

# Newsletter

Number: 10 Date: March 2018



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to Term 4 and thank you for your support with the 2 teacher training days last week. We were able to make a good start to creating a more inviting and engaging school environment in classrooms and corridors for children to see when they returned on Wednesday. We were also able to have some training from fellow teaching professionals on the opportunities and education entitlement that our SMAS children should receive. This training will be followed up in subsequent staff and Key Stage meetings to ensure a consistency in our teaching and learning approaches from now on.

At recent parent meetings during this time of change it was noted that as parents you wish to be better informed of what is happening in our school. This is right and proper as an expectation of us! Below I have summarised the most recent investigations and actions we have undertaken as we continue our journey to a more successful school.

- Detailed discussion and plans for year 2 and 6 learning for the next term
- Meeting with each senior leader to discuss roles and responsibilities
- Environmental walk to ensure that classrooms are organised for children to access resources to learn

Over the next few weeks we will be looking at:

- The quality of work in children's books
- Behaviour across the school—this includes learning behaviour as well as conduct around the school
- Data for reading, writing and maths

May I finish with some celebrations, well done to our girls football team who won the tournament we hosted here last Wednesday. Thank you to Mr Walters for organising this. Also a thank you to Mrs Hughes who organised World Book Day this week—I saw lots of fantastic costumes, a myriad of heroes and villains!! There are lots of photos on the website and on our new Twitter page @SMASPrimary.

Candida Hutchinson

## Update from Chair Strategic Management Board (SMB) SMAS Kirsteen Roberts.

Since I last updated parents quite a lot has happened. Candida Hutchinson, the new interim head is in place and it feels like she has been with us forever! We have continued to focus on creating a steady, calm environment in which school improvement can be at the top of our agenda as Candida has outlined above.

We understood from parents that communication needed to improve. To that end we have sent out more information about changes to staff and our future plans on a more regular basis. There was an opportunity to meet Dr Nick Capstick, CEO of the White Horse Federation and hear about his plans for school improvement support between now and the end of the academic year. The 100 day improvement plan has been launched with particular focus on EYFS, Phonics, KS1 and KS2. The new website was launched and as part of that we have made it easier for parents to get in touch, contribute to the life of the school and raise their ideas and concerns with us. The PTA had its inaugural meeting with more planned. Homework is being followed up on a more structured basis. We have responded to several queries via the press and radio and are keen to continue to have a positive dialogue with the wider community about our ideas for the future. Lastly I have commissioned a review of governance with the full support of the Chair of Governors so that we can find ways to add value here as well. A number of parents have taken me up on my offer of a more detailed dialogue on specific issues and I remain available for any parent/carer who wants to raise anything with me. I can be contacted through the website or via the school office.

## Library

Enjoying some reading time in the Library.



## Dates to Remember

Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	Y3 visit to The Look Out Discovery Centre
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	Hi5netball@Kendrick 1.30-3.30pm
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 2 Museum trip (Oxford)
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> March	Tag rugby atThe Hill 3.30-5pm
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> March	Homework to be in
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> March	Change 4 life festival Years 1/2/3/4/5@JMA
Weds 14 <sup>th</sup> March	Homework Display 3pm
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> March	Certificate and Medal Assembly KS1 – 9am & KIS2 – 2.30pm
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> March	Easter Service – in church tbc
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> March	Class Group Photos Reception-Y5
Weds 21 <sup>st</sup> March	Easter Concert – Y3 & Y4 – 2pm & 6pm
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March	Y1 visit to the Farm
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March	No AM or PM Nursery (due to home visits)
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March	Nursery Meeting – new starter @ 9am
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March	Break up for Easter Holidays
<b>26 March – 6 April</b>	<b>Easter Holiday</b>
<b>TERM 5</b>	
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> April	Inset Day (no pupils to attend)
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> April	Pupils back to school
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> April	Nursery Return
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> May	Bank Holiday

### Breakfast Club



Every morning from 8:00am to 8:40am, only £3.50 per session. Book and pay using your ParentPay account.



Don't forget the Attendance Challenge this term. A BIG well done to everyone who has been coming in to school on time every day, lets keep it up! Remember try to make all medical/hospital/optician appointments outside school hours if possible and to ring daily if you child is going to be absent for a genuine medical reason. Thank you.

### Book Fair

Thank you to everyone who purchased books. We collected a total of £980 which will gives us an amazing amount of £588 to purchase books for the school.

### Health & Safety

For Health & safety reasons, can we please ask that parents refrain from smoking at the school gate. Thank you.

### Second Hand Uniform Sale

The school PTA raised £72.50 with their second hand uniform sale.

### Reception

We have been learning all about different countries from around the world. We went on a trip to see some different artefacts from some of those countries. We had lots of fun, especially seeing and smelling the notebook made from elephant poo!

