



Samuel Cody School

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Headteacher: Mrs S Chinnappa BSc M.Ed. NPQH

6th February 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to you with a few days to go before our spring half term break.

Hopefully you have enjoyed receiving our new newsletters, both for primary and secondary. These formats are well suited to telling you about things that have been going on in school and we plan to continue with them following much positive feedback from you all.

We are now over half way through the academic year, and I am writing with some updates that you will want to know about.

Firstly, and unusually, our attendance for this time of year is the lowest that it has been since I joined the school back in 2020. As you are aware, regular and sustained attendance at school is crucial to the progress and attainment of our children. I am aware that there have been many incidents of illness over the past six weeks relating to a nasty chesty cough that is currently circulating in the national population. I would encourage parents to send their children to school even if they are mildly unwell. We can administer paracetamol at school to help with mild colds and coughs. If your child has a temperature, or a rash, then of course medical advice should be sought and your child kept off school until they are well enough to come back into school. If your child has vomiting or diarrhoea, then your child must stay at home for 48 hours from the last incident of being ill. These latter guidelines are from the NHS, not the school, but we would ask that in relation to tummy bugs, this advice is followed. In order to help parents with the attendance of their child, we will be monitoring attendance through the use of attendance panels. Panels will be made up of year group tutors and their Key Stage Lead. If attendance of a particular child becomes a concern, then the panel will meet and decide how best to support the family to help the child to attend more frequently. It is an expectation that children attend for at least 185 days a year, or 95 per cent of the time. Many of our children indeed have 100 per cent attendance, which is amazing. If children start to drop below 90 per cent, that becomes a cause of concern, and we are obliged to try and help improve the situation. If you are struggling to get your child into school regularly, please contact our HSLW Mrs Sanders, so that she can provide support and guidance in the first instance. I thank you in advance for your support with this issue.

Later this week the YR 9 students will be going on their annual residential trip to the Isle of Wight. Additionally after half term, the YR 10 students will be visiting Swanage for their annual residential experience. We wish them well on their travels and look forward to reading about what they get up to in the next newsletter.

Hopefully you will have seen the email from Hampshire County Council regarding the consultation for the expansion of our primary school. This is a project that I have been working on for several years now and the funding for it has finally been found by the local authority. This will give our primary children an increased and better equipped school

building as well as providing a new and improved base for the pre-school who currently inhabit part of our primary building. The consultation process is under way and there is a meeting on Thursday 8th February from 3:30pm to 6:30pm in the primary school hall should you wish to come and hear about the plans. Several members of the local authority will be present to talk to you.

Please remember that on Monday 11th March we have an inset day. This is to provide essential updated staff training in running trips and residentials.

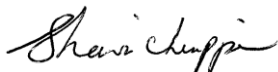
We will be holding a KS3 parents evening on Tuesday 19th March from 4pm to 7pm. The KS4 parents evening will be on Tuesday 26th March from 4pm to 7pm. The primary parents evening will be held on Monday 18th March 3pm to 6pm. An online booking form will be available for you to secure appointments nearer the time.

We also have some news about Miss Barbrook. Miss Barbrook has been at Samuel Cody for 12 years now and has been a year 7 tutor helping to settle many new students as well as heading up the mental health team over in the main secondary building. I am pleased to say that whilst Miss Barbrook is not leaving the Samuel Cody family, she is moving next door to our Cody Oaks provision to undertake a similar role. This change takes effect from Friday 9th February. We wish Miss Barbrook happiness and success in her new role. Miss Cherry will be taking over Miss Barbrooks tutor group while we recruit a suitable replacement. Parents who are currently part of Miss Barbrooks tutor group have already been informed, but moving forwards, if there are any issues please can I ask that you contact Miss Cherry for regular tutor communications and for any problems please contact Mr King the KS3 Lead. In the interim, the remaining pastoral team will continue to see students for social skills interventions and ELSA where they can.

Lastly, I am sure that many of you will have seen the latest newsletter announcing the retirement of our long standing Chair of Governors Mr Gray. He has been a governor in Hampshire in one form or other for over 30 years. We are sorry to see him go but wish him the best in his retirement. Mr Preece has been elected as our new Chair of Governors and I am sure that you will join me in wishing him luck in his new role also.

Thank you to all of you for your positive support of the school over the last half term. My senior team and I would like to wish you all a good half term break.

Yours sincerely



Mrs S Chinnappa
Headteacher
Samuel Cody School