



# Scantabout Primary School

*Achieving our best together.*

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ACADEMIC YEAR 2017/2018

NEWSLETTER NO: 4 w/e 1<sup>st</sup> December 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

With Christmas fast approaching we are in the process of organising a range of activities for the children. Dates are on the list at the end of the newsletter, although please see the changes to the end of term concert below. If you are available to help at the Christmas Fair on Friday the 8<sup>th</sup> December, please drop a note into the SSA box in reception.

### **Christmas – End of Term Christmas Concert – change of arrangements! Year R-6**

Following feedback from parents, and after discussion with staff, we have decided to host the end of term Christmas Concert at Thornden Hall. The concert will be on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> Dec at 1.45pm at Thornden Hall. Not in the school as previously advertised. As per previous years the staff will walk the children to the hall and back again to school, at the end of the concert. You will then be able to collect your child from their classroom.

### **What's New?**

As you may well have noticed there has been a huge amount of work going on within the school grounds. The school pond works and adjacent seating area are now nearly finished. A huge THANKS goes to everyone who has been involved in this. I am really looking forward to seeing the children using the area.

The new security fencing is also now finished.

Community Payback are working at the weekends, to develop the inner courtyard. So far we have begun clearing the existing surface and much needed weeding. The big plan is to create a social space for the children, as well as creating an area for reading and other such activities. We are in the process of making grant applications for these works. We also hope to use the funds raised from the Christmas fayre.

### **Staffing Update**

Miss Ervine has recently secured a leadership post as Inclusion Manager in Basingstoke and will be leaving us at Christmas. We are sorry to see her go but we wish her every success in her exciting new adventure. But we will hopefully still see her within Scantabout as she will become one of our regular supply/cover teachers.

Year 1 Maternity Cover – Mrs Douch will be commencing her maternity leave during the spring term. Mrs Kelly Hedges and Mrs Kerry Dominy have been appointed to cover her maternity leave. Both are very experienced teachers who are really looking forward to starting their new roles. Mrs Hedges will be starting in January in order to provide a really smooth transition for the children. This will mean that she will know the children really well before Mrs Douch commences her maternity leave. Mrs Dominy is already known to the children within the class as she has taught them at various points as Supply Cover when their teachers have been on training.



I am delighted to let you know that we appointed an additional Learning Support Assistant for Key Stage 2 who will also be providing activities and sports at lunchtimes. Mrs l'Anson will be joining our team in January. Mrs l'Anson is a qualified teacher and has a wealth of experience. I am sure many of you already know her from the SSA and you will join me in welcoming her to the school staff.

### **Listen to Me Concert for Year 3**

The Year 3 children have really enjoyed learning the ukulele and have made tremendous progress over the last few weeks. They will be showing off their achievements so if you are a parent of a child in Year 3 please look out for the letter coming home soon.

### **Handwriting Pens**

Having beautiful handwriting is something many of us aspire to. At Scantabout the children have regular handwriting lessons and have lots of opportunities to develop their skills in this area. The children in Year 5&6 have opportunities to use pens in their writing once their handwriting has developed to a certain developmental stage and their spelling is secure. The aim of this is to provide all children with lots of opportunity to use a variety of writing implements before they move to secondary school.

### **Show and Share and Spring Parents Evening**

Our second Show and Share is on Wednesday 10th January 2018 at 3.30 until 4pm and 5.00 until 5.30pm. This is an opportunity for parents to share their children's work with them and see how they are getting on in between Parents Evenings.

We will hold a third Show and Share on the 18th April 2018 at the same times.

Parent's Evenings for the Spring Term will be 6th and 8th February 2018. Details will go out nearer the time.

### **Reading and Maths Evening**

Thank you to Mrs Douch for running our recent Reading Evening. It was very well attended. There is a PowerPoint on our website for those who could not attend.

Next half term we have a Maths Open evening to look at how we teach numbers, calculations and fractions in school. Mr Lyon will be leading this on 11<sup>th</sup> January at 6.30pm.

### **Sports Day - Save the Date**

I know that parents like to take time off for Sports Day so a little advance notice of this. Sports Day will be on Friday 13th July 2018 in the morning.

### **Parent Helpers**

I have had a couple of requests from parents asking how teachers select parent helpers for school trips, so I just wanted to clarify how this works. Teachers will send out a request for helpers. There are occasions when we are overwhelmed with offers of help and on those occasions we do disappoint some parents as we can't take everyone. We are enormously grateful to those parents volunteering as we have had occasions when a trip has been at risk due to lack of assistance. There may be occasions where a particular parent is asked to attend if the teacher feels either the parent has particular skills in an area linked to the trip or indeed the individual needs of a child. We need to ensure the safeguarding of the children at all times. We will be talking further about this in Parents' Forum so will update you if there are other ideas that come from this.

If you would like to volunteer to help in class please do speak to your class teacher who will be happy to help. Alternatively please speak with the School Office who will provide you with a Volunteer application pack including the DBS application process.

## E-Safety

We have had one or two parents speak to me recently about children using online messaging apps and boards. This is a hugely difficult area for both adults and children to operate in. I would ask parents to think very carefully before letting your child access these forums as they can be difficult for children to cope with. If you do allow your child to access them, I would ask that you monitor any message boards and limit time on them. Most social media sites require users to be a minimum of 13 years old before setting up an account. Therefore please ensure you review the requirements and security settings available for each site before allowing your child access.

For more information please look on the following sites:

<https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/>

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk>

## Dates for your diary

Date	Event
30 <sup>th</sup> November	SSA Parent presents wrapping evening from 7pm in School Hall. Bring your own drinks.
30 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 6 trip – Solent Sky Museum
1 <sup>st</sup> December	Parents' Forum 2.30pm
8 <sup>th</sup> December	SSA Christmas Fayre
12 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 3 Listen 2 Me Ukulele concert
14 <sup>th</sup> and 15 <sup>th</sup> December	Parents presents – more info to follow
15 <sup>th</sup> December	Rocksteady Concert - family of participating children only please
w/c 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Winter Art Week
19 <sup>th</sup> December	Key Stage 1 Nativity production – performances 9.30am and 6pm.
20 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas school lunch followed by Class parties.
21 <sup>st</sup> December	Last day of term Christmas carols 1.45pm Whole School Thornden Hall
4 <sup>th</sup> January 2018	Welcome back – Happy New Year
5 <sup>th</sup> January 2018	M&M Productions – Sleeping Beauty- whole school visiting Pantomime – whole school
10 <sup>th</sup> January 2018	Show and Share – 3.30 till 4pm and 5 till 5.30pm
11 <sup>th</sup> January 2018	Maths Open Evening 6.30pm
19 <sup>th</sup> January 2018	Inset Day – staff safeguarding training, curriculum development day
6 <sup>th</sup> and 8 <sup>th</sup> February 2018	Parents' Evenings
23 <sup>rd</sup> March 2018	Key Stage 2 Spring Concert – 2.45pm
26 <sup>th</sup> March 2018	Key Stage 1 Spring Concert – 9.15pm concert start; Parents' Forum following straight after concert
18 <sup>th</sup> April 2018	Show and Share
13 <sup>th</sup> July 2018	Sports Day am.