



NEWSLETTER 21ST JANUARY 2015

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Dates for your diary

Wednesday 21 st January	7.00pm-8.00pm Curriculum Info Evening
Friday 23 rd January	Inset Day
Friday 30 th January	January Disco 4.45pm-6.00pm
Monday 2 nd February	9.00am PTA AGM
Friday 6 th February	3.00pm PTA Cake Sale
Monday 9 th February	8.45am Sharing Time
Tuesday 10 th February	Parents Evening 3.10pm-6.30pm
Wednesday 11 th February	Parents Evening 3.10pm-5.30pm
Thursday 12 th February	2.15pm Maths Open Session for parents/carers
Friday 13 th February	School finishes at 3.00pm for half term
Monday 23 rd February	Spring 2 begins at 8.45am
Monday 23 rd February	Healthy Schools Day
Thursday 26 th February	9.00am Parent Forum
Mon 2 nd - Fri 6 th March	Literacy Week
Thursday 5 th March	World Book Day
Friday 6 th March	9.00-9.30am Sharing Time
Wednesday 11 th March	Year 2 Trip to Winchester
Friday 13 th March *Date amended*	Comic Relief (more info to follow)
Friday 13 th March	3.00pm PTA Cake Sale
Friday 20 th March	Inset Day
Tuesday 24 th March	9.00am Parent Forum
Thursday 2 nd April	School finishes at 3.00pm for Easter break
Monday 20 th April	Summer term begins at 8.45am

Important things to remember

- Everything your child wears or brings into school must be labelled
- All children require a water bottle in school every day
- PE kits must be in school at all times and include a tracksuit and trainers for outdoors
- Children must be registered with Cool Milk (www.coolmilk.com) in order to receive milk in school, even if they are entitled to it free of charge. This includes children who are entitled to free milk until the term before they turn 5.
- Could you qualify for Pupil Premium? If you are in receipt of certain benefits your child could be entitled to 2 free jumpers/cardigans per year, free milk in school every day, all trips and 1 club per term funded by the school. Apply online at:
<http://www.southampton.gov.uk/learning/schools/schoolmeals/fschm.aspx>

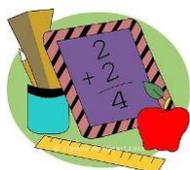
We are planning some exciting curriculum events at the moment so please keep an eye out for information on these and make a note of dates at the top of the newsletter. Don't forget that you can also look at the calendar on the website if you mislay them.

In the week before half term we will be holding Parents Evenings; this is a chance for you to come in and find out how your child / children is doing and we will also give you some targets that you can work on at home. On the Monday of that week there is an opportunity for you to come in and look at your child's learning with them.

Thank you to everyone who returned the slips regarding the Christmas Performance and also for the feedback through the Parent Forum. Please see below for more information about these.

Please could I ask that if you wish to see a teacher about something, that you try to talk to them at the end of the day rather than the beginning. It is important that teachers are in the classrooms and we also need to ensure that once children are in school they stay there and do not slip out unnoticed if a teacher is caught up talking at an open door! The staff in the office are always happy to take messages and pass them on to any teachers concerned.

Maths Open Session for Parents/Carers



We would like to invite parents/carers into school on Thursday 12th February at 2.15pm. This is an opportunity to see the work the children have been doing in measures on their exciting Maths Day and so far this term. Last term the children really enjoyed teaching the parents/carers strategies that they had learnt and showing the exciting work they had done on their Maths Day. We look forward to seeing you again.

Attendance Rewards

On Friday 9th January, we held our Attendance Assembly to reward children with excellent attendance during the Autumn Term. We were really pleased to award the following badges:

61 Gold Badges
31 Silver Badges
27 Bronze Badges
119 in total



The children all received the relevant badge along with a certificate, which they seemed to be very proud of. The names of all of these children are now on the Attendance Board in the school office.

We will ask for the badges to be returned to school just before Easter, in preparation for the Spring term awards during the first week back after the holidays.

We are really proud of the children's achievement and would like to thank the children along with their parents/carers for their continued support.

It is an especially difficult time of year for illnesses. As a reminder, children should not attend school if they have an above normal temperature, or if they are suffering from vomiting or diarrhoea and for 48 hours after their last symptom. Children can still attend if they have a cough or cold, and antibiotics can be administered by the office staff when necessary. Parents will need to drop the medicine off to the office and complete the relevant form for authorisation.

Disco



Thank you to everyone that has offered to help with the disco. The PTA will be in touch with you shortly.

Unfortunately, the tickets for the disco are now sold out.

Date Amendment - Comic Relief

Please note we made an error on the date for Comic Relief. This has now been amended on the 'Dates for your diary' to the correct date of **Friday 13th March**.

Parent Forum Thursday 15th January 2015

Home Learning

- A question was raised about home learning books not having comments in. I have followed this up with all teachers and they say that they will often put a comment on the learning, not in the book. They will make sure that in future there is a comment in the book as well.

Hot Dinner Portions

- Some parents feel that their children are going home hungry as the portions are too small. Having been in at lunchtime and having spoken with Mrs Bateman we don't feel that the portions are too small. Children are allowed to have a piece of bread with their meal and can also ask for extra vegetables. We will remind them that they can do this. If I remember rightly my children used to come home from school starving and I knew what I had put in their lunch boxes! (They did not have hot meals in Dorset then).
- If any parents have any individual concerns about dinners, including jacket potatoes, please can they contact me directly either in person or via e-mail.



Changing Reading Books

- Some parents are saying that children can only change reading books on certain days. Children can change them every day and are reminded to do so. If parents are finding that their children are not changing books then please tell the teacher or feel free to come in with your child after school to change their book. If you are a working parent then please e-mail us via the link on the website, or directly to the office, and we will sort it out for you.



Library Books

- Some parents have asked when children change their library books. I have asked teachers and generally it is as follows:

Foxes and Hedgehogs
Year 1
Year 2

Tuesdays
Mondays

Change their books independently which tends to be on different days as they use guided reading sessions



Attendance Badges

- There have been some comments about children not getting 100% if they have missed a session due to a medical appointment. We quite understand that this is an issue as it is very difficult to get hospital appointments outside of school hours. This is why we have introduced the gold, silver and bronze badges. These will be reviewed each term and they work as follows:

100% attendance for a term	Gold badge
98.5% - 99.9% attendance for a term	Silver badge
97% - 98.4% attendance for a term	Bronze badge

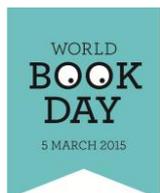
We can replace some badges if they get lost but can't keep doing this!! Some parents are pinning them onto other things than jumpers to help with this.

Curriculum

- There have been some concerns with some weeks being particularly busy e.g. pirate maths / skipathon which all happened in the week before the October half term, and the events leading up to Christmas. When we have long half terms as happens in the Autumn Term, we often put these events together as the children are getting tired and productivity with learning tends to slip. We always carry on with the curriculum, e.g. reading, phonics, maths but may relax the timetable slightly. We have put extra things into the curriculum, e.g. the maths days, to make it more exciting and apply learning. It is also a chance for the children to share their learning with parents.



- We have been asked about dressing up for World Book Day. We have not done this in the last couple of years on World Book Day itself because we did it at other times e.g. the Superheroes. Again, we try and fit things in with the curriculum and don't want parents to have to worry about too many dressing up days. We have put in a Literacy Week during World Book Day week so watch this space!!



Accidents at Playtime

- The policy at school if a child has an accident at playtime is for an adult on duty to have a look and then assess whether the child needs to go to the medical room. Any injury to the head or a nasty cut is dealt with by a first aider and a red slip goes home to alert the parent. Occasionally something may get overlooked, especially if the child has not told an adult. Apparently there was a recent incident where a child was allegedly punched in the head and the parent did not feel that it had been dealt with effectively. If this happens then please can you contact the school as soon as possible so that we can get to the bottom of it and sort it out. It is very difficult to ascertain what has actually occurred if too much time goes by. These sort of issues need to come to our attention immediately rather than through Parent Forum, as should any concern that relates directly to a particular child or member of staff.



Tablets

- I understand that there has been a complaint about children using tablets at Kidz Play and therefore bringing them into school. School policy is not to allow any tablets from home in school so if a child does come in with one then the teacher will take it and look after it. It is up to parents to contact Kidz Play directly if they are unhappy about children having these there as this is outside of school jurisdiction.



As always thank you for bringing matters to our attention and for your positive feedback as well.

Results of Parent Survey - Christmas Performance

65 parents responded to the questionnaire (37%).

Early Years	26	(44%)
Year 1	19	(33%)
Year 2	17	(28%)



Question 1 - Do you agree with an evening performance?

Class	Yes	No	Don't Know
Early Years	69%	23%	3%
Year 1	79%	21%	-
Year 2	71%	29%	-
No class given	67%	33%	-
Total	72%	26%	2%

(percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding)

Question 2 - Did you have any difficulties getting children back for the evening performance?

Class	Yes	No	Don't Know
Early Years	35%	65%	-
Year 1	32%	68%	-
Year 2	24%	77%	-
No class given	33%	67%	-
Total	72%	26%	2%

Comments against:

- 13 parents commented that it was quite late for the children to be coming back to school and that it had affected bedtime routines
- 6 parents said that it made the children tired the next day and / or they had had trouble getting up the next morning
- It clashed with some other out of school activities e.g. Beavers
- Childcare was a problem for siblings who were not allowed to come
- Too much for the children
- Don't feel that an evening one is necessary as parents are given enough time to arrange time off work
- Difficult to manage and balance
- Hard to get my child back to school in the evening

Comments for:

- 17 parents felt that it was a very good idea for working parents some of whom had been able to see the performance who, due to being unable to get time off, would otherwise have missed
- It was not trouble bringing my child back to school
- Well organised and amazing for children and parents
- Well organised in terms of dropping off and collecting
- My child coped very well that evening and the next day at school
- Difficult for families where the partner works shifts / and / or single parent families
- It was too long
- Not easy for a quick turnaround

Quotes:

"We thought it was wonderful! What a lovely idea to have the whole school together. We loved it! Thank you for all of your hard work."



"I was concerned at first but my daughter really enjoyed coming back."

"The children felt they were doing something special and it was great to be able to go outside working hours. Thank you for putting on such a good production."

"Very good show - very impressed."

"We really appreciate how hard the staff and children worked to put on a fantastic performance."

"Excellent performance with excellent songs. We all enjoyed a magic evening. Thank you."

Suggestions:



- Have the performance on a Friday evening
 - I would not expect staff to commit to a Friday evening when they already have many other family commitments at this time of year. They already support the Christmas Fayre which is on a Friday night and the school discos which are often on a Friday
- Start it earlier e.g. 5.30
 - This would be even harder to get the children back to school and is still early for working parents to get to and could therefore defeat the object
- Serve mince pies and hot drinks as the wait was rather long and this would be a fundraiser
 - This is a good idea but who would run it? As many parents have understandably said they have had to juggle the evening to get children back to school it would be unreasonable to expect the PTA to also sort this. Staff are all with the children and we manned the office to ensure that children were safe coming in and out of school
- Children come in later the next day
 - This is an option that we would definitely look at - we would be flexible so that children who need to be in at 8.45 would still have that option

I would also like to draw your attention to a group of parents who live in the same road. They organised a "walking bus" which I know particularly helped those parents with younger siblings. The feedback from these parents was that the children really enjoyed this, were very well behaved and found it a great adventure.

I would also like to respond to the concern that the performance was too long. It was longer than a separate performance for Early Years, had they done their own; this is why they were not in the hall all the way through - the same for Year 1. The Year 1 and 2 performance is routinely nearly as long as this one was. Early Years did do 1 extra performance but not Years 1 and 2. The first performance was the dress rehearsal and they would normally do this to an audience; just not grandparents and siblings.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this - we will take all of your comments into account when planning for this year's performance!

Attendance

W/C	Foxes	Hedgehogs	Squirrels	Rabbits	Badgers	Owls	Overall
05/01/15	97.3%	94.3%	86.6%	92.6%	93.3%	98.7%	93.8%
12/01/15	91.3%	94.8%	83.8%	90.0%	99.0%	96.7%	92.6%