



Spring Term

January 2014

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back and I hope that you all had a wonderful Christmas and are suitably refreshed and ready for another action packed and fun term.

Nativity

I haven't had the opportunity to write in the newsletter about the brilliant Nativity concerts. The children sang with such joy, the narrators spoke with such clarity, the soloist was just amazing and the camels perfectly charming. Well done to each and every one of you and a big thank you to all the staff, especially Mrs Walker who directed the productions.

Christmas lunch

The last newsletter was also before our excellent Christmas lunch. This was hosted by The Black Horse as we no longer have access to the village hall. The food was delicious and the atmosphere was very festive. A huge thank you to The Black Horse (look out for our formal thanks in the press) and to the PA who oversaw the whole event. A very special guest led the children back to school who then gave each child a present. Thank you, it was a lovely way to end the term.

Lateness

I have been looking at last term's registers and, although there was a great start to the second half of the term, children, towards the end of the term, started to drift into school late. Please try to ensure that your child arrives well in time for school, the gate is open at 08:45 and the bell is rung at 08:55. When your child is late, this is not only embarrassing for your child but very disruptive for everyone else in the class. Thank you.

School hall

I am absolutely thrilled to tell you all that, County has agreed to give us the substantial sum of £61k!!!! This now brings our total to a staggering **£184,615!!!!** so we are now in a position to proceed. A huge thank you to each and every one of you who has contributed to the school hall funds and a special thank you to the PA who has given so very generously. The hall will have a significant impact on the education of all the children for generations to come.

Once the HORSAs have been demolished and work begins in earnest, life at school is going to be very hectic and I ask you now, before the work begins, to be very patient as it will not be easy but very well worth while in the end.

Hindu Assembly

Thank you so much to Rajul (Kai's mother in Year 2) for leading an assembly on Hinduism last week. The children all listened attentively and asked thoughtful questions. The artefacts, which Rajul discussed with the children, are now in the library replacing the display on Christianity. Thank you.



Big Schools' Birdwatch

All the children participated in the Big Schools' Birdwatch today. They thoroughly enjoyed identifying a variety of birds in the playground and our garden. They then had fun writing about all the different birds and sketching them. Thank you to Mrs McBride for arranging this great, creative day.

Peter Rabbit

The children in Year 1 are currently learning about the author Beatrix Potter. They were so, SO excited this morning, when they went into the garden to find that their toys had disappeared from the hutches they had made yesterday and that the carrots they had left for the rabbits had been eaten! There was such a sense of fun and awe as they blamed Peter Rabbit and his friends!

Later on they were relieved to find all their toys in the greenhouse! The writing the children produced describing what had happened was stunning!

Zig Zag lines

County has advised me that the zig zag lines in front of the school will be painted, during the week commencing Monday 3rd February, weather permitting. Please put this date in your diary as Alderbourne Lane may not be accessible to vehicles. There is parking in Hay Lane and the car park in the pub. The zig zag lines will make the road safer for all the children. Thank you for your cooperation and thank you, also, to Isobel Dorling and to Brian Weild, from the Parish Council, for all their hard work in organising this. Can I also add that you may want to consider giving your children a high visibility jacket or arm bands as they leave school in the early evening.

Sainsbury's Vouchers

Please help us to collect as many Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers as possible from 29th January to 20th May. We can spend these tokens on a range of PE equipment so every voucher counts. Thank you.

Workshop reminder

A little reminder that there will be a numeracy presentation for all Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2) parents and carers in the Year 1 classroom at 2:40 this Monday. The presentation will be led by Mrs Mardell and Mrs Bhatti and I know that it will be very useful so please do try to come.

Hair and watches

Please can you ensure that all long hair is firmly tied back for health and safety reasons, thank you.

It is wonderful to see so many children wearing watches and eager to tell the time but I'm afraid the 'beepings' that some watches make are really rather distracting. I am also concerned that some watches may get lost or damaged so, reluctantly, I am going to have to ask you to keep your children's watches safe at home please. Thank you.

Recorders

Mrs Isobel Dorling is unable to continue with recorders for a few weeks and so I am looking for new volunteers to help Fiona (Madeleine's mother in Reception). This is a popular club which runs from 12:30 until 13:00 every Friday. You don't need to be an expert musician, just someone who has basic recorder skills and is happy to commit to half an hour each Friday. If, of course, you would like to stay for the afternoon you would be more than welcome to join our volunteers to hear the children read. All volunteers have a DBS check. If you are interested then please contact Mrs Coley. Thank you.

Film night and Nativity film

All the children had great fun at the film night watching a movie and eating popcorn and sandwiches. Thank you to everyone in the PA who helped.

A flyer has been sent to all the families in Years 1 and 2 to take orders for DVDs of the evening Nativity performance. A huge thank you to Mr Bains (Siya's father in Reception) who filmed the production – I have seen it and it is wonderful! Thank you also to Siya's mother for liaising with the school and the PA.

High sheriff of Buckinghamshire

We were absolutely delighted to be visited by the High Sheriff of Buckinghamshire this week. He stopped by after an official visit to Pinewood Studios. The children were given the opportunity to ask questions and responded admirably! Questions included: What does your job involve? Why are you carrying a sword? What will you do when your year as High Sheriff is up? Who is your boss? Why are you carrying a sword? The children were enthralled.

After photos, the High Sheriff and other officials were taken on a tour of the school. Many thanks to Mrs McBride for overseeing the successful visit as I was, unfortunately, at a much less exciting County meeting!



Website

Please do use our website at home which is evolving all the time. There is a parent page with tips on how to help your child and a VLE (Virtual Learning Environment) with a range of exciting games and activities which all children can access to enhance their learning. Mrs Bhatti, the school's IT leader, is very happy for you to contact her if you have any queries.

Reminder about absences

Please contact the school on the day that your child is absent and follow that up with a note when your child returns to school. Please also provide evidence of all medical and dental appointments. Thank you for your cooperation.

Fair Trade Day

Many thanks to Mrs McBride and Mrs Goodman (Wyatt's mother in Year 1 and a Parent Governor) for organising our Fair Trade day to raise awareness to ensure that all farmers receive a fair price for their produce across the world. All the children entered into the spirit of the day dressed as bananas or wearing Fair Trade colours. Some Year 2 children also visited Tesco to encourage customers to purchase Fair Trade bananas. Look out for their photo in the Bucks Examiner next week.





AFE school

I am very pleased to inform you that our mufti day before half term raised £64.50 for our link school, AFE, in Honduras. This money will be used to buy water filters for the families at the school. Thank you.

Labels

It is very difficult for children and staff to find the correct jumper, cardigan, hat etc., if these items of clothing are not clearly marked. We have an overflowing lost property basket so, if your child has lost an item of clothing, please pop into school to look in the basket. Thank you.

Carrier bags

We are always in need of carrier bags for all sorts of reasons so if you have any spare please think of us!

Buddy reading



The whole school celebrated World Book Day last week as they read their favourite books to each other. It was a wonderful afternoon and the children really enjoyed sharing their books. Thank you to Mrs Mardell for organising this very successful event.

Waste Week

Thank you so much to Mrs McBride and Mrs Goodman for a splendid 'Waste Week'. The children's learning about the three Rs (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) was very much reinforced over the week. There was a wonderful after school club, organised by Mrs Goodman (Wyatt's mother in Year 1), when the children made stepping stones to take home and to decorate the school's garden and a great afternoon, coordinated by Mrs McBride, when the children made eco super heroes using recycled goods. Thank you.



Sport Relief

We will be raising money for Sport Relief this Friday. The children can either come to school wearing their school PE kit (with something red) or come to school in home clothes which are suitable for PE (again with something red).

Please remember to take home your child's PE kit if you would prefer him/her to wear that. Whatever the clothing, please can you send in £1 which will be given to this worthwhile cause. The children will spend an active afternoon doing a range of sporting activities in the playground (fingers crossed for good weather).

Mothering Sunday

There will be a concert for all mothers to celebrate Mothering Sunday on Friday 28th March at 09:15. The children have been practicing the songs for several weeks and they all sound perfectly charming, remember to bring tissues! Thank you to Mrs Bhatti and Mrs Walker for preparing the children so well.

Easter Bonnet Parade

There will be an Easter bonnet parade here at school from 1:00 – 1:45 on Thursday 3rd April. Please write a description of your creation on the yellow card for Mrs Parrett, our compere for the event, to read as your child models his/her bonnet. If you need more details, please speak to your class teacher or to Mrs Parrett. It is always a charming event, so I do hope that you can come along.

After the parade, there will be an Easter Egg hunt for all the children in the school. Thank you to the members of the PA who are organising the event, I know that the children will have a great time.

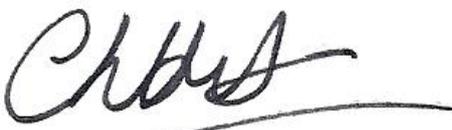
Lost property

Our lost property basket is overflowing! We will be putting it out next week for you to rifle through, so please come and have a look for any lost uniform. Thank you.

Scarlet Fever

I have just received notification from Thames Valley Public Health, that they are seeing a substantial increase in the number of notified cases of scarlet fever and this is also seen across England. Exclusion period for scarlet fever is 24 hours from start of appropriate antibiotics if your child is well enough to return back to school. Thank you.

Best wishes



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cathy Hunt', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

Mrs Cathy Hunt