



Scantabout Primary School

Achieving our best together.

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ACADEMIC YEAR 2017/2018

NEWSLETTER NO: 5 w/e 21st December 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to wish you all a merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year. I can hardly believe that I have reached the end of my first year at Scantabout. I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for making me feel so very welcome. I have been so impressed with how the school community are committed to the children of our school. Thank you, as ever, to all the staff who work so hard for the children. They are a truly dedicated team who really live by the motto, 'Achieving our Best Together'.

It was so lovely to see so many of you at our Christmas fair. Thank you to the SSA for organising and running it and to all the volunteers who helped with setting up, running stalls and clearing away. Thank you to the choir for singing so beautifully and to Mrs Smith and Mrs Lane for running the choir.

The event raised around £2,000, which will go on the development of the inner courtyard. The plan is resurface it, improve the benching and provide shelter from the elements so that it can be used for curriculum activities and as a lunchtime social space. The Community Payback scheme have already been in clearing the space and digging over in preparation for resurfacing. We are in the process of looking at ways to raise the rest of the funds needed to convert this space. If you have any ideas on ways to do this or indeed have any connections with organisations who may support funding, please contact me.

The children really enjoyed the parents' presents this week. Thank you to everyone who turned out to wrap the presents.

End of term Music Concerts

I thoroughly enjoyed the Year 3 Ukulele concert. I was very impressed with how much they had learnt in such a short period of time. I can't wait to see their progress with their next instrument, the clarinet. The Rock-Steady Concert was a huge success and is always a firm favourite with the children. Sadly, due to a prior appointment, I was unable to see the Rock-Steady concert this time but have heard such wonderful feedback from the children and staff. If you are interested in your child joining the Rock Steady crew please enquire at the school office.

The Key Stage 1 Nativity was just wonderful. I was warned it would bring a tear to my eye and it certainly lived up to its reputation.

The end of term Christmas concert is at Thornden at 1.45pm on Thursday 21st. I am very much looking forward this performance. The children will be walking up to the hall so please make sure that they come suitably dressed for this – coats etc. After the concert the children will return to school where you can collect them at normal time. You will not be able to take the children from Thornden Hall.

Dates for the spring concerts are listed below. I have put these out a little earlier than usual so that you have the dates well in advance.



Online Payments

We are very excited to be rolling out the new online payments system. You will be shortly receiving account details including account set up instructions. If you do experience any issues there is a link on the information letter along with a short video tutorial. If you continue to have difficulties please contact the office team, who will be happy to help.

Sports, Lunchtime and Physical Education Update

Over the spring and the summer terms we will be continuing with Planet Sport coaching. In addition to the usual sports lessons within the school day, they will be extending their work to include two lunchtime activity/sports sessions and running Junior Play Leaders' sessions to support sports playtime activities and the leadership skills of the older children. They will also be offering two free after school sports clubs. One will be for Key Stage One children and one for Key Stage Two children - details on this to follow in Mrs Douch's clubs letter.

They will also be doing an additional timetabled session with Year R, on a Thursday morning, focusing on their physical development, balance and co-ordination.

Mrs l'Anson will be working at lunchtime to develop physical activities and active participation through a variety of clubs and activities for the children. These will be designed to compliment the activities already provided.

Alongside the Junior Play Leaders, we are training 10 children as Change for Life Ambassadors. They will be setting up activities and running a club to support active lifestyles. From time to time they will lead assemblies, whole school events, run competitions and also develop a healthy lifestyles newsletter. We will be attending an external training session on the 16th January 2018.

There are lots of other exciting things happening as well. Kings in Winchester have taken over the running of the sports competitions within the area and Mr Lyon will be organising a range of competitive sports events with them over the spring and summer terms.

Some of you may have heard of the Hampshire cricket initiative - Chance to Shine. I am in talks with them to hold an after school cricket club and hope to bring you news of that soon. They are also going to be running a cricket taster session for children in Years 1, 2 and 3 in the spring term. Further information to follow.

School Grounds Update

A huge thank you to the School Grounds group who meet periodically on a weekend to develop our school grounds. Many of you have commented on the development of the pond area and this is thanks to both the SSA and also Paul from Lakewood Tree Surgeons who has cleared and coppiced the trees and barked the area. If you are interested in joining the working party then please drop a note into the SSA post box in the reception area.

Lost Property

We have lots of lost property in the lost property boxes/bags in the Key Stage One and Two corridors. Please do check these, if you are missing clothing. I would also like to remind parents to label clothing including shoes and jumpers. We end up every term with lots of missing items.

Speak Out and Stay Safe with the NSPCC

In the new-year, the children in Years 1-6 will be taking part in a Speak Out and Stay Safe assembly led by the NSPCC on Monday 8th January 2018. Year 5&6 will also be having an hour long workshop the following day with the NSPCC based on key safeguarding messages. Further information will follow when the children return to school in January.

The NSPCC will be one of our charities this year. And the teachers will be hosting a Big Buddy Dance-athon on the week of the 15th January. The children will be bringing home a fundraising pack after their assembly on the 8th January with details.

Maths

Our Maths evening is on Thursday 11th January at 5.30pm. This is an opportunity for parents to find out how we teach numbers and calculation in school. Teaching methods have changed so much over the years that parents often find it tricky to help their child at home. We hope that this session will answer any questions you may have.

We are in the process of rolling out Mymaths Online learning platform to the children in years 2-6. Some classes have already received their passwords and log on details, other classes will receive them during the first couple of weeks of the new term. If your child does not bring one home in the first couple of weeks back, please see their class teacher.

Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar on line platform (SPAG.com)

Children in Year 5 & 6, will be bringing home their SPAG.com user name and password early in January. Children are welcome to use this platform to reinforce skills taught in school.

Year 5 & 6 Computing Project – new for 2018

I am delighted to announce to Year 5 and 6 parents that, once a week, the children will be having an hour's tuition in computer sciences delivered by a specialist teacher. This will build on the children's existing experiences in computing and will give them an opportunity to work alongside an expert. The project will run from January until July 2018.

Violin Lessons Year 3-6

We still have a couple of spaces in our beginners' violin group. If your child is interested please see Miss Blaker for details.

Pupil Premium

If you are in receipt of an income based benefit then your child may be entitled to Pupil Premium. If you think you may be eligible please see Miss Blaker, myself or Miss Lloyd so that we can point you in the right direction to register.

If you would like to know more how we are targeting our Pupil Premium this year, then please see our website: <http://www.scantabout-pri.hants.sch.uk/pupil-premium-plan>

Do you have an interest, hobby or occupation you wish to share with the children?

If you have a hobby, area of expertise or special interest that you would like to share with the children, then please let me know. Last year the children benefitted in so many ways from visitors including visits from people of a variety of faiths and cultures, outdoor learning opportunities, art, the world of finance etc. This was through a variety of classroom activities and assemblies.

Alternatively if you would like to help at one of our clubs or indeed run a small club, then please contact me. Have a safe and happy holiday. I look forward to welcoming you back in the New Year.

Best wishes,

Tina Thomas

Key Dates

4th January	Welcome back - Happy New Year
5th January	M&M Productions Whole school Pantomime in the afternoon
8th January	NSPCC assembly Years 1-6
9th January	Year 5 & 6 Speak Out NSPCC, Stay safe workshop
10th January	Show and Share – 3.30 till 4pm and 5 till 5.30pm
11th January	Maths open evening – 5.30pm
19th January	INSET day – focus Safeguarding Training & Curriculum Development
24th January	SSA AGM in the School Hall – all welcome – 8pm
6th and 8th February	Parents' Evenings – sign up sheets will be available closer to the time.
12th – 15th February	HALF TERM
28th February	Year 4 trip – further details to follow
2nd March	SSA Quiz night – more details to follow – 8pm
23rd March	Key Stage 2 Spring Concert – 2.45pm
26th March	Key Stage 1 Concert – 9.15am Parents' Forum straight afterwards
27th March	Year 5 Residential trip to Swanage
28th April	Show and Share – 3.30 till 4pm and 5 till 5.30pm
3rd May	INSET day – school closed for polling – focus assessment
May 2018	Key Stage One SATs test month
w/c 14th May	Key Stage 2 SATs week see the website below for days of tests www.gov.uk/guidance/key-stage-1-and-key-stage-2-test-dates
w/c 21st May	Year 6 Residential week Isle of Wight
4th June	INSET day – focus curriculum
w/c 11th June	Year One Phonics Screen
13th July	Sports day am
23rd July	Family Picnic