



3rd March 2017

Dear Parents,

Welcome back and hope you all had an enjoyable half term break. With a busy few weeks ahead, I have taken the opportunity to update you on planned events and activities.

40 Acts – our focus on Lent 2017:

In promoting our celebration of Lent this half term, we are introducing the idea of '40 acts of kindness'. This is a lovely initiative that involves children undertaking a different act each day that they can do for someone else. The theme for each day will be posted on the school's website and text out to parents each morning. We are also encouraging the children to show these acts of kindness at home as well; I hope this is something that you will also encourage the children to participate in over the next 40 days. For further details about the 40 acts initiative, you can follow the link below:

<https://40acts.org.uk/>

Parents' Evenings:

Our Spring Term parents' evenings will be held on **Thursday 23rd and Wednesday 29th March**. Please note that the Wednesday date has changed to spread the late evenings over two weeks. Appointments can be booked between 3:45pm and 7:00pm on each of the evenings. Mr Richards class (3DR) will hold their second parent's evening on **Monday 27th March** between 3:45pm and 7:00pm.

We are asking that your child be present for at least part of the interview as teachers will be sharing your child's targets (Steps to Success) during the consultation meetings. These have been revised for the spring term to reflect our focus on learning behaviours and learning goals which your child needs to practise at home; a copy of these will be provided for you to discuss with your child. These are valuable discussions and ensure that you are well informed about your child's progress and their future targets. We do encourage children to be present throughout the meeting, but should you wish to see teachers without your child present, please begin the meeting at the allotted time and then ask your child to join you. We would also like to point out that, due to the early stage in the school year, the Steps to Success summary written for your child this half term will not contain a statement measuring progress against end of year expectations. They will focus more on your child's attitudes, strengths and areas for improvement in reading, writing and maths.

Parents' Questionnaire:

We very much value your views, suggestions and feedback about the quality of provision at Sarisbury and in order to help us improve our school further, I would welcome your opinions about your child's learning at SJS. We will be sending home this year's questionnaire for parents at the end of this week and I would be grateful if you could spare a few minutes to complete this and then return it either to the school office or at the parents' evenings on **Thursday 23rd and Wednesday 29th March**. I appreciate that it takes time to complete but the higher the response we have, the more informed we are about the views of our parents and therefore the areas of strength and development for our school.

World Book Day:

Thank you for your support with children's costumes for yesterday's World Book Day; our young folks certainly looked the part and we all had a great day. A big thank you to Mrs Hamblin for organising events at SJS.

Comic Relief:

We will be supporting Comic Relief on Friday 17th March and the School Council will be providing further details nearer the time.

Staffing Update:

We would like to take this opportunity to offer our congratulations to Mrs Karen Batt who was appointed to an administration post with Hampshire Police at the end of the half term. We also extend a warm welcome to Mrs Karen Watkins and Mrs Jackie Willis who join our learning support team in Year 4.

Travel Plan Update:

Thanks to Mrs Bleeck and our Travel Plan Team, we are close to achieving the Modeshift Travel Gold Award! To support this further, we are holding 'The Big Pedal' event between Monday 20th and Friday 31st March. As a school, we are aiming to make a collective cycle ride around the world! Watch this space for further details.

We ask again that now the warmer weather is on its way, we take every opportunity to walk, scoot or cycle to school; it really does make a difference. Thank you for continued support and consideration with our push for safer travel to school.

Yours sincerely,

A. J. Stockton

Mr A. J. Stockton
Headteacher