



# Newsletter February 2016

Dear Parents/Carers

We would like to inform you of some changes to school policy and provide you with information on a new craze that is extremely dangerous.

## **Sickness Absence**

Current school policy states that parents must keep their child off school for 48 hours clear of both sickness and diarrhoea. Governors have updated this and the change is as follows:

- sickness - child can come back after **24** hours clear
- diarrhoea - child can come back after **48** hours clear

Although we have made this change, please note that common sense must prevail and if the child is still ill after 24 hours, please keep them at home.

## **Laser Pens**

A health warning has been issued through the Press about laser pens after children have been blinded and experts are calling for new laws to deal with these powerful devices, often brought to the UK from abroad. However, lasers can also be bought from your local pet shop, for example, as a cat toy.



At least a dozen children a year are being blinded or left with permanent eye damage by laser pointers, a leading eye expert has warned.

It has become such a hazard that a leading sight expert wants to create stricter laws on imported laser pointers, which can permanently damage vision.

Injuries are usually caused by toys – often from China – that are far more powerful than what is supposed to be available to the public. Lasers should have a maximum one milliwatt (mW) power output when sold to the public – one thousandth of a watt – according to Public Health England guidelines.

Also, some of the gadgets can be a fire hazard when shone from a distance of more than 30ft and burn skin from 45ft, as well as causing a distraction at an astonishing 146,000ft

– putting aircraft at risk.

Reports of laser attacks by civilian and military aircraft pilots jumped from just three in 2004 to 1,500 in 2013. Please warn your children of the seriousness of this and the implications such actions could have.

A leading doctor described the devices as 'offensive weapons' after discovering one child per month was being left with permanent injuries and called for online sales of powerful models to be banned. He said, 'Unfortunately there are no medical or surgical treatments that can reverse laser retinal injuries. If it was shone into someone's eye you wouldn't stand much of a chance of recovering from it.'

Another online retailer, MegalaserUK, was selling a blue laser which is 3,000 times more powerful than recommended safety levels and has a range of 200 miles – although the website had a warning that it was for commercial use only and must not be used near airports.

### **Celebrations Assembly/Raffle**

Our Celebrations Assembly is at 2.30pm tomorrow and we look forward to seeing you all then. Please find attached two strips of raffle tickets for 50p a strip. If you want to enter the raffle, please write your name on the back of every ticket and send into school tomorrow with the money in a named envelope.

We break for half term tomorrow and return on Monday 22 February.

**Lisa Jackson**  
**Headteacher**