

## Newsletter

May 2018



Dear Parents & Carers,

What lovely weather we have been enjoying; long may it last! The children have loved being outside and many teachers are making as many opportunities as possible for them to enjoy the outside for learning.

### **Gentle Reminders**

Please can I remind parents/ carers to send the children in with named sunhats and suncream. We now have purchased some larger, purple sunhats for our older children. Both styles of sunhat can be ordered via the school gateway system. If you purchase a hat, this will be named, and issued directly to your child.

Due to our safeguarding policy, we encourage all of our children, including those in Nursery, to apply suncream independently. Of course, adults are on hand to assist if required, but it is important that children learn how to do this.

Children in the upper part of the school are finding, on the very hot days, that packed lunches can become quite unappetizing once cheese or ham etc...becomes hot. Please can you ensure that packed lunches have a freeze block in them to help keep food cool.

As you will be aware, children in key stage 2 are not entitled to free fruit at snack time. We are finding that we have a number of key stage 2 children who are complaining of feeling hungry at this time of the day (10.30am). Please could parents/carers provide a piece of fruit for their child?

We are also finding a small number of children are still complaining about feeling hungry after they have eaten everything in their lunch boxes. We encourage the children to tell their parent/ carer if they don't have enough food at lunchtime; however, this may have been forgotten by the time they reach home!

It is lovely to see mummies and daddies catching up with each other at the end of the school day. Please can we ensure that children are supervised whilst conversations take place? There have been some occasions when children have been running around/ scooting across the car park and of course our concern is that a car will drive in and knock a child over.

I have many parents requesting time out of school for their child in order to go on holiday. Most of you will be aware that it is illegal to take your child out of school during term time. Research has demonstrated the negative impact it has on children at the time but also the long-term impact. I understand that the cost of holidays during term time can be significantly lower, as teachers, we experience this all the time and are just as frustrated, but please do think of the impact on your child. It is precious time that cannot be made up.

### **Holiday Club**

There are only a few remaining places at Holiday Club so please do book quickly to secure your child's place. We have a fun-packed programme planned. More details can be found on the School website.

### **Returning to school after half term**

Please remember June 4<sup>th</sup> is an inset day, children return to school after half term on the 5<sup>th</sup> June.

## School trips

It has been a busy term so far with many of the classes enjoying trips that support their curriculum.

**Year 4 and 5** enjoyed a day at St Alban's Verulamium investigating roman artefacts, mosaic floors and roman ruins. I am sure if they were asked, though, it would be the local park that came out tops no doubt!



**Year 1** enjoyed a day at the Space Museum in Leicester where they climbed up a spaceship, tested out space controls and looked out into space. Although it was only one hour up the motorway there were lots of sleeping children by the time they returned to school!

## Visitors

We have had a number of visitors at school; Bridge Builders presented an assembly to the children with a focus on aiming high and aspiring for the best; MK Dons delivered an assembly focusing on team building as part of football skills; Explore Learning introduced a writing competition to the children with many taking part and Reverend Ben will be joining us

soon for an assembly with a focus on respect.

We also had a visit from a local nursery, Teeny Queeny, who will soon make use of our school hall and library at quiet times of the day.

As always, many parents visited for the 'Learn Alongside' sessions, and, as always, the feedback from parents was excellent, the children loved it and teachers are grateful for additional pairs of hands in the classroom!



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## Taster sessions

Year 4 enjoyed an afternoon experiencing different musical instruments, reception class through to Year 3 enjoyed a cricket taster, and all of the children from reception to year 5 have enjoyed some yoga sessions as well as taking part in a sport festival within the school.

## Homework

You will all now be familiar with homework that teachers send home.

There is the daily homework of flash cards, spellings and reading as appropriate as well as the mental maths skills that are so important for children in accessing maths: times tables, doubling and halving, number bonds etc...

The normal routine is a piece of English and maths homework is set each week and the children have approximately one week to complete it. At times, teachers may send a number of pieces of homework to be completed over a number of weeks, a heavier weighting of homework one week to another or a focus on a particular subject rather than different subjects. Homework is determined by what has been taught, is being taught or will be taught in the classroom depending on the subject.

## Family Disco

I have been approached by a family at the school who has asked whether the school could become involved with raising money for a family member who is seriously ill. The little girl is eight years old, is very poorly and is running out of NHS options in terms of treatment and medication. Having discussed this with staff, we thought we could support by holding a 'family disco' after half term when the children and family members could pay a small amount to attend and have a hot dog tea (parents could purchase a hot dog as well if they wanted!). If anyone can make a donation for a raffle please do let me or the School Office staff know; we hope to receive enough donations for this to take place. The disco will be held on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> July 6pm – 7.30pm, further details will be emailed after half term.

There are many events planned for next half term and so please do make a note of 'Dates in the Diary'. Details will be sent out closer to any event occurring.

Please remember that I am always here if you have any questions, queries, concerns or celebrations you would like to share with me. As I am always saying to the children, if I do not know there is a problem I cannot fix it!

Warm regards,

*Pippa Villa*

# Dates for Diaries

*Summer Term Half Term May 28<sup>th</sup> – June 4<sup>th</sup> incl Holiday Club*

June 5 <sup>th</sup>	Children return
June 14 <sup>th</sup>	School Photos (class)
June 14 <sup>th</sup>	Year 1 assembly to parents 2.45pm
June 21 <sup>st</sup>	Sport's Day
June 25 <sup>th</sup>	Reserve Sport's Day
June 27 <sup>th</sup>	Open Morning 9.00 – 10.30am
June 27 <sup>th</sup>	Information evening for Reception class (Sept 2018) 6pm
29 <sup>th</sup> June	End of year reports to parents
29 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 2 assembly to parents 2.45pm
July 4 <sup>th</sup>	Information evening for Nursery new starters 6pm
July 6 <sup>th</sup>	Family Disco 6 – 7.30pm
July 11 <sup>th</sup>	Reception class trip to Rushmere Park (am)
July 18 <sup>th</sup>	Summer Production 6pm
July 19 <sup>th</sup>	Summer Production 2pm
July 20 <sup>th</sup>	Break up for summer holidays
July 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Start of summer holidays <i>Holiday Club (Dependent on uptake)</i>

## Academic Year 2018-2019

September 4 <sup>th</sup>	Children return to school
<i>26<sup>th</sup> October to 2<sup>nd</sup> November incl</i>	<i>Autumn half term</i>
	<i>Holiday Club (dependent on uptake)</i>
<i>21<sup>st</sup> December</i>	<i>Start of Christmas holiday</i>
	<i>Holiday Club (dependent on uptake)</i>
7 <sup>th</sup> January 2019	Children return to school
<i>18<sup>th</sup> February to 25<sup>th</sup> February incl</i>	<i>Spring half term holiday</i>
	<i>Holiday Club (dependent on uptake)</i>
<i>8<sup>th</sup> April to 19<sup>th</sup> April</i>	<i>Easter holiday</i>
	<i>Holiday Club (dependent on uptake)</i>
<i>27<sup>th</sup> May to 31<sup>st</sup> May</i>	<i>Summer half term</i>
	<i>Holiday Club (dependent on uptake)</i>
<i>19<sup>th</sup> July</i>	<i>Start of summer holiday</i>
	<i>Holiday Club (dependent on uptake)</i>