



SPARKENHOE COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

## NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 2016

'Together we can...'



Here we are at the end of 2016 already, looking forward to the holidays and the New Year. It has been a very successful term with many outings, assemblies, performances, events for parents and sporting events. The children continue to make outstanding progress and are all working hard in their lessons. All the new children have settled in really well. As a school we continue to go from strength to strength but are always looking for ways to improve further.

### Online payments

We are delighted to tell you that we can now take payments for dinners, milk, trips, before and after care and uniforms online. You should receive a letter explaining what you need to do to register for paying online. Please come and talk to us if you have any problems registering for online payments. We now also have a card payment machine in our Saxby office which you can now use to pay for any monies to school. We hope this will make life easier for all of us! We will continue to accept cash payments for parents who prefer this.

### Curriculum Enhancements

It's been another busy term with plenty of visits and workshops to enhance the curriculum. All children have been to the cinema to see various films. Foundation 2 went to Brocks Hill where they made dens and explored the area and have visited St. Peter's Church this week to make Christingles. Year 2 also went to Brocks Hill as part of their topic work on explorers. Year 3 and 4 had a fantastic time at De Montfort Hall when they saw Orchestra Unwrapped and Year 4 also enjoyed their visit to the temple as part of their Diwali topic. Year 6 visited the National Arboretum when they were learning about World War I and watched a brilliant play. Year 5 are taking part in 'My Best Book' and are in the process of reading and choosing their favourites.

### 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. Foundation 2 have been taking part in weekly Kimbles sessions which they have really enjoyed. Year 2 had a great time at the dodgeball tournament at Moat and Year 5 competed very well at the Indoor Athletics event at Crown Hills. All the children in Years 3, 4 and 5 took part in Olympic taster sessions where they learnt how to fence. Thirty Year 5 children visited the Leicester Tigers Stadium where they had a tour and took part in healthy living activities and sports sessions. Next term there will be further activities at Moat Community College and opportunities for the older children to take part in swimming galas and cross country competitions.

### Fundraising

Thank you to everyone for your continued support with fundraising for charity this term. We raised £650 for Macmillan with the coffee morning and cake sale in September and your very generous donations for Harvest were delivered to Open Hands where they were gratefully received. The annual poppy appeal raised £308.53 and for Children In Need the final total was a massive £1416.10. Thank you for your continued generosity.

### **Assemblies and Performances**

We have seen some wonderful assemblies and performances this term. The Year 4 Diwali Assembly was stunning; with beautiful costumes, fantastic singing and enthusiastic acting. Year 6 performed a very moving Remembrance Assembly showing sensitivity and maturity. The acting and recitations of poems was brilliant. In October, we held our 'Quintessentially British' whole school performance which was very well attended and enjoyed by all. It was a lovely morning. The F2 Nativity was amazing as usual. The children were so confident and really enjoyed taking part. Our Chair of Governors, Lee Jowett, also delivered assemblies to all children from Years 1 to 6 about Eco-Schools and he will be returning in the Spring to work with groups of children.

### **Residential visits**

It's not long until Kingswood now! The children going are starting to get really excited. The Year 3 children loved their one night camp in school in October. The tents looked hilarious in the hall and the children enjoyed every minute of the experience, especially the night walk around the corridors! Preparations are continuing for the France residential in March and this year, ten children from Shenton Primary will be joining us for the experience. The camping residential has been booked for May and details will be sent out nearer the time.

### **Dinner and milk payments**

Just a reminder that milk needs to be paid for on a termly basis. The cost for milk next term (from January 3<sup>rd</sup> until Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April) is £10.71 and for the Summer Term is £9.18.

School dinner costs £1.75 a day - £8.75 a week. School dinner must be paid in advance and we hope this will now be easier for many parents with the online and card payment systems.

If you want to change your child from packed lunches to school dinner, the office needs 2 weeks' notice. We have forms available for this in the Saxby office or you can request this change by emailing the school office.

If you think you may be entitled to free school meals, please collect a form from the office where the staff will be able to advise you.

### **Attendance and Punctuality**

Over this term, the number of children recorded as late has increased. School opens at 8:30 and registers are taken at 8:45. Any child who arrives after 8:45 will be marked as late. Arriving late also means that your child misses out on valuable morning activities and opportunities. Children who arrive after 9:15 are marked as absent for the morning session. Please ensure that your children arrive on time every morning so that they start the day in a relaxed manner.

### **Maths at Sparkenhoe**

The Year 1 maths workshop was very successful and gave parents the chance to see the equipment and textbooks that the children use in class. Mr Marsh, our maths coordinator, also explained why we use the Singapore approach to maths and how parents can help at home.

There are Parent Videos available to view on the website and we will be offering further parent workshops in the Spring and Summer Terms for parents with children in other year groups.

### **Parents Views**

Thank you to everyone who returned the parent survey. We have had many responses and these are now being analysed. We will let you know the results of the survey in the Spring Term. If any parents have not returned the survey, please could you do so at the start of next term.

### Keeping Safe

This term, Year 6 children have taken part in Bikeability sessions where they learnt how to ride safely on the roads. They also spent a day at the Warning Zone where they took part in different activities such as keeping safe online, personal safety, anti-social behaviour, fire risks and criminal responsibility. Year 2 took part in road safety awareness walks around the local area and learnt how to use pedestrian crossing safely. Year 4 have taken part in 'Travel Detective' activities to learn about the importance of wearing seatbelts, good parking habits and speed limits on the roads.

In February, we will be holding e-safety assemblies for children and parents which will focus on staying safe online.

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 lately!) who still 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.

### 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.

### Hunstanton

We are hoping to organise a whole school trip to Hunstanton on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June for parents, carers and children. Look out for a letter with full details after the holiday and return it to school if you are interested.

### Governors

We are still hoping to recruit more associate members. If any parents would like to find out more about what this involves, please email our Chair, Lee Jowett, at [govs@sparkenhoe.leicester.sch.uk](mailto:govs@sparkenhoe.leicester.sch.uk) or pop into the office for a chat and I will forward your details to Mr Jowett.

## Dates for the diary

### Spring Term

Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> January 2017	Start of Spring Term. School opens.	
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> January	Cross Country Event	Years 5 and 6
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> January	Fire safety sessions	Years 1 and 5
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> January	Chinese New Year activities	Activities in school
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> January	Kingswood residential	Return Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup> February
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February	Swimming festival	Years 5 and 6
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February	E-safety assembly	For parents
Week beginning 6 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 2 Creation assemblies	Parents will be invited
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> February	Maths workshop for Year 2 parents	
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> February	School closes for half term	
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> February	School opens	
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February	Author visiting school - Saxby	
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February	Author visiting school - Gopsall	
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> February	Maths workshop for Years 5 and 6 parents	
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> February	Pancake Day activities	
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> March	School photo day	
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	France residential	Return Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> March
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March	Parents Evening	
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	Maths workshop for Years 3 and 4 parents	
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	Parents Evening	
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> March	Hockey Tournament	Years 5 and 6
Week beginning 3 <sup>rd</sup> April	Year 3 Easter assemblies	Parents will be invited
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> April	Easter activities in class	
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> April	School closes for the Easter holiday	

### Summer Term

Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> April	School opens	
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> April	Vaisakhi activities in class	
Week beginning 1 <sup>st</sup> May	Year 1 Vaisakhi assemblies	Parents will be invited
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May	Holocaust remembrance activities	
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 6 SATs start	
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> May	Girls' cricket tournament	Years 5 and 6
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> May	Boys' cricket tournament	Years 5 and 6
Week beginning 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	Year 5 Islamic assemblies	Parents will be invited
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> May	Camping residential	Return Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> May
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> May	School closes for half term	
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> June	School opens	
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> June	Athletics event at Saffron Lane	Years 4, 5 and 6
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> June	Eid activities in class	
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> June	Hunstanton whole school trip	
Week beginning 3 <sup>rd</sup> July	Healthy living Week; sports days	
Tuesday July 4 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 transition day	
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6 Shakespeare performance	
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> July	School closes for the summer 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](mailto: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*