



Spring Newsletter

Friday 10th February 2017

Can you believe that we are halfway through the year already? This has certainly been a half-term of illness, with children and staff suffering from some very nasty illness that have taken some time to go away. The children are to be congratulated for struggling on; the staff are to be congratulated for their flexibility in supporting each other so that valuable lessons have been delivered every session of every day and the children's learning has continued as planned. Hopefully a week at home will clear up all the bugs and we can all start back fit and well on the 20th.

Au revoir

Last Friday we said goodbye to Mr Huddleston as our Chair of Governors. The children sang a specially written goodbye song to him, before past and present staff and governors gathered to wish him well in his new promotion. Despite the fact that his work will be keeping him very busy, he has promised to pop back and see us when he can. Many thanks to those who contributed to his leaving present. He was very pleased to receive £100 worth of National Garden Centre vouchers – I guess he is going to be very busy at home as well as work!

Huge appreciation

I wanted to take this opportunity to say thank you to our Governors. Very often their work is unseen and low profile, but they are invaluable in keeping us on track, offering advice, sharing opinions and making decisions. Their role is entirely voluntary and on average each half term they give up the equivalent of **at least** an hour a week to oversee your child's learning. Our Governors are extremely proactive in their work and they take their responsibilities very seriously, asking questions and attending trainings in order to be the most effective governors they can be. I thank them all.

Busy, busy

We are all busy people, we all forget things and we all occasionally miss information. However, deadlines for forms to be handed into class, or money to be paid, or meals or appointments to be booked are set for a reason. The teachers, and the office and kitchen ladies are as understanding as they can be, but there is an increasing number of parents who ignore deadlines, yet still expect us to provide for them or their children. Every late request or lack of response makes someone's job harder, so please show a little consideration and put deadlines in your diary.

Have you visited our website recently at

www.roydonprimary.co.uk?

Dates for the summer term are on there.

Attendance

This year, the Government has changed the criteria for what they consider to be 'persistent absenteeism'. Since September a child is a persistent absentee if their attendance falls below 90% and, as a school, we have to be accountable for how we are working to improve our whole-school attendance. You need to be aware that, if your child's attendance falls below 90%, I will be contacting you to see if there are any ways we can help you before the Attendance Improvement Officer becomes involved.

What's in a name?

There are many challenges in life, none quite so tricky as trying to match 30 young children with the clothes that belong to them, especially when the clothes are all the same colour and many are unnamed! The only way we can make sure your child is wearing their own clothes after P.E. is if everything is named, including socks and tights. We do understand how tricky that can be.

Building Work

Despite the fact that the latest plans have not yet been submitted for planning permission, some of the preparatory work is underway, with the planned removal of roadside hedges, an audit of our furniture and the completion of the interior design work. As ever, watch this space!

See you back in school on Monday 20th February

HEADLINES

Reasons to celebrate

ForPS News

Many thanks to the ladies for all their efforts so far this term. The Family Bingo Night was a huge success and raised £157 to support the children's learning in school. Disappointingly the Egg Challenge only raised £10, which was a great shame considering the effort Ms Thompson put into organising it. Although the cake sales are now run by the school rather than ForPS, we thank the ladies and other volunteers for helping us make £59.32 for Foxes, Rabbits & Kingfishers. Thanks, ladies, for organising the discos last night as well, and thank you to the volunteers who helped.

Prize Draw

Well done to the final six children for getting into the prize draw this morning: Riley Be., Bethanne, Lewis, Kaitlyn, Ty and Zak.

And the winners are ...

Preston H., Lucas M., Luke S., Oslo, Riley Be. and Ty who will enjoy lunch and a private animal handling session at Swallow Aquatics at the beginning of next half term.

After-school Clubs

We are enjoying a partnership with the Heywood Fitness Centre who provide after-school activities for children and staff. Ms Thompson continues to host Art Club twice a week, and thanks to Miss Stannard and Mr Santy, netball & football start again after half term.

Sporting Achievements

Well done to Jack, Grace, Darcie, James, Lacey and Oslo who represented our Cluster of schools so well in the swimming gala at UEA, and to Grace, Jack and Lacey who are through to the next round.

Our football teams played Bressingham, with their B Team narrowly beating us 1-0, while our A Team thrashed theirs 8-0! All our Year 1 children took part in the Cluster Dance Festival, and our cross-country runners, Grace, Igor, Eleanor and Oslo, are running as fast as they can today!

From Mrs Clarke ...

... who would like to say thank you in particular to the junior children who behaved so beautifully at the disco last night. It made for a fun evening with a great atmosphere.

They've done it again!

Our fabulous kitchen have worked their socks off this week to make delicious lunches for an extra 100 people for Families' Lunch Week. We do hope parents enjoyed their visit because we are very proud of the high quality meals that we provide. If you would like to leave feedback on our Facebook page, please feel free to do so.

Local Area

Our Infant children have all been out and about this half term. The Hedgehogs and Woodpeckers have been to investigate the village pond, and Year 1 have been learning how to keep themselves safe on the pavement and when crossing the road. Look out for our posters raising awareness of community issues.

What do you know?

There has been some really exciting learning going on over the last few weeks. The lower juniors have been all the way to Colchester to learn about rainforests, while our youngest children have visited India and Asia (but were always back by hometime!). The Badgers & Squirrels have been learning how to defend Roydon Castle and be our knights in shining armour, while the upper juniors have been defending us from aliens. All in a day's work! I think we all deserve a holiday.



Dates for your Dairy

February

Monday 20 th	Reception height & weight check Canon Billett in for Walk & Talk
Tuesday 21 st	3.30pm – 7.00pm Parents' evening
Thursday 23 rd	Parents' evening 3.30pm – 5.30pm
Friday 24 th	Squirrels & Badgers cake sale
Tuesday 28 th	Cluster Quicksticks festival for Kingfishers @ DHS

March

Tuesday 2 nd	World Book Day Swimming Gala for 4 Junior children 6.30pm FoRPS meeting
Monday 6 th	3.00pm Governors' Personnel Committee meeting
Thursday 9 th	Julie Sparshott (Attendance Improvement Officer) visiting 4.15pm Governors' School Effectiveness Committee meeting
Friday 10 th	Class photos Woodpeckers & Hedgehogs cake sale
Monday 13 th	Canon Billett in for Walk & Talk Cluster Tag Rugby for Years 3 & 4 @ DHS
Thursday 16 th	4.15pm Governors' School Resources meeting 6.30pm SATs meeting for Year 6 parents
Monday 20 th	M & M Production – 'The Lion, Witch and Wardrobe'
Friday 24 th	3.20pm Mother's Day sale 4.15pm Full Governors' meeting
Monday 27 th	Canon Billett in for Walk & Talk
Tuesday 28 th	Reception vision & hearing check Netball & Football Festival for Years 5 & 6 @ DHS
Wednesday 29 th	Reception vision & hearing check
Thursday 30 th	3.20pm Easter Fair Easter Lunch Special FoRPS' Discos
Friday 31 st	Last day of term

April

Tuesday 18 th	Children return to school LA inform new YR parents of school place allocation
Monday 24 th	Canon Billett in for Walk & Talk
Thursday 27 th	All Juniors visiting Theatre Royal, Norwich to see Running Wild