

Headteacher's Newsletter

12/1.18

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year! - I hope that you all enjoyed the holiday. It has been lovely to welcome the children back to school and see them settle down quickly to their learning.

Please note the following:

Reading Records

Reading has a very high importance at Ashfield Valley and we want children both to be fluent in their reading and to enjoy reading. We are also very keen for parents to be involved in this process. To help improve reading across school, we have bought some new reading books for all year groups. From next week, all children will be bringing home a reading book which is appropriate for their reading age. We are currently carrying out some reading assessments to make sure that children are reading at the correct level.

We will also be sending home a reading record book and we ask that you sign and date the reading record when you have read with your child. Please feel free to write more if you would like. We expect that children read at home at least 3 times each week. There is a wealth of research to show the impact of fluent reading on children's life chances and we ask for your support with this vital aspect of learning. We will be running some reading workshops over the next few weeks to help parents with some ideas about reading at home. If you have any questions about reading or reading records please contact your child's class teacher, me or Mrs Ward who is our Reading Manager. We will be delighted to speak with you.

Rewards and Sanctions

I spent some time last term discussing our system of rewards and sanctions with staff, pupils and governors. The replies from the children were the most interesting because they felt that the tracker that was used previously did not make a difference to their behaviour because it did not carry any sanctions. I am sure that you agree with me that we want the children in our school to display excellent behaviour at all times and for school to be a calm and orderly environment for learning.

I have found that behaviour in school is very good with only a small number of children displaying boisterous play on the playground. There are many, many children within school that display exemplary behaviour at all times which is something that, as a school, we want to recognise.

I have attached an explanation of the changes to the behaviour systems that we have decided to make. We will be using a traffic light system to monitor behaviour within class and rewards for those children who always do the right thing.

I will be explaining the new procedures to the children in assembly on Monday. If you have any questions about the new system please speak to members of staff or to me – we will be very happy to talk with you.

Holidays in term time

This is another reminder that holidays during term time will not be authorised – there is too great an impact on learning. The policy is that fines will be issued and children could lose their school place. Rochdale Council has a waiting list for places at our school.

Thank you for your continued co-operation and support – it is very much appreciated.

Kind regards
Mrs H Edge

