

Newsletter

March 2018



Dear Parents and Carers,

This very short term has ended just as quickly as I expected and we are now preparing for Easter. As always, the children have enjoyed many different opportunities during this half term benefitting in a number of different ways.

Years 1 to 5 enjoyed assemblies delivered by Network Rail, Bridge Builders, Fairtrade and Reverend Ben.



To celebrate World Book Day, all the children enjoyed a breakfast story with hot chocolate and biscuits dressed as their favourite book character. Staff enjoyed dressing up as well!

As part of the Book Day celebrations we ran an 'extreme read' competition. Congratulations to the winners!

Nursery: Noah  
Reception: Emad  
Year 1: Bluebelle  
Year 2: Amen  
Year 3: Yusuf  
Year 4: Betty  
Year 5: Amelia



Instead of just spending one day supporting Sport Relief, we decided to spend a week encouraging all the children to 'get fitter' by walking to Kilimanjaro and back completing laps around the 3G pitch. I will have to let you know in the next newsletter whether this was achieved or not but I know the children will have fun trying to achieve it!

Nursery have enjoyed a visit from the police with their police car, discovered a dinosaur egg in their nursery that subsequently hatched into ginormous dinosaur and had to be kept in prison, and an activity packed afternoon when their mummies were treated to an Easter craft session.

Reception have been visited by the police in their police car, Reverend Ben has talked to them about Easter, they have visited ASDA to purchase items for arts and crafts in their classroom and have enjoyed walks around Newton Leys. They also spoilt mummies with a Mother's day craft afternoon. A team at Bunnings kindly donated their time to build a mud kitchen for us and so four of our Reception children travelled to Bunnings to buy some essential items needed for the construction. They looked very cute walking around the shops with their little shopping trolleys!



Year 1 have enjoyed walks around the development and are looking forward to their class trip to the Space Centre in Leicester after Easter.

Year 2 ended their English unit of work with a visit to Cadbury World. I heard the children and staff enjoyed sampling the produce!



Year 3 enjoyed a trip to Oxford where they visited the Natural History Museum and Pitt Rivers Museum; both are favourites of mine as I grew up near Oxford and spent many holidays and school trips visiting the museums. They have also enjoyed weekly swimming lessons despite the cold weather!

Year 4 & 5 will be visiting St Alban's Verulamium after the Easter break, supporting their humanities study.

Year 4 entertained their parents presenting many of the topics they have been studying over the last few months. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend but heard it was a full-scale production. Well done Year 4!

Year 5 spent an afternoon in the local parks investigating 'forces'. Learning can take place anywhere!

I organised a 'review' of teaching & learning, pupil outcomes and leadership & management by a team consisting of a lead OFSTED inspector and two other Headteachers from schools in Portsmouth and Swindon. They spent two full days with us, working with us to review and as an outcome identify strengths and development areas. Each aspect was identified as being 'good' with some aspects 'outstanding', particularly the care of our children. It was an incredibly worthwhile exercise and has provided us with 'next step' targets.

We have been very busy interviewing for a number of members of staff including teachers, teaching assistants, nursery nurses, administration and site staff in readiness for September. It was very successful and I am looking forward to welcoming our new members to the team. Later next term we will be notifying parents of their child's teacher for the next academic year and hopefully the children will have an opportunity to meet them before we break up for the summer holidays.

We are very aware that the car park will become congested if most parents drive or pick up from school. Once the road has been built behind the school linking the two sides of the development, families walking over from Willow Lake will not have such a long walk and we are hoping to set up a 'walking bus', using staff from school or nominated parents. It is part of our role as educators to develop in children an awareness of healthy living and exercise. The initiative to encourage the children to walk, scoot or bike to school was decided with parents at the last Parent Panel Meeting. We are very aware that some parents are unable to walk their child to school due to work commitments, the distance they live from the school or health reasons. We have discussed with the children that not all children will be able to walk to school and that is not a problem. Can I urge all parents not to park in areas that either block or restrict residents' access? We have received a number of complaints; this does not reflect well on the school. If you do have to drive to school and want your child to take part, please use the ASDA carpark and walk from there.

I wish you all a happy and relaxing break. Let us hope we will not see any more snow!

Warm regards,

*Pippa Villa*

# Dates for Diaries

*Easter Holiday March 26<sup>th</sup> – April 6<sup>th</sup> incl .*

April 9 <sup>th</sup> 2018	Start of summer term, children return
April 18 <sup>th</sup>	Learn Alongside (KS1 Phonics & KS2 Skills) 8.45 – 9.15am
April 19 <sup>th</sup>	Learn Alongside (KS1 Phonics & KS2 Skills) 8.45 – 9.15am
April 24 <sup>th</sup>	Year 4 & 5 Class Trip
May 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Year 1 Class Trip
May 4 <sup>th</sup>	Year 2 assembly to parents
May 9 <sup>th</sup>	Open Morning 9.00am
May 16 <sup>th</sup>	School Nurse Clinic
May 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Pop-Up Farm visit to Nursery

*Summer Term Half Term May 28<sup>th</sup> – June 4<sup>th</sup> incl.      Holiday Club (Dependent on uptake)*

June 5 <sup>th</sup>	Children return
June 13 <sup>th</sup>	School Photos (class)
June 14 <sup>th</sup>	Year 1 assembly to parents
June 21 <sup>st</sup>	Sports Day ( <b>June 25<sup>th</sup> Reserve Sports Day</b> )
June 27 <sup>th</sup>	Open Morning 9.00am
July 5 <sup>th</sup>	Whole School Trip (tbc)
July 11 <sup>th</sup>	Reception Class Trip
July 18 <sup>th</sup>	Summer Production 6pm
July 19 <sup>th</sup>	Summer Production 2pm
<b>July 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>Start of summer holidays      Holiday Club (Dependent on uptake)</b>



**Newton Leys**

Primary School & Nursery

## **Term Dates 2018-2019**

### **Autumn Term**

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> September – Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> October

*Inset Days Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> September & Friday 26<sup>th</sup> October*

*Half term holiday - Monday 29<sup>th</sup> October – Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> November*

*Holiday Club (Dependent on uptake)*

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> November – Friday 21<sup>st</sup> December

*Holiday - Monday 24<sup>th</sup> December – Friday 4<sup>th</sup> January*

*Holiday Club (Dependent on uptake)*

### **Spring Term**

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February

*Half term holiday - Monday 18<sup>th</sup> February – Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February*

*Holiday Club (Dependent on uptake)*

*Inset Day Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February*

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April

*Holiday - Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April March – Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April*

*Holiday Club (Dependent on uptake)*

### **Summer Term**

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April – Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May

*Half term holiday - Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May*

*Holiday Club (Dependent on uptake)*

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July