



## NEWSLETTER - OCTOBER 2017

'Together we can..'



It is nearly half term already! The weeks seem to be flying by. All the children have had a brilliant start to the new school year. The new starters in F1 and F2 have settled in really well as have the new children we have welcomed into other year groups.

### Events

The School values performance was fantastic, with a lovely mixture of dancing and singing with themes linked to our ten school values. Thank you to the many parents who came to watch. I'm sure you enjoyed it as much as we did.

Year 2 went to New Walk museum as part of their Still Life topic. All the children have taken part in internet safety and harvest activities in their classrooms. Year 5 have been to the Curve to watch Little Leaps Forward which was an experience they thoroughly enjoyed. Year 3 had a very productive morning at Pizza Express learning about food technology. Year 4 went to the Mandir as part of their Diwali topic. They have been working hard to prepare for their assemblies this week. Children from Fleckney Primary School will be joining us on Tuesday to watch the assembly and take part in other activities with Year 4.

### Residential Visits

This year, there will be two residential visits: Kingswood in January and camping in May. Year 3 loved the overnight camp in school at the end of September. They were very excited about staying away from home and sleeping in tents in the hall. There will be an overnight school camp for Year 2 in the summer term.

### Curriculum

Thank you to everyone who attended the meetings for parents at the beginning of term. We hope these were useful and informative. For any parents who could not attend, the teachers shared information about the topics each year will be covering throughout the year and details about what children will be learning in each subject this half term. This information is available on the school website but if you would like a copy, please speak to your child's teacher.

Year 1 and 2 are currently holding handwriting workshops for parents every Tuesday so parents can see how handwriting is taught in school. We are aiming for all year groups to hold at least one workshop for parents during this school year.

### Charity

Thank you to all our families for your generous contributions to our fundraising efforts for the Macmillan coffee morning. We raised a massive £629 for a very worthwhile charity and enjoyed lots of cakes at the same time. All the cakes were made by three of our members of staff Mrs Khalid, Mrs Patel and Mrs Bond. Their efforts were magnificent and incredibly tasty too. Thank you to them and all the staff for help with decorating cakes and for donations of ingredients.

Our next fundraising event will be Children In Need on November 17<sup>th</sup>.

### School Meals

All children in Years 1 and 2 and foundation are able to have a free dinner in school as part of the government scheme. Milk is not included in this, so if children in Years 1 and 2 want to have milk then this needs to be paid for at the office, unless they have a free school meals voucher. Children under 5 do not pay for milk.

The office needs a weeks' notice for children to change to school dinners from packed lunch OR to packed lunch from school dinners. If you wish to change, please let the office know in writing. We do have forms available for this. We have had a few problems lately with children changing from dinner to packed lunch without letting the school office know. If school is not told about a change then dinner money will still be charged and have to be paid. Please, please let the office know if your child changes to a packed lunch.

For children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 who do not have a free school meal voucher, dinner money is £1.75 per day - £8.75 per week.

Please try to come to the office with the correct money or put it in an envelope in the dinner money box. Money put in an envelope does not need to be exact. Change will be sent home with your child or taken off future payments. Remember, dinner money can be paid for online. If you have not registered for an account and would like to, please contact the school office.

Unfortunately, we do have some parents who have not kept up to date with payments this half term. Please make sure dinner money is paid in advance and regularly. After half term, if more than two weeks dinner money is owed, we will ask that your child brings a packed lunch instead.

Dinner money can be paid between 8.30 am and 3.00 pm on Mondays and Tuesdays.

Milk costs 20p a day but now needs to be paid for termly and ordered for the term in advance. We will be sending out a letter and form later in the Autumn term to order milk for the Spring term.

### Uniform

The children all look very smart in their Sparkenhoe uniforms. The children should not wear red, grey or black tops but tops can be bought from other sources as long as they are the school colour. 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.

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.

### School Values

You may have heard your child talking about our school values. These are displayed around school and are on the school website. This year we are encouraging the children to really understand what these mean through assemblies and class activities. We will be sending values postcards home this year for children who behave in a way that demonstrates one of our values. Who will collect all 10 postcards for the mystery prize?

### Safety reminders

While we love families to stay after school to play, please remember that you must supervise your children at all times.

As you probably know, there is no crossing patrol person in the morning or after school. If your children go home on their own, please talk to them about the importance of using the crossing and waiting for the green man before crossing. There are some older children (and unfortunately quite a lot of parents still!) who do not always use the crossing. This is dangerous on such a busy road.

There are still cars parked illegally on Sparkenhoe Street at the end of the school day. We would like to remind parents that it is not appropriate to park on yellow lines or half on the pavement. It causes an obstruction to other road users and pedestrians and you could be given a fixed penalty notice. Thank you for your support in these matters.

### Healthy Living

We will be having several Healthy Living days throughout the year, each focusing on a different aspect of keeping well. Remember to talk to your children about the events afterwards, you never know, you might learn something too! We also ask that children bring in healthy snacks for break (no crisps, chocolate, sweets or biscuits please) and try to have a healthy packed lunch. Mrs Adam will be working hard organising some exciting clubs and workshops to help us all be a little healthier and may be giving some special rewards out to children who have made an extra effort too! We will be limiting our cake sales to twice a year and trying hard to come up with some interesting healthier snacks for other events.

### Sport

All the clubs have been underway for a while and the early signs are that we are heading for another very successful year with our teams. The year 2 football club are making excellent progress under the watchful eyes of Mr Cheetham and Miss Jones. Their matches start on November 6<sup>th</sup>. The Year 3 and 4 team are training hard for the start of their league in the Spring. Year 4, 5 and 6 have held their trials and Mr Currie and Mr Story have been very impressed with the efforts of the players.

Unfortunately, they had a tricky start in their league matches, a bit like Leicester City! I'm sure they will learn from the experience and work together to improve. For the first time we have a netball club, run by Miss Lad. They are looking forward to taking part in a tournament soon and some children will also be competing at athletics. The multi-sports club is well attended and the children are working hard.

### Parents' Evenings

The recent parents' evenings were a great success, particularly with the new online booking system which allowed parents to choose a convenient appointment time. We would welcome your feedback about this as we want to make sure that we choose a system that works for everyone. If you were not able to see your child's teacher, they will be more than happy to make an appointment for you after the holiday.

### Eco Schools

We were thrilled to achieve the Eco Schools Green Flag award at the end of the summer term. The Eco group planned actions to help us live greener lives in school. We thank our Chair of Governors, Lee Jowett, for his help with the group.

Dates for the diary

Dates	Activity	Extra information
Week beginning 9 <sup>th</sup> October	Diwali activities in class	
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 4 Diwali assemblies: 10.00 am or 1.30 pm	Parents will be invited
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> October	Flu inoculation day	
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> October	School closes for half term	
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October	School opens after the half term holiday	
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October	Year 6 trip to Bosworth Battlefield	
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> October	Athletics at Crown Hills: 30 Year 5/6 children	During school time
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> November	Year 3 and 4 visit to De Montfort Hall - Orchestra Unwrapped	During school time
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> November	Cinema trip - Year 3	
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> November	Cinema trip - Year 5	
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 6 Remembrance assemblies and activities	Parents will be invited
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> November	Netball tournament - 10 Year 5/6 children	12.00 - 3.30 pm
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> November	Cinema trip - F2 and Year 6	
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> November	Cinema trip - Year 4	
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> November	Cinema trip - Year 1	
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> November	Children in Need day	Fundraising event
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> November	Cinema trip - Year 2	
Week beginning 4 <sup>th</sup> December	F2 Nativity assemblies	Parents will be invited
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 6 at Sue Townsend theatre: Knife Crime drama	1.30 - 3.30 pm
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> December	Choir performing at De Montfort Hall	Evening event
Week beginning 11 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas parties/treats activities for children	
Week beginning 18 <sup>th</sup> December	School carol concerts	Parents will be invited
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	School closes at 3.00 pm for the Christmas holiday	
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> January 2018	School opens for the Spring term.	

All dates and times for festival assemblies will be sent out nearer the time.

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](mailto:govs@sparkenhoe.leicester.sch.uk) or the Chair of Governors, Lee Jowett, via the school office. As always, you can make an appointment if you need to speak to a member of staff in private.

Enjoy the half term break. We look forward to seeing everyone on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> October.

Rhian Jones Headteacher