

Newsletter February 2018



Dear Parents/ Carers,

It has been a little while since my last Newsletter, this is not unusual for this spring half term. The weather tends to keep us in school!

Curriculum

Having said that, some of the classes have been 'out and about' around Newton Leys. Reception went in search for sticks and leaves for their dinosaur egg! Year 3 bumped into the Big Bad Wolf in the woods and Year 5 went out to spot pulleys and springs in local parks! There is so much on Newton Leys that supports the children's learning.

Children in Years 1 to 5 have enjoyed two science afternoons that were delivered by an ex member of staff from STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics). Various experiments took place and the children looked very impressed as they left the hall.

Years 1 and 2 children had the opportunity of handling a number of different animals when Zoo Lab visited. There were snakes, spiders, cockroaches, tree frogs and gerbils to name but a few. This supported their science topics for this half term.

We have had assemblies by musicians, Bridge Builders (supporting PSHE) and focusing on internet safety. A letter has been emailed with regard to opportunities for the children to take up music lessons.

We have also had a number of different students, school and college placements, that have worked in classes to get a 'taste' of what life in a school is like.

Christmas Productions in January!

Thank you so much to all of you who attended the Christmas production at the start of the term. The children (and staff) had worked so hard and were very disappointed they were unable to perform before Christmas. Thank you also for your generosity, we collected £140 in donations and will invest this money in the next production.

Staffing

With the absence of Mrs. Matsangou and a constant increase in pupil numbers, once again we are advertising for staff to join the team. Some members we hope will start at Easter, others we are interviewing for a start in September. We are very lucky that, as a new school, we generate lots of interest and therefore can pick the 'cream of the crop'. One aspect of recruitment I will not compromise, even with the lack of teachers in Milton Keynes, is the quality of our teachers. It is imperative that we continue to have the highest expectations of our children and our staff.

Last year we experienced staff joining and leaving for a number of different reasons and that will continue to happen, even once we have reached capacity. As some of you are aware, Mr. Woodham is training to be a special police constable and wanted to reduce his teaching hours to spend time building his skills as a constable; therefore he will be leaving us at Easter. We all wish Mr. Woodham good luck.

School Trips

In my next Newsletter I will be able to report on the school trips that will have taken place for Years 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 as follows:

Year 1 – Space Centre, Leicester (approx. £20)

Year 2 – Cadbury's World, Birmingham (approx. £25)

Year 3 – Pitt Rivers Museum, Oxford (approx. £20 and a favourite of mine since a child!)

Year 4 and 5 – Verulamium, St Albans (approx. £20)

Please do look out for the information letter for your child's trip; it is important we receive enough donations for the trips to go ahead.

PE

It is important that children have their PE kit in school at the start of the term and take it home half termly for washing. It is part of the PSHE curriculum we teach, keeping clean and healthy.

Can I please ask parents to purchase a small, black, drawstring PE bag for their child. There is not enough room on the pegs or in the children's lockers to accommodate any bag larger. We are hoping to be able to supply these bags from school for approx. £2.50 as we do with sunhats in the summer.

Don't forget to check the Dates for Diaries as there are a number of events taking place in the second half of this term.

As always, if you have anything you wish to discuss or share with me I am always available!

Warm regards,

Pippa Villa

Dates for Diaries

Spring Term Half Term February 12th – 16th incl Holiday Club (Dependent on uptake)

February 19 th	Children return
March 1 st	Book Week (details to follow)
March 12 th	Reception Class Mothering Sunday Event 2.00 – 3.00pm
March 13 th	Parent/ Teacher Consultation Evening 4 – 6.30pm
March 14 th	Parent/ Teacher Consultation Evening 7 – 7pm
March 16 th	Year 4 Assembly to Parents 2.45pm
March 20 th	Assessment Information Evening to Parents 6pm (Years 1 and Year 2)
March 21 st	Open Morning 9 – 10.30am
March 22 nd	Nursery Easter Event (details to follow)

Easter Holiday March 26th – April 6th incl Holiday Club (Dependent on uptake)

April 9th 2017 Start of summer term 2017-2018 children return

Summer Term Half Term May 28th – June 4th incl Holiday Club (Dependent on uptake)

June 5th Children return

July 23rd Start of summer holidays Holiday Club (Dependent on uptake)