



Here we are at the end of 2017 already, looking forward to the holidays and the New Year. It has been a lovely term with many trips, activities and assemblies. The children continue to delight us and amaze us with their fantastic attitudes and achievements.

End of term events

Our annual carol concerts will be held on Wednesday 20th December in the Saxby Hall. The first concert will be at 9.00 am for F2, Year 2, Year 4 and Year 5. The second will be at 10.10 am for Year 1, Year 3 and Year 6. F2 children will sing their favourite song from their Nativity. The other children will sing Christmas songs and carols that they have learned in class. We are also hoping the guitar club children will perform as well as the school choir. As this is the last day of term, it will be a non-uniform day and any children who want to can wear Christmas jumpers.

Christmas parties for children will take place on Monday 18th for F1, F2, Year 1 and Year 2 and Tuesday 19th for Year 3 and 4. Year 5 and 6 will be going to the cinema on Tuesday 19th December.

Curriculum Enhancements

There have been many extra activities for the children to help deepen their understanding of different curriculum areas. Year 6 had a fantastic day at Bosworth Battlefield learning about Richard III and the Leicester connection. Year 5 are taking part in 'My Best Book' and are in the process of reading and choosing their favourites. All the children have been to the cinema to see various films. Year 3 and 4 had a brilliant time at De Montfort Hall when they saw Orchestra Unwrapped. They really enjoyed joining in. Year 3 loved the dinosaurs and fossils at New Walk Museum. The Eco Schools group went to a conference at Moat where they took part in various workshops based on the Eco Schools theme. The school choir are very excited about performing at De Montfort Hall at the Lord Mayor's concert. Rehearsals are going very well.

Sport at Sparkenhoe

It has been an active term so far. The Year 5 and 6 football team have played matches at Judgemeanow every fortnight. They had some success and will play in Division 2 next term. All the children who played have showed commitment and perseverance as well as a fantastic team spirit. The Year 2 football team have had a good start to the season, winning two out of three matches so far. League tables can be found on the Uplands Infants website.

Foundation 2 are really enjoying their weekly Kimbles sessions. Year 2 had a great time at the dodgeball tournament at Moat and Year 6 competed very well at the Indoor Athletics event at Crown Hills. All the children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 took part in tennis taster sessions where they had the chance to try new skills. A group of Year 5 and 6 children played in a netball tournament where they won four out of five matches and just missed out on the finals.

Fundraising

Thank you to everyone for your continued support with fundraising for charity this term. Following the successful Macmillan coffee morning and harvest appeal earlier in the year, we raised about £300 for the poppy appeal and for Children In Need the final total was £710. Thank you for your continued generosity.

Health and fitness

This year we are aiming to introduce more health and fitness days where we will focus on the importance of keeping fit, exercise and healthy eating. Some classes have started doing extra weekly activities to improve general fitness. We are also focusing on healthy packed lunches and are hoping to offer advice sessions for parents and healthy cooking clubs for parents and children later in the year.

All parents should have had a leaflet about allergies recently. We do have children in school who have severe allergies to nuts and some fruits. It is really important that no nuts or food containing nuts are part of packed lunches. This includes packed lunches provided when children go on trips. It is also really important that any sweets or chocolates that are sent in for birthdays do not contain nuts. We know it is important for children to celebrate their birthday with their friends but would like to encourage parents to only send in small treats for the children. Other nice ideas are small stationary items.

Uniform Reminder

Just a quick reminder that children should not wear **red, grey or black** tops. Sweatshirts or cardigans can be bought from school or from other sources as long as they are the school colour. Children should wear black or grey school trousers (not jogging bottoms), skirts or pinafore dresses. There are still some children who do not yet have plain footwear. Plain, dark trainer style shoes are widely available and are acceptable but trainers with stripes, logos and other colours are not. It is also important that footwear is sensible and suitable for outdoor play as well as everyday wear. If headscarves are worn they must be short, one-piece white, black or maroon and plain with no patterns or sparkles. For PE, children must have trainers (any colour) or plimsolls and will not be able to take part in these activities if they do not. Navy PE kit is available from school but can also be bought in local shops. Please make sure all uniform and PE kit items are named.

Assemblies and Performances

The Year 6 Remembrance assemblies in November were very moving. The children showed great maturity, respect and understanding while performing. This week we have seen F2 perform their Nativity assemblies which were absolutely wonderful. The children were so confident and I know there were many very proud parents in the audience.

Workshops for parents

This term, we have held a maths workshop to share ideas about helping at home and to show parents how we teach maths in school. We are aiming to hold a more in depth workshop for Year 1 parents in the spring term and hope to invite parents in to watch some lessons later in the year. The handwriting sessions in Year 1 and 2 have been very successful and will continue in Year 1 in the spring term. The F2 reading workshop offered an introduction into early reading and how to help at home. Curriculum days and other activities are planned for parents of KS2 children in the spring and summer terms.

Illegal parking

There are still cars parked illegally on Sparkenhoe Street at the beginning and end of the school day. There are also cars causing obstructions on Severn Street in the morning. We would like to remind parents that it is illegal to park on zig zag white lines, yellow lines or half on the pavement. It is dangerous to other road users and pedestrians. Thank you for your support in these matters.

Milk

Parents who pay for school milk should have had a letter to order milk for the spring term. If you have not had this, please speak to your child's teacher or contact the school office. Orders will be taken up to Monday 18th December and payment needs to be made by Friday 19th January.

Bad weather

Now the weather is getting colder, it is important that all children have a suitable coat and shoes to wear outside. We have been very lucky so far this winter but if it does get icy, it is important that children are careful walking on the pavements. The school would only close if the weather was very bad and if it was dangerous for staff and children to get to school. If this was the case, there would be information and updates on the school website and BBC Radio Leicester. We would also send a text message to parents.

Dates for the diary

Autumn Term

Wednesday 13 th December	Year 6 Warning Zone trip	
Monday 18 th December	Christmas Party: F1R, Year 1, Year 2	Morning
Monday 18 th December	Christmas Party: F1O, F2	Afternoon
Tuesday 19 th December	Christmas Party: Year 3 and 4	Afternoon
Tuesday 19 th December	Pantomime in the Ark: FS, Year 1 and 2	Morning
Tuesday 19 th December	Year 5 and 6 cinema trip	
Wednesday 20 th December	Carol concert: F2, Years 2, 4 and 5	9.00 am Saxby Hall Parents welcome
Wednesday 20 th December	Carol concert: Years 1, 3 and 6	10.10 am Saxby Hall Parents welcome
Wednesday 20 th December	School closes for the Christmas holiday	

Spring Term

Tuesday 9 th January	School opens	
Monday 22 nd January	Sports in schools activities	Activities in school
Wednesday 24 th January	Kingswood 4 day residential	Year 4, 5 and 6 children
Thursday 25 th January	Basketball tournament: Year 5 and 6	
Friday 2 nd February	Swimming gala: Year 5 and 6	
Monday 5 th February	Height and weight checks: F2 and Year 6	
Friday 9 th February	School closes for half term	
Monday 19 th February	School opens	
Week beginning 19 th February	Chinese new activities in school	
Wednesday 28 th February	School Photo Day	
Tuesday 13 th March	Parents' Evening 1	
Thursday 15 th March	Hockey tournament: Years 3 and 4	
Week beginning 19 th March	Year 4 Easter assemblies and activities	
Thursday 22 nd March	Parents' Evening 2	
Friday 23 rd March	School closes for the Easter holiday	

All dates and times for festival assemblies will be sent out nearer the time. Have a lovely Christmas holiday.

We welcome your views and thoughts and are always around if you need to talk to us. If you would like to raise an issue or ask a question to a member of our Governing Body, please email govs@sparkenhoe.leicester.sch.uk. As always, you can make an appointment if you need to speak to a member of staff in private.

Rhian Jones Headteacher