year 5 parents are all invited to come along to our York Parents Evening which is to be held on **Tuesday 22 November at 7.00 pm** in the school hall. This is an opportunity to hear more about the programme for this visit and have any questions you may have answered.

Year 6 residential visit to Red Ridge

There will be a meeting for Year 6 parents on **Monday 5 December** in the school hall from **6.30 - 7.30 pm** to find out more about this visit. All year 6 parents are welcome to come along and find out more.



Solihull School - 11+ Information Evening Tuesday 22 November at 7 pm

Any interested parents contact the school on 0121 705 4273 or email: enquiries@solsch.org.uk



Spanish Words of the Week - Manners and being friendly

Por favor (please), gracias (thank you), you're welcome (de nada), excuse me (permiso, disculpa), Te ayudo? (Shall I help you?) Quieres jugar? (Do you want to play?)