



This week we are saying farewell to teaching assistant Kathy Smith. Kathy has been at the school for over 15 years and during that time I cannot begin to count the number of children who will have benefitted from her care and support. I am sure many families will join me in thanking Kathy for the time she has given to Morley and wish her well. This week we also see the return of Helen Harper who left us at the end of last summer. Helen is returning to her role as a playworker with Spectrum After School Club and Holiday Club. Welcome back Helen! With half term almost here may I wish everyone a happy half term and don't forget to get involved in the science challenge! (more information on p2)

Nikki Brown

Attendance

Like most schools (and homes) around the country we have been dealing with some nasty strains of winter vomiting and also flu bugs. We have been speaking to children about the importance of hand-washing and hygiene to try and keep the bugs at bay to try and stop the spread. We do request that children remain at home for 48 hours after an episode of viral related vomiting or diarrhoea. Thank you to parents who have helped with this.

This week I have had a number of requests for leave of absence to travel before the end of the school term. **Can I please reiterate we are unable to authorise requests for extended holiday or travel to visit family during term-time.** We understand that travel around holidays is more difficult and more expensive –this is also the case for our staff however we all still expect them to be in school during term-time and the same applies to all of our children.

Where attendance falls below 90% this is classed by the government as '*persistent absenteeism*'. Figures released by the Department of Education last week show that whilst our overall attendance is improving the **number of children classed as persistent absentees at Morley is increasing.** This means we have an increasing number of children missing the equivalent of a month of school every year! We will once again be notifying parents where attendance is below average. For some children this may be due to a long period of illness or medical treatment and the Education Welfare Officer will look at the circumstances of all children where attendance is a concern. However, should you choose to take your child out of school for an un agreed family holiday or travel you may be issued with a penalty charge notice.

What affects my child's attendance rate?

- Lateness—school starts at 9.00am. Arrival after the close of register is counted as an unauthorised absence. Regular late arrival will affect your child's % attendance figure.
- The attendance rate gives the number of sessions present. Whether the absence is authorised or unauthorised will make no difference to this figure.

Class of the week—Burgundy

The class of the week this week have impressed their teachers with the mature way that they have responded to having different adults in their classroom over the past two weeks.

They have been polite to new teachers and maintained their fantastic quality of learning. They have also been making some great predictions about shapes in maths and produced some thoughtful art work. They say goodbye to their student teacher today and they have been very welcoming and supportive of her this term. The class of the week is Burgundy class!

We are holding a Science Challenge for all children in Years 5 and 6.

They are being challenged to prove, or disprove yawning is contagious.

A panel of judges will look at the entries and select a group of children to visit Munidpharma, a pharmaceutical company in Cambridge. They will have a unique opportunity to mix materials, fill giant capsules, check measurements, and test their capsules; using laboratory equipment that we don't have in school.

Children will need to plan and carry out their experiment, recording findings and drawing a conclusion.

So be prepared if you have a child/children in Years 5 and 6 you might be subjected to a lot of yawning over half term!

All entries must be in by Monday 26th February.

Friends of Morley will be running a school disco for KS2 on **Wednesday 7th March:**

- Years 3 & 4: 5.00-6.15 pm

- Years 5 & 6: 6.30-8.00 pm

Tickets will cost £3.00. Consent forms and further details about how to purchase tickets will be sent nearer to the date via Parentmail.

Year 2 Assessment (including SATs) information event on Thursday, 8th March 2018 at 3:30pm
This is an opportunity to find out more about the statutory assessment frameworks used at the end of year 2.

There will be a short presentation and then a question and answer session.

Well done to the following children who have impressed their teachers this week:

Scarlet: Qing Yi, Madeline, Joanna

Ruby: Neema, Elia

Topaz: Max

Turquoise: Valentina, Cheryl

Sapphire: Naomi

Lilac: Alicia

Dates for the diary

12th-16th Feb Half Term

21st 22nd Feb Parents Evenings

26th Feb-2nd March Book Fair

1st March World Book Day

5th March Bags to Schools

7th March **KS2 Disco**

12th March Science Week

29th March Last day of term



Dates for the Diary: