



SPARKENHOE COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER - OCTOBER 2016

'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. We have over twenty new Year 5 children so far who are getting on really well in their new classes.

Events

The 'Quintessentially British' performance was fantastic, with a lovely mixture of dancing and singing with themes such as the British weather, drinking tea and education. Thank you to the many parents who came to watch. I'm sure you enjoyed it as much as we did.

This term Year 6 have completed Bikeability sessions and have learnt how to ride safely on the roads. Year 2 went to Brocks Hill where they made dens and completed trails as part of their literacy unit. All the children have taken part in internet safety, diversity and harvest activities in their classrooms. The Year 4 Diwali assemblies this week were wonderful with fantastic costumes and the story of Rama and Sita told through song, dance and rhyme. Well done Year 4.

Residential Visits

This year, there will be the usual three residential visits: Kingswood in January, France in March and camping in May. Letters for the France trip have already been sent out. If anyone else is interested, please return letters by Friday 28th October. We will not be offering the France residential in 2018 as it is getting difficult to fill all the places. We hope to continue with this residential but on a two yearly cycle.

At the end of October, we are also having an overnight camp in school for children in Year 3 as a taster to experience staying away from home. This is already full and the children are really excited.

Homework

Homework at Sparkenhoe for all children is daily reading, spelling practice, maths basic skills and half termly topic projects. Children complete Reading Miles cards and learn basic maths skills. The classes compete against each other to see who completes the most cards. Teachers sometimes send other tasks home for practice and as part of topic work. The homework projects completed last year were amazing and we've have some spectacular projects already this term, including a life size model of the human body, a rangoli pattern of the Sparkenhoe logo and a handwritten and illustrated book about explorers. Keep an eye out for displays of some of the children's work in the foyer.

Charity

Thank you to all our families for your generous contributions to our fundraising efforts for the Macmillan coffee morning. We raised a massive £650 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 18th.

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 2 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 us know if your child changes to a packed lunch.**

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

Milk costs 17p a day but now needs to be paid for termly. Costs are:

From October 24th: £6.80

Spring Term: £10.71

Summer Term: £9.18

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.

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 2.45 pm from Monday to Thursday and on Friday mornings. We cannot take dinner money on Friday afternoons.

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.

Road Safety

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 lately!) 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

Dates for the diary

| Dates | Activity | Extra information |
|--|---|--------------------------|
| Monday 24 th October | School opens after the half term holiday | |
| Wednesday 26 th October | Diwali activities in class | |
| Thursday 27 th October | Concert music workshop | Years 3, 4 and 5 |
| Thursday 27 th October | Year 6 visiting the National Arboretum | |
| Thursday 27 th October | Year 5 Indoor athletics event | During school time |
| Thursday 27 th October | Parents' evening 2 | Please book appointments |
| Friday 28 th October | 30 Year 2 children at dodgeball tournament | During school time |
| Tuesday 1 st November | Year 6 to WW1 play | During school time |
| Wednesday 2 nd November | My Best Book in Year 5 | |
| Thursday 3 rd November | Year 4 visiting the Hindu temple | |
| Friday 11 th November | Year 6 Remembrance assemblies and activities | Parents will be invited |
| Friday 11 th November | Cinema trip - 2 Year 5 classes | |
| Monday 14 th November | Cinema trip - Year 1 | |
| Tuesday 15 th November | Year 6 visit to the Warning Zone | |
| Tuesday 15 th November | Cinema trip - Year 4 | |
| Wednesday 16 th November | Ant bullying events and activities | |
| Friday 18 th November | Children in Need day | Fundraising event |
| Friday 18 th November | Cinema trip - F2 | |
| Monday 21 st November | Cinema trip - Year 3 | |
| Tuesday 22 nd November | Cinema trip - Year 2 | |
| Thursday 24 th November | Cinema trip - Year 6 and one Year 5 class | |
| Monday 28 th November | Maths Workshop for Year 1 parents | After school event |
| Wednesday 30 th November | Year 3 and 4 to Orchestra Unwrapped | |
| Thursday 1 st December | Choir performing at De Montfort Hall | Evening event |
| Week beginning 5 th December | F2 Nativity assemblies | Parents will be invited |
| Monday 5 th December | Maths workshop for Year 2 parents | After school event |
| Week beginning 12 th December | Christmas parties/treats for children | |
| Monday 12 th December | Choir performing at New Walk museum | |
| Friday 16 th December | School closes at the end of the day for the Christmas holiday | |

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 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 24th October.

Rhian Jones Acting Headteacher