



Scantabout Primary School

Achieving our best together.

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ACADEMIC YEAR 2017/2018

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Next week will be Parents' Evening, which alongside our now regular after school 'Show and Shares' and end of year report, are ways in which we share information on your child's progress. For those of you who are new to the school, there is a signing sheet in the reception area for you to book your Parent's Evening appointment. If your child has a Special Educational Need, then please also make an additional appointment with your child's teacher to go through their Individual Educational Plan.

I will be holding a Parents' Surgery for individual parents who wish to either share ideas or discuss issues. Please pop into to see Miss Blaker if you would like to meet with me. It is useful (but not essential) if I have an idea in advance of your topic of conversation so that I can make sure that I have any information needed to hand.

INSET day

We had a really productive INSET day. During the day teachers and support staff had safeguarding training. Classroom staff also spent time looking at what we already do in school to develop teacher values to the children. We held two planning workshops for classroom staff, one on the use of pictorial resources in Maths and one on planning for writing. It was a really packed day but very worthwhile.

NSPCC Visit and Fundraising Event

Thank you to the NSPCC for leading safeguarding assemblies with the children in Year R-2 and Year 3-6; as well as leading workshops with the Year 5 and 6.

The children really enjoyed their Dance-a-thon challenge. Jennie from the NSPCC came in last week to collect the sponsorship money. I am really pleased to say that we raised a whopping £1,943.17. This is the equivalent of paying for the training of a child councillor. A huge thank you to the whole school community for supporting this important cause.

If you would like to know more about the NSPCC campaign or how to further support your child in staying safe, please log onto: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/>

A very special well done to a budding sports person!

A huge well done to Harry O, in Year 6, for his extraordinary achievements in the field of swimming. Harry qualified for the Hampshire County Swimming Championships in a number of events including the 50m, 100m & 200m backstroke; 100 & 200m freestyle. He did really well; working hard throughout the year to achieve the times needed to qualify.



Change of Life Ambassadors and Playmaker Awards

As part of our active life-styles work we have trained Year 5 & 6 children as Change for Life Ambassadors. They will be running a get active club with Mrs l'Anson as well as leading healthy living assemblies, campaigns etc.

In Year 5 all the children have been learning about how to lead a variety of playground games which they can share with their friends and younger children at playtimes. In addition to this, 10 children from Year 5 are completing the Junior Playmakers Awards with our sports coach on a Monday Lunchtime.

The aim of these initiatives is two-fold, to help develop the children's leadership skills, as well as developing opportunities to develop healthy choices.

Governors

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Rahul Bhome as our new Co-opted Governor. He is very much looking forward to getting to know the school from a governor's perspective.

On the subject of governors, this last term I have been working with the Governing Body to look at how we continue to improve governors' knowledge of the work of the school. We have recently changed our structure so that all governors receive updates on teaching and learning, assessment and curriculum on a more regular basis. The leadership team now meet half termly with a group of governors to delve a little deeper in assessments for Maths and English and look at the progress of groups of children. Nominated governors now meet with school leaders such as the Inclusion Leader, subject leaders or the Early Years team, so that these governors have the opportunity to see the work of the school in action. They then report back to the full governing body. We have also a new Health and Safety Governor who meets with me regularly to review developments in this area. Governors meet with me regularly to monitor safeguarding and check the schools' child protection procedures.

The governors have been wonderfully supportive during my first couple of terms. I am confident that our new way of working will allow them to have a more in-depth insight in order to help drive improvements in the school. A massive thank you for all the support you provide to the staff and children of the school.

Reminders

If you are attending the school during either the darker mornings or evenings, please remember to use the pathways and the slope at the front of the school rather than cutting across the car park. Whilst we do have some outside lighting, I would also remind you to bring torches as some of the pathways can be dimly lit.

I would also remind parents not to park in the school carpark unless you are a disabled badge holder or have specific permission from Miss Lloyd or myself. We try to limit the movement of traffic on site in order to help keep our children safe.

When parking outside the school please be considerate to our neighbours. There have been a few incidences of parents blocking drives leading to difficulties for residents accessing their properties and reports of parents double parking (parking opposite someone already parked on the road) which narrows the roadways and could restrict access for larger vehicles and more importantly emergency service vehicles.

Lastly, as per my Parentmail last week. Please can you remind your child to dismount their scooter or bike before entering the school grounds.

Scantabout School Association

Thank you to all who came to the SSA AGM. It was a really productive meeting where the association reviewed last year's work and work planned for the coming year. If you are interested in getting involved in any way no matter how big or small, please drop a note in the SSA post box inside reception or speak to your class rep.

Last year we had some wonderful events for the children and adults, including two fairs, discos and film nights. This year amongst the events planned is a quiz later in March. Dates for the school grounds group are on the notice board. If you can spare an hour or two on any of those dates, then please do come along.

I am really excited to say that the committee agreed to continue to support improvements to the facilities for the children. Our main project is turning our courtyard into a space to use during lessons times and also a communal space for the children at lunchtimes. We are in the process of getting quotes and hope to begin resurfacing work in the next couple of weeks.

Jewellery & Toys in School

A polite reminder to say that children should not be wearing jewellery other than agreed jewellery linked to faith (please ask the class teacher if unsure); watches and stud earrings (not loops or dangly earrings please).

Please remember that if your child has earrings, these should either be removed on PE days or tape should be provided from home to cover up the earrings for PE.

Teachers have also noted an increase in toys coming into school. Please can you remind your child to leave them at home as it causes upset if they are lost or damaged.

Maths Evening

Thank you for everyone who came to our maths evening and to Mr Lyon for running it. Thank you also for the governors who attended the evening to help support the school and also find out a little more about how maths is taught in the school.

Best wishes,

Tina Thomas

Key Dates

6th and 8th February	Parents' Evenings – sign up sheets are in the foyer
12th – 16th February	HALF TERM
28th February	Year 4 trip – further details to follow
2nd March	SSA Quiz night – more details to follow – 8pm
9th March	Year 2 trip – more details to follow
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
30th March – 12th April	Easter Holidays
18th April	Show and Share – 3.30 till 4pm and 5 till 5.30pm
3rd May	INSET day – school closed for polling – focus assessment and curriculum development
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