



SPARKENHOE COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER - February 2020

'Together we can..'



Dear Parents/Carers

The new term has started really well and it's nearly half term already. The children continue to delight us and amaze us with their fantastic attitudes and achievements. We have had many visitors in school over the last few weeks and all have commented on how well behaved and motivated the children are.

#### Hunstanton

We have had a lot of interest in the Hunstanton summer trip. This will definitely be going ahead on FRIDAY 5<sup>th</sup> JUNE. There will be another letter coming out after the half term holiday which will be to confirm booking of places. Any parents who didn't return the expression of interest will still be able to book places. Look out for the next letter!

#### Relationships and Health Education (RHE)

In March we will be having meetings with parents, carers, staff, and governors to share information about the new Relationship, Health, Sex and Relationships (RHE) compulsory curriculum which comes into place next year.

We will share what we currently teach in school, any changes that we plan to make to our PHSE curriculum and resources we may use. We currently already teach almost all of the content of this RHE curriculum through our current Personal, Health and Social Education (PHSE) curriculum and through our values and assemblies. We will also share any changes planned to the PSHE curriculum for next year to ensure that we cover all of the RHE statutory guidance and will clarify where specific topics will be specifically taught in school.

Primary schools in the Highfields area have worked together to make sure that we are teaching the new curriculum in a consistent way for all of our pupils. Schools will be holding meetings with parents, carers, staff and governors to explain what we are planning for our curriculum.

We have planned the meetings to be about specific year groups, but if you have several children in school and only want to come to one of the meetings we can make sure that you get the information relevant to all of your children at any of the meetings.

All of the meetings will be in the Saxby Hall. We will have staff on hand to translate where possible. The dates of the meetings are:

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March at 3.00 pm for parents of children in Foundation Stage

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March at 3.00 pm for parents of children in Years 1 and 2

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March at 3.00 pm for parents of children in Years 3 and 4

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March at 3.00 pm for parents of children in Years 5 and 6

There will be an additional meeting on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March at 9.00 am for any parents/carers who cannot attend the other meetings.

If there are any parents/carers who cannot come to any of the meetings but would like the information, please feel free to book an appointment with Mrs Cooper or Miss Jones. We are flexible with times so this can be at a time convenient for you.

### School Success

We were delighted to read in the *Good Schools Guide* in the *Leicester Mercury* that we were the top performing school in Leicestershire last year. The guide also ranked our school as 67<sup>th</sup> in the whole of England (14 000 schools). This puts us in the top 1% of schools nationally and really is a remarkable achievement. Without your continued support this would not be possible. We are very proud of all of our children, staff and our school community. We also had a lovely letter of congratulations from John Ashworth, our local MP. This has been sent out by ParentPay.

### This term

There have been lots of things going on this half term: most year groups have been on trips including visits around our local area; we have competed in swimming, football, dodgeball and boccia events; Years 3 and 5 have been cooking and Year 1 have performed a wonderful assembly all about Leicester's own Thomas Cook! Around the school you might have noticed new displays going up showcasing children's work and we have some interesting developments in the playground and hall coming up.

### Charity

After the half term holiday we will be taking part in a charity campaign called 'Give up Clothes for Good'. This will be supporting Cancer Research UK with money raised going on research and treatment for childhood cancers. We will be collecting donations of unwanted, clean clothing in school to support this. If anyone has unwanted, clean clothing then it can be brought to your child's classroom in a bag after the half term holiday.

### F1 Admissions

We are currently registering children to start in the Nursery in September 2020. This is for children who have their 3rd birthday between 1st September 2019 and 31st August 2020. We will start to allocate places after 15th March so if you would like your child to have a morning or afternoon place, please contact the school office to make an appointment. Applications after this date will still be considered if there are places left.

We are also looking into the possibility of offering some 30 hour places for September 2020. The 30 hours is free for parents who work for at least 16 hours a week.

### Spelling

You may have noticed we have made some changes to the spelling homework recently. Instead of sending lists of spellings to learn, we are now sending spelling patterns and rules. We want the children to try to find words that fit with these patterns and rules and share these with their teacher. We hope this will help the children to explore and apply these patterns and rules in their writing. If you have any questions, please talk to your child's teacher at parents' evening.

These are some of the activities, outings and events that are taking place soon. Some of these are activities your child will be involved in at school and others are events which parents are invited to attend.

Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> February	Parents' Evening	
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	Year 6 WOW Day	Parents will be invited
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	Year 5 WOW day	Parents will be invited
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	Orchestra Unwrapped music workshop	30 children in school time
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	Parents' Evening	
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day - dressing up	In school time
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> March	F1 Robins Performance - morning	Parents will be invited
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> March	F1 Owls Performance - afternoon	Parents will be invited
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> March	Sports Relief Day	
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> March	Fire safety talk for Years 1 and 5	In school time
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> March	F2 Teddy Bear hospital workshop	In school time
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> March	Choir Performance at the Morningside Arena	6.30 pm
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> April	Orchestra Unwrapped trip - Years 3 and 4	In school time
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	Year 2 visiting Clipston Primary School	In school time
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April	School closes for the Easter holiday	
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> April	School opens	
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> May	Bank Holiday - school closed	
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 6 SATs start	
Week beginning 18 <sup>th</sup> May	Sports Days - dates to be confirmed	
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	School closes for half term	
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June	School opens	
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	Clipston Primary visiting Year 2 and synagogue visit	In school time
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> June	Hunstanton school and family trip	
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> June	Fleckney Primary visiting Year 5	In school time
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 5 visiting Fleckney Primary	In school time
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> June	Secondary School transition day for Year 6	
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> July	Additional secondary transition day- Moat	
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> July	FUN DAY	
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> July	Years 3 and 4 Awards Assembly - 1.45 pm	
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> July	Years 1 and 2 Awards Assembly - 9.00 am	
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> July	Years 5 and 6 Awards Assembly - 1.45 pm	
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> July	Sparkenhoe's Got Talent Day	In school time
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> July	Whole school outdoor performance - 9.00 am	
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> July	School closes for the summer holiday	

All invitations to events and 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). As always, you can make an appointment if you need to speak to a member of staff in private.

**Rhian Jones**    *Headteacher*