

NEWSLETTER - 5 JANUARY 2016



Happy New year to you all! I hope that you had a lovely Christmas and were able to relax and enjoy some time off school. The staff and I would like to thank you all for your cards, kind messages and presents - it means a lot to all of us. We would also like to say a huge thank you for all your donations over Christmas. We raised £66 for Save the Children/Make a Wish UK/Macmillan Cancer support charities when staff wore their Christmas jumpers. We also raised £278.87 from the retiring collection at the Nativity, Panto and Christmas Carol events which is to be donated to Operation Orphan and the Salvation Army. Thank you so much for your generosity.

The children have settled back into school beautifully and are raring to go - we have some great things planned this term already. The children in Key Stage One will be studying a topic called 'Our Amazing Earth'. Classes 1, 2 and 7 will be studying the Rainforest and Classes 3 and 4 will be studying the Arctic and Inuit life. The Reception children will be learning about arctic animals, cold climates and studying the story of Noah's Ark. You will shortly receive a newsletter from your child's class with more detailed information and these will also be on the website which continues to be updated regularly.

This term I will also be sending out the annual questionnaire for parents. It is really important as a school that we get feedback, as this helps us to ensure that we continue to serve our community in the best way. We will also be organising a Parents' Forum later this half term - date to follow soon.

IMPORTANT NEWS: BEEKEEPER - We have been informed that the Beekeeper Pub will be closed for refurbishment from Monday 18 January 2016 to Thursday 25 February 2016. Therefore, there will be no parking for parents or staff at any time during this period. We are giving early notification to enable you to make other arrangements, but obviously it will probably be easier to walk to school during this time because of the lack of parking.

HOMEWORK - We will no longer be providing the termly homework booklets due to a very limited response - on average fewer than 20 children across the whole school completed them. They will stay on the website if you wish to use any in the future.

Please continue to do the following with your children as homework:

- Read **at least four times a week** and write in the reading diary
- Practice spellings **at least three times a week** for 10 minutes - see the website for details of how to help your child
- Learn times tables (Year 1 - 2x, 5x, 10x and Year 2 - 2x, 3x, 4x, 5x and 10x)
- Look at the topic web sent from class (on the website) and investigate/find out about the new topic. This could be shared at show and tell.
- Look at the useful websites in the homework section of our school website - some great literacy and maths games to play

Above all take your children out, have fun, talk to them and read lots of stories - enjoy them while they are young as they grow up so fast!

Continued overleaf.....

SCHOOL LIBRARY - Our library service is now up and running for all children in school. This is largely due to the hard work of our two library volunteers and of course the Y2 librarians. The children are able to borrow new books approximately every two to three weeks. When your child borrows a book it will have the due date stamped inside the front cover. If your child has finished with their book sooner than this they may return them earlier by putting them in the labelled boxes in the library. Alternatively just keep them at home until the due date. Please note, even if books are returned early, your child will still have to wait for their next library day to get a new book. We have limited time and resources so are unfortunately unable to make this more frequent. Your child does not need to bring their library books into school every day, only on the day they want to bring them back. The overall aim of the library is to foster a love of books in our children, help them learn how to choose their own books for enjoyment and for the Y2's to take responsibility for running a lending library service themselves. The library books are not school reading books. They are picked purely for enjoyment and do not have to be read independently by the children. Your child may pick a book that is beyond their reading skills which you may need to read to them, rather than them reading it themselves.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS/OTHER BENEFITS - The Local Authority have informed us that parents are now able to register and apply for free school meals through their public website and receive an immediate decision regarding their entitlement. Further details including the link to the website are attached so please take the opportunity to check if you are entitled. Although all infant children receive a free meal if you are entitled due to your financial circumstances you will receive support in many other ways including purchase of uniform, free trips and after school clubs.

TRANSFER TO JUNIOR SCHOOL - SEPTEMBER 2016 & APPLICATION TO INFANT SCHOOL - SEPTEMBER 2016 - **Can I remind parents that the closing date for both of the above is 15 January 2016. Please complete and return your applications to the Local Authority if you have not already done so.**

REMINDERS - Just a few New Year reminders as we all get back into a routine:

- PE kits need to be in school every day. These should comprise of a T-shirt (preferably white), a pair of shorts (preferably black or red), a pair of socks, trainers (please check that they fit!) and some leggings/trousers and a fleece as we will continue to do outside PE in the cold weather. Earrings must be removed for PE and cannot be taped - this also applies to any sports after school activities. **Your child's PE day may have changed due to the extra sports coaching - information will be found in your class newsletter.**
- Water bottles must also be in school every day - water NOT juice please.
- Reading: Please ensure that reading folders are in school every day and remember to keep writing in the diaries!
- Payment for Visits etc: Please always place any payment in a sealed envelope with your child's name and reason for payment clearly marked. Could you also try and send in the correct money. For your information, we do subsidise all visits and although payment is voluntary, we would not be able to provide the experience of visits without your support. At the end of this financial year we will provide you with details of how much we subsidised visits in 2015/16.

Continued overleaf.....

- Absences/Lateness: Could you please ring as early as possible on your child's first day of absence to notify us of the reason. As instructed by the Department for Education, if we do not hear from you, we will contact you at home or work. Attendance is generally very good and we awarded 70 children with certificates for 100% attendance in the Autumn Term. Well done to everyone particularly with all the illness at the end of last term.
- A reminder that we cannot authorise any holidays in term time unless it's for exceptional circumstances.
- Can you ensure that your child arrives on time for school each day (doors open at 8.50 am for a prompt start to the school day at 8.55 am), however, if you are running late please telephone the school office and when you arrive the office staff will sign your child in. For your information, registers close at 9.15 am, therefore unless a valid reason is given and your child arrives between 9.00 and 9.15 am they will receive a late mark (which is classed as an attendance) if they arrive after 9.15 am they will receive a late mark (which is classed as an absence).
- Sickness in school - At this time of year we tend to get a lot of nasty bugs going around. Please could you encourage your children to wash their hands thoroughly. If your child has been sick or had diarrhoea you must not send them to school until at least 48 hours after the last time they were ill. If you have any doubt at all please do not send them in as these sorts of bugs spread so quickly in school. Thank you.
- Headlice - we had a few cases of this before Christmas. If your child does get headlice it is possible to get free treatment through your local pharmacy. There is a scheme called 'Pharmacy First' which you can register for if you are under a GP in the NG9 area. This will mean you can get free treatment for headlice, hayfever and other minor ailments if you don't normally pay for prescriptions.

Continued overleaf.....

FUTURE DIARY DATES - A timetable of events is given below for this term. Further details (including times) will be sent nearer the actual date of the event which will involve all classes (unless stated otherwise). Following this initial newsletter any additions or alterations from the previous newsletters are shown in *bold and italic*.

DATE	EVENT	Details/Letter already sent (if applicable)
Fri 8 Jan	Yr 2 visit to Nottingham Ice Arena	✓
Mon 11 Jan	1 st Yr 2 After School Computer Club	✓
Tues 12 Jan	1 st Yr 2 Spring Term Lets Get Cooking After School Club	✓
Wed 13 Jan	Visit by Sprouts Drama Group	✓
Thur 14 Jan	Choir starts again	✓
Fri 15 Jan	Film Night - 'The Nut Job' 6.00 to 7.30pm	✓
Thur 21 Jan	Yr 1 visit to Derby Velodrome & Derby County F.C.	
Fri 22 Jan	Coffee Afternoon at 2.30 pm. All parents invited to attend.	
Mon 1 Feb	Sherwood Forest Residential Meeting - Yr 2 Parents	
Tue 2 Feb	1 st Yr 2 After School Dance Club	
Wed 10 Feb	Class Photographs	
Thur 11 Feb	National Measurement Programme - Reception	
Fri 12 Feb	Final day in school before Spring half term holiday	
15 Feb-19 Feb	School closed for Spring half term holiday	
Tue 23 & Thur 25 Feb	Parents Evenings	
Wed 24 Feb	1 st After School Magical Maths Club (Yr 1 & Yr 2)	
Wed 9 March	Class 3 & 4 - Yr 1 visit to Tamworth Castle	
Fri 11 March	Chaps & Children Evening (Extended Services event)	
Tue 15 March	Class 1/Class 2/Class 7 visit to New Walk Museum Leicester.	
16 & 17 March	Dance Festival (Yr 2)	
Fri 25 March & Mon 28 March	School closed for Easter Bank Holiday weekend (School re-opens on Tuesday 29 March 2016)	
Mon 4 th April to Friday 15 April	School closed for two weeks for 'Easter' holiday (School re-opens Mon 18 April 2016)	