



ad sciurus

THE SQUIRREL

"You can fake a mouth-smile any time you want, simply by moving your lips. I've also learned that a real mouth-smile always has an eye-smile to go with it. So watch out, I say, when someone smiles at you but his eyes stay the same. It's sure to be a phony"
Danny the Champion of the World, Roald Dahl



I have to begin by congratulating all the children who have settled so well in to school last week, but especially our Reception children who are just marvellous! The children came in to school all week (no other island school did a full week last week). They were settled, happy and in the words of one little boy, "so tired from all the playing". We quite often get a few more tears in the next couple of weeks as children are tired and adjusting to the new routines of school. Please let your child's teacher know if you are concerned or worried as we are always here to support. A big 'WELL DONE' to all.

The school year is well underway and you should have received the school dates for your diary at the end of last week. However, these dates are always subject to change as we like to take advantage of every opportunity, which may arise! This week in school we have our sex, relationships and emotions curriculum week. A letter was sent out a short while ago setting out the curriculum coverage. If you do have any worries please do pop in and see me, but also be aware you may have one or two questions that the children may want to ask you at home. My approach to this subject has always been honesty, but if you are stuck, again I am here to help. Tomorrow is National Roald Dahl Day to celebrate 100 years since the author's birthday. We are asking all the children to come dressed as a Roald Dahl character (I have my costume and I am sure you can all guess which character I will be tomorrow). On the back of the newsletter there is a link for some costume ideas if you are stuck. There are lots of simple ideas. We have two Roald Dahl art days for Years 3-6 this week. Ian Whitmore, an artist, is in to work with our children creating a resource suitcase for Roald Dahl. He has asked for some materials and although we have most of them we are a little short on peach coloured wool - if you have any that would be great. Ian would also like two old (1950s era) suitcases. We are very excited about this term's topic and the children are certainly inspired already.

Mike Fleetham is in with us tomorrow working with teachers and doing a twilight on developing learning from the children's interest, and Mary is popping in to talk about this year's Global Rock. We have to register this month so I will let you know if we are successful or not. Fingers crossed. There is a LEAF meeting tomorrow (Tuesday) night at 6pm. This is for all of our families to come along and help with fundraising activities and events that we would like to hold throughout the year. Please do come along. Ballet starts in school for year 1 on Wednesday and we also have our new intake meeting at 6.30pm on Wednesday. On Thursday some of Year 6 are attending a Design & Build programme at the Isle of Wight College and our first anti-bullying ambassadors meeting too. A busy week setting the school year in motion. There will be other letters heading out to you which will include private music tuition, our residentials and activities and notification of clubs should be coming out towards the end of this week.

Thursday 22nd September is our Harvest Celebration. We would like donations of tea and cakes, which we would like to display and then sell at the end of the school day. Every year, we also run our 'Funky Fruit & Veg' competition and this year we asking for your entries to be Roald Dahl themed. I am sure you will let your pure imagination run wild! Some Year 6 girls would like to organise Children in Need this year and they have already put a poster up around school with details. This includes coming to school in your pyjamas, donating cakes for a cakes sale and copper coins to fill a Pudsey bear. All of this will take place on Friday 18th November. I am so impressed with the enthusiasm and enterprise of our Year 6, who are not only taking on Children in Need day but would also like to run an after school club, support the office and take on other events. I think it is going to be a difficult vote this year for Head Boy and Girl!

Our data collection forms are ready to go and will be available in classrooms from today. Please can you make sure you pop in and complete the forms, including a Free School Meals application form, so that we have all the right data ready for the nation data collection day at the beginning of October. If you are not receiving emails or texts please see the office and they will sort this out for you. It is also our end of financial year, so all outstanding debts must be paid this week. On this note, school lunches must be paid for on the day or in advance. There will be no credit for school lunches and you may be asked to change to packed lunches until outstanding monies are cleared. Regarding packed lunches, it is really important that they are nutritionally balanced. We do suggest only one sweet treat in a lunch box and this must be biscuit or cake based. We will be sharing some packed lunch suggestions over the next few weeks if you are stuck for ideas.

Just a couple of polite reminders: our school uniform is BLACK bottoms, not leggings or jean type trousers. Shorts, skirts and school trousers are appropriate, but not pinafores as they do not have our school logo, and children must wear either a logo blue slip (or a logo white polo if not wearing a blue slip). We want every child to be proud to wear our uniform. If you are booking your child in to the Den please make sure that they are booked in through the main office. The Den is getting very busy and although we have increased our staffing to accommodate our children there is a limit of 32 places (16 in the holidays). If demand continues to grow we will address this.

Holidays: we have had almost 100% increase in requests for holidays during school time. Please be reminded that the law has not changed and that you may be fined. Percentages can roll from the year before, up to the current date, and if your child's attendance for this previous 12 months is below 90% it is highly likely that you will receive a fine. Making every day count is the top priority and time away from school can have more of an impact than you can imagine. As mentioned on last week's newsletter, we have booked our five staff development days for 5th-9th June next year so that families can take advantage of cheaper prices. The weather looks lovely for this week. Let's hope it continues for along time. Have a good week.

DATES

Autumn Term Theme:
 'We Are the Dreamers of Dreams'
 Roald Dahl

Mon 12th	Sex, Relationships & Emotions curriculum wk
Tue 13th	Roald Dahl Day Come dressed as your favourite Roald Dahl character!
Tue 13th	Mike Fleetham in
Tue 13th	LEAF meeting 6pm (PTA - all welcome)
Wed 14th	AEN Coffee afternoon
Wed 14th	New intake parent meeting 6.30pm
Thu 15th	Roald Dahl workshop 1
Thu 15th	Reception photographs - County Press
Thu 15th	Year 6 Design & Build Programme - IW College
Thu 15th	FGB meeting
Fri 16th	Roald Dahl workshop 2
Mon 19th	Year 1 parents invited to lunch all week - please BOOK!
Mon 19th	Year 6 parent meeting re. FRANCE 2017 2.15pm
Tue 20th	School Council 8.30am
Wed 21st	Reception trip to Cowes Library
Wed 21st	Fire Drill 2.00pm
Thu 22nd	Harvest Celebration 1.45pm
Thu 22nd	Year 6 Design & Build Programme - IW College
Fri 23rd	Celebration Assembly 8.45am
Fri 23rd	Year 4 swimming week 1
Mon 26th	Clubs start
Mon 26th	Year 2 parents invited to lunch all week - please BOOK!
Mon 26th	Whole school individual portrait photographs
Tue 27th	Whole school individual portrait photographs
Wed 28th	Matilda trip
Wed 28th	BFG Cineworld trip
Wed 28th	Ballet after school club
Thu 29th	Open Day 1
Fri 30th	Celebration Assembly 8.45am
Mon 3rd	Year 3 parents invited to lunch all week - please BOOK!

**Whole School Attendance
 Since 1st Sept:**

98.6%

Caroline Sice

