

The Summerbank Sentinel

January 2020

Dear Parents, Carers and Children of Summerbank,

After a great start back after the Christmas break we would like to wish you all a very happy New Year. This newsletter is to let you know about some of the things that have taken place so far this year and ...our next exciting happenings...

HEADTEACHER APPOINTMENT

As you know Mr Shenton retired in the Summer and during the Autumn term the Academy Trust advertised for a new Headteacher. I am very pleased and that following the interview process the Governors and Trust appointed me as Headteacher. I was also overwhelmed by the support the children, staff and parents gave me in both the run up to the interview and after it was announced. I am very proud to be the Headteacher of Summerbank and look forward to working with everyone to develop the academy further. A big thank you,

Miss Pearson

CURRICULUM NEWS

We are working hard in school to make sure that the curriculum we teach is interesting and meaningful. In the Autumn Term Y1-Y6 had a big focus on geography and this term the focus will be history.

Some of the trips we've taken since September have included Reception children visiting a working dairy farm, where they asked some great questions and discovered the milk from the farm is used to make Ben & Jerry's ice cream! Y1 have 'travelled' around the world, visited Manchester Airport as well as having a pilot coming to tell them about his job.



Y2 have visited Conkers indoor and outdoor adventure centre. Y3 children learnt about France, food tasting, visiting RAF Cosford and building mini Eiffel Towers! Y4 have developed their map skills and demonstrated them during a fantastic visit to Stanley Head Outdoor Education Centre. Y5 children learnt about extreme climates and visited the SnowDome at Tamworth. And in Y6 the learning was based around South America and the Amazon (although unfortunately we haven't managed to do a visit to there!).



CHARITY FUNDRAISING

We are very proud of our children and families for the support they give to charities – a big thank you from us for all that you do.

In Autumn we held a Harvest assembly for the children led by Swan Bank Church, one of Stoke-on-Trent's foodbank locations then asked families to donate - the **Foodbank** were so impressed and grateful for the food they received from our Summerbank community.

Young Minds is a charity that works to make sure there are better mental health services for children and young people. On World Mental Health Day many of our children and staff chose to show their support for #HelloYellow by

wearing yellow and making a donation, together we raised a fabulous £321. Thank you!

We also took part in a number of activities to raise money for **Children in Need**, including competitions, cake sales and dressing up. Together, thanks to so much support, we raised an amazing £742.13.

In December we held our annual **Christmas Fair**, which was a great afternoon and really well attended. We have decided to put the money raised (just over £1500) towards buying new books to add to our reading scheme. This is a crucial resource that supports children whilst learning to read and the money you helped to raise will make a real impact for our children.



FAMILY LEARNING

After a successful term of Family Learning sessions during the Autumn the new Family Learning timetable has now started for the Spring term. You can view the timetable either on the noticeboard by the school office or online on the Summerbank Website. Miss Surtees sends invitations out to year groups about a week before the session, make sure you return a reply if you'd like to join in – we'd love to see you.



STAYING IN TOUCH

The new website for Summerbank went live during the Autumn term, if you haven't yet visited then it would be worth

taking a look as it is now much improved, working on phones and tablets as well as via computer. Find the website at www.summerbank.co.uk Many of you may well still have the Summerbank App on your phones from a few years ago, just to confirm this is no longer in use. We continue to use the text alert system (please make sure we have your up-to-date mobile number) to get information to you.

SUMMERBANK IN THE TOP TEN SCHOOLS!

The Sentinel Newspaper (the real one!) has just published its 'Real Schools Guide 2020'. This guide orders the schools in Stoke-on-Trent using 45 different measures such as results, progress, attendance, pupil-teacher ratios. We are very proud that Summerbank is number 7 out of nearly 70 schools. This is down to the hard work of our children, staff and parents and this is truly appreciated. To see the full list visit the Sentinel website

<https://www.stokesentinel.co.uk/news/stoke-on-trent-news/real-schools-guide-2020-best-3731427>

PLEASE HELP US KEEP SCHOOL SAFE

We are aware that pick-up and drop-off can be a challenging time as so many people are accessing the school site. For this reason we post members of staff to supervise key areas including the car park to keep our school safe. Please do pay attention to requests made by staff - rules are in place to keep our school site running smoothly and prevent accidents. In particular please do not park in the clearly signed Disabled Parking spaces unless you have a blue badge – a number of our families and visitors need to access these. Equally a Parental Conduct Policy is published on the Summerbank website, please make sure you are aware of what is considered unacceptable.

ATTENDANCE AWARDS

At the end of the Autumn Term a draw was held for two Kindle Fire tablets. All children from Y1-Y6 with 'Green' attendance for the term were entered into the draw and had a chance to win. As a school we are expected to keep records of attendance and make parents aware of attendance figures. We know sometimes it is unavoidable that children need time off if they get ill and for this reason when we do the draw again at the end of this term it will be for children with Green attendance from January until the end of Spring term so if a child did not qualify in the autumn they get a fresh start this term – good luck everyone!