



Our Values for this half term are:

Creativity

Thinkers, Adaptable, Independence, Imagination.

Thursday 13th September 2018

Newsletter No. 2

Dear Parents & Carers,

This year we are introducing 'houses' at Camestone. All children will belong to one of 5 houses, named after royal residences. Siblings will be in the same house. The house will correspond to the colour team that your child was in for Sports Day. They will stay in the same house throughout their stay in Camestone.

Houses will meet for assemblies twice a term, with two teachers leading each house. They will also compete on Sports Day. There may be other occasions or events during the year when we organise children by house.

The houses are as follows:

House Name	Colour	House Leaders
Windsor	Red	Mr Jones and Miss Bird
Buckingham	Blue	Mrs Thiara and Mrs Jones
Sandringham	Green	Miss Ducker and Miss Barrett
Osbourne	White	Miss Dix and Miss Lambert
Kensington	Black	Mr McBeth and Miss Williams

BeeZee Bodies

BeeZee Bodies are funded by public health to run healthy lifestyle programmes for families in the Bedfordshire area. Please copy this link into your browser if you would like further information. www.beezeebodies.com/beezee-families/

Individual Photographs

Pupil and sibling photographs will be on Thursday 4th October.

Jeans for Genes Day - reminder

On Friday, September 21st we are once again supporting the Jeans for Genes charity, which helps children with genetic disorders. We request that the children wear jeans along with their school jumpers on this day, and give a suggested donation of £1 to this very worthwhile cause.

School Uniform

At times the girls sit cross legged in school. To enable them to feel more comfortable they can if they choose to wear cycle shorts under their skirts or dresses.

New Music Centre

Music for Bedford Borough are launching their new-look Music Centre. There are classes for children as young as 3 years of age and an opportunity to learn a musical instrument or play in an ensemble at low-cost. Parents are asked to contact music@bedford.gov.uk directly to book a place at the launch on Saturday 15th September and for further information.

Dawn until Dusk – Upcoming events

Dr Who Night	Friday 14 th September
Cookery – Jam buns	Thursday 20 th September
African drum night	Monday 24 th September
Cookery – Cheese Scones	Wednesday 3 rd October
Bingo Night	Thursday 11 th October
Cookery – Rocky Road	Friday 19 th October

If you would like your child to attend any of the above, please contact Kerry at Dawn until Dusk directly on 0787 6806359 not the school office.

Holidays in Term Time

Government policy over recent years, has focused on the impact of term time holidays on children's education. Head teachers are only permitted to authorise absences from school in exceptional circumstances.

The Camestone School governors have taken the decision that holidays in term time which have not been agreed will be marked as unauthorised absences and will be referred to the Local Authority for consideration of a Penalty Notice or other action. This is in line with many other schools locally and nationally.

It is important to carefully consider the implications of taking your child out of school during term time. There are 190 statutory school days a year; so there are 175 other days (weekends and school holidays) available which would not have a negative effect on your child's education. If you take your child out of school for a leave of absence:

- They will be missing significant learning opportunities. Teaching is planned carefully to ensure all children are following the National Curriculum over the year.
- You will be giving them an unspoken message that school does not matter.
- Some children find it difficult to renew friendships with other pupils when they return to school.

If you do need to take your child out of school, you should request this as soon as possible and always 4 weeks before the first day of leave. A form is available from the school office. The school will only authorise your request in exceptional circumstances. Government guidance will be taken into account.

The following reasons are NOT considered to be exceptional circumstances:

- availability of cheap holidays;
- availability of the desired accommodation;
- poor weather experienced in school holiday periods;
- periods overlapping the beginning or end of term.

Your understanding and co-operation in this matter is appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Mr P Stanyard
Head Teacher