

Newsletter 4 March 2019

Dear Parents/carers,

Spring is in the air and I always think this is a great time in school, as staff and children get a new feeling of vitality and a lease for life. Our visits from Box2Bfit and Hoopstarz this term, have certainly helped us feel energised and healthy. I received a lovely letter from Tracey, the Hoopstarz lead, saying what a pleasure it was to visit our school and that she was particularly impressed with the excellent behaviour and lovely manners of our pupils. She noted that she could not say this about all of the schools she goes to, but that ours really stood out. I couldn't be prouder of our children. We know our children are well behaved but when visitors take the time to mention it, it confirms it to us.

Action Groups

This term we have decided to continue Action groups with KS2 pupils only. Staff were finding it very difficult to organise activities that were suitable and appropriate for pupils from the ages of 5 to 11. The KS1 pupils will still be heavily involved as the action groups will be asking them for help, ideas and presenting their work to them in class too.

This term the Action Groups have been given a whole afternoon to do some focussed work in their area which may involve a visit, visitor or small project. These will feature on the school website at a later date.

A Caring Ethos

As part of the vision action plan, written by staff, parents and governors, it was agreed that we would engage more in fundraising for charities to help educate children about worthy causes and to empathise with others. We have introduced penny pots and supported charities such as Liver Disease and Red Nose Day so far. If there are any charities that families would like us to support and have creative ways in which we could help, please let us know.

E-Safety – Fortnite Focus

We are experiencing a high level of issues relating to the "Fortnite" game. In particular, with boys who love the game but find it hard to switch off or play responsibly. The main issues we are dealing with in school are:

1. Children are playing the game late into the night and are unable to switch off at a reasonable time. This is having an impact at school, as children are very tired and some are even falling asleep at their desks.
2. Some parents have reported that their children are displaying angry behaviour when they are asked to come off the game. This may be the first sign that children are addicted to the game.
3. Children are reporting, in school, that they are hearing and using bad language and name calling whilst online, to each other and this is causing issues in school the next day.
4. Children report to us, in school, that they often speak to strangers whilst playing on the games. This is not safe practice and could put children at risk of harm.

As a school, there is only so much we can do about what children do on the internet at home. We regularly teach children about internet safety and how to use it responsibly. In fact, we have decided, as a school, that the issue is so large, that we now teach a **weekly** internet safety lesson to help embed the message thoroughly. However, the responsibility lies primarily with parents at

home. I would advise that parents monitor their child's internet usage, who they speak to and how they conduct themselves when online. If issues are raised in school, I will contact parents direct and ask them to deal with it at home. If parents need any advice on E-safety, there are lots of links on our website that can help.

Parent questionnaires and feedback

I have recently asked parents to complete questionnaires both online and at parents' evenings. These questionnaires are really useful in helping us improve our practise. We have recently created a new page on our website, where the results of these questionnaires and any written feedback we have given, can be found for you to look at at your leisure. We have an overwhelmingly positive response to parent questionnaires and we accept that we cannot please all of the people of the time.

On the rare occasion where parents have left some negative feedback, we consider the comments in Senior Leadership Meetings and decide whether action needs to be taken to change practise, policy or procedure but when the majority of parents are happy with particular aspects of our school it is not always good practice to change how we do things for a small minority.

School Facebook Page

In order to keep up with the "ever changing, modern world", as stated in our new school vision, it has been suggested that we open a Facebook page for the school. The aim of the page would be to celebrate the fantastic work we do and to promote the school in the local area. The plans are in its infancy at the moment, but we hope to have it up and running very soon and will let you know as soon as it is up and running. If you have any reservations about the page or ideas about how we can make it work really well for the school, please let me know.

Grounds Development

You may have noticed that we had the early Years mud kitchen area resurfaced over February half term. The area was turning into a mud bath in the winter months and was becoming slippery under foot and so we invested in some new tarmac to ensure the children can use the popular area all year round.

We are now working on developing the Year 1 outdoor area and will keep you updated on how that is progressing.

Morning Start Times

School starts at 8.55am prompt, however we also run organised morning exercises at 8.50am so that children start the day feeling energised and ready to learn. Please can I ask parents to make an extra effort to get their children into the school yard that little bit earlier so that they don't miss out on this vital part of the school day – thank you.

Please see attached your updated School Diary Dates and don't forget, all dates can also be found on the school website, should you lose it.

I look forward to seeing you all at the forthcoming Easter events.

Yours Sincerely

Mrs N James
Head teacher

Diary Dates

Here are some dates for your diary that we have this term so far.

March

- 21st World Down Syndrome Day – Wear brightly coloured odd socks
- 26th Year 1 & Year 2 Multiskills Festival
- 27th Year 2 SAT Meeting for Parents
- 27th Whole school dance assembly – parents welcome – 9.05am start
- 29th Mother's Day Lunch – Mams, Step-Mams and Grandmas welcome – **Pre bought tickets only!**

April

- 1st Behaviour and Attendance Treat to the Cinema
- 4th Easter Bonnet Craft Afternoon – Parents/Grandparents welcome
1:30pm start
- 5th Easter service at St Andrew's Church 1:15pm– parents welcome. **School finishes at 2pm after service - All children to be collected from the church or school.**

Easter Holidays: Monday 8th April–Monday 22nd April

School Re-Opens Tuesday 23rd April

YEAR 6 - Easter holiday revision booster sessions Tuesday 8th, Wednesday 9th and Thursday 10th April, 9.30am til 12.30pm

- 25th Road Safety Workshop – whole school

May

May Day School Closure Day: Monday 6th May

School Re-Opens Tuesday 7th May

13th–16th Year 6 SATS

20th–24th Careers Week

20th Year 1 trip to Art Studio
22nd Dogs Trust visitor to school
23rd Year 6 Trip to Rof59 for SATS treat
23rd Magic Lantern – bringing the art gallery to the classroom for class 2 and 4

Summer Half Term: Monday 27th May– Friday 31st May
School Reopens: Monday 3rd June

June

21st Staff INSET day – school closed for children

July

17th Sports Day 1.30pm start – parents welcome
18th Year 6 Leavers Assembly 5pm start for parents of Year 6 pupils only
19th Last day of term – school closes at 2pm

**Summer holidays start 19th July 2019, school reopens WEDNESDAY 4th September
2019**