



Scantabout Primary School

Achieving our best together.

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ACADEMIC YEAR 2017/2018

NEWSLETTER NO:11 w/e: 25th May 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

This half term has flown by with lots of exciting events happening in school. We have had a wide range of sporting and curriculum activities as organised by the teachers and we are very close to finalising arrangements for the end of term events. Many more events are planned for the last half term which we are all looking forward to.

On Saturday 12th May a group of our key stage two children represented the school at the launch of the Odissi Journey – a celebration of Indian Dance, at the Eastleigh Museum. They learnt a routine during school time which they were able to perform as part of the event. I was very proud to see how much they enjoyed the event.

The Integrate Dance after school club took part in a dance festival at The Berry Theatre on Sunday 13th May and won the award for Most Inspiring Dance. It was a wonderful event and our children thoroughly enjoyed it. If your child is interested in joining the Integrate Dance group please pop into the school office and see Miss Blaker for more details.

Our INSET day on 3rd May went well with the teachers working on assessment in the morning and developing other curriculum areas in the afternoon such as PSHE, Religious Education and Design and Technology. It was hugely productive. Our next INSET on the 4th June, will build on this as we will be focusing on developing the wider curriculum including History, Geography and Art. We will also be having a PE training session focusing on development of flow and pace in PE lessons.

The children are also beginning to enjoy the Courtyard area. Over the Easter holidays this area was resurfaced thanks to the support of the SSA. Benches have been purchased and over the next few weeks we hope to see many more children enjoying the new space.

I would like to say a massive “Well done” Year 6 as I was really impressed with how they approached Year 6 SATS tests last week. They have shown a great deal of maturity and a real commitment to hard work. I am very proud of you all and it was great fun seeing how you all enjoyed your breakfasts.

Thank you to the SSA for organising the quiz night. It was great fun and also helped raise funds towards the school. Following the Quiz last year, Lloyds Bank also donated £500 to the SSA.



Music Tuition

The office has recently sent out reminders to the existing Year 3, 4 and 5 parents about instrument tuition for next academic year. If you would like more information or to sign up to this, then please let the office know.

Starting again in September, the Year 3's will have three terms of music tuition where they get a chance to try out three different types of instruments through Hampshire's Listen To Me programme. A concert is held at the end of each term to showcase what the children have learnt.

Summer Music Concert – Wednesday 11th July afternoon

Miss Lloyd is in the process of organising the summer instrumental and choir concert. This is an opportunity for our Choir Club and the children who have been learning instruments, to share their talents. Miss Lloyd will send out full details nearer the time.



Biochemistry Society Grant -The World in Miniature - Science Detectives

This week I received an email from The Biochemistry Society informing us that we had been successful in our bid for £800. This is wonderful news and will enable us to buy digital microscopes to support the children's scientific investigation skills. To launch their use, Mrs Chakrabarti and I will be planning a science event in July called A World in Miniature. Mr Rahul Bhome, one of our new Governors and parent, will be joining us to share his knowledge of cells as a surgeon. We are also hoping to invite other scientists and medical professionals in to share their work with the children. If you are interested in helping or have an area of expertise in this area, then please let Miss Blaker in the office know.

Author Visit – Anne Wan

We are very lucky to be having a visit from a local self-published author in July – Mrs Anne Wan. Some parents may already know Anne who has published two books now and is currently working on her third. She will be talking to the children about story writing and the process of self-publishing. We are very grateful to the SSA who are supporting us with this event. Their continued support of our school enables the children to really benefit from such visitors and experiences.

Outstanding Dinner Money

The School Office team would like to make a plea for outstanding dinner monies to be paid in a prompt fashion. Individual letters are sent out on a regular basis but if you are unsure of your balance and have not yet set up an online payment account please pop into the school office where they are more than happy to help. Outstanding balances do need to be clear at the end of each term.

If you think you may be entitled to Free School Meals, please also check with Miss Blaker in the school office.

A Plea from Year R

Every year the Reception class children take great care of their garden. They plant a range of seeds, and as they become strong plants they plant them out in their garden. They watch and water and enjoy harvesting their produce. Unfortunately, the very cold and then warm and wet weather this year, has resulted in no plants to plant. If you have any surplus vegetable plants please can you consider donating them to Year R. In the past we have had success with onions, tomatoes, butternut squash, courgettes, cucumbers, parsnips, runner beans, peas etc.

Sports and Sports Day

Mrs Hedges, our new PE Leader, has met with King's School this week as they are now responsible for the sports events in the area. They have promised a full calendar of local schools competitions from September. To ensure the children do not miss out this year, we have organised friendly matches and events with other local schools. We are also arranging for Year 6 to have a sports and athletics afternoon for the coming half term every Thursday.

Mrs Hedges has also been looking at the 30/30 Scheme. This is a national initiative to get children active for 30 minutes in school every day on top of their 2 hours of PE and sports. We met last week to discuss who we hope we can work with for the implementation of this initiative alongside our existing Junior Play Leaders, lunchtime sports activities and Change for Life projects.

Well done to the children who competed in the cross country, netball and Year 4/5 tag-rugby. For the rest of the term we have various events booked, such as cricket competitions, Fryern Sports Event, Year 2, 5 & 6 indoor athletics day, Year 4 Outdoor Adventure Day and football, to name a few events. We are also arranging for Southampton football to organise taster session with our Key Stage 2 children.

On Friday 15th June the children in years 4, 5 and 6, will enjoy a day of cricket thanks to the Chance to Shine Cricket Initiative as organised by Hampshire County Cricket. The children will be working with a professional coach. In early July we will also be welcoming a Team GB gymnast to the school who will work with all the children. We are truly excited by these upcoming events and opportunities.

Thank you the SSA for their support in funding athletics equipment for the afterschool Athletics Club. Thank you to Mrs Harry for organising and running this.

Sports Day will be held on Friday 13th July in the morning. For parents new to the school, this is a competitive sports morning for children in Years R to 6. Parents are very welcome to cheer and support the event. Just in case of rain we do have a reserve sports day in the calendar which will be held on the last morning of school before the family picnic. But fingers crossed that the beautiful weather continues and the reserve date is not needed. The office will send out full details via Parentmail later this term.

Parents Questionnaire

Thank you once again to everyone who recently returned the parent questionnaire. The results were really positive and reflect the hard work of the staff and wider school community. There were some lovely comments which I am sharing with staff. It is particularly great to hear the positive feedback about the new start of day routines and the introduction of online payments.



There are, of course, always areas that we can improve and I have really welcomed the feedback that the questionnaires have given us this year. Over the next few newsletters I hope to update you on changes and reviews that will be implemented. I am certainly looking forward to the Parents Forum and my Headteacher's surgery that will be taking place after the half term and hope as many of you as possible can join me. I look forward to feedback throughout the year, not just as a result of the questionnaires and hope that you can raise a query with me whenever needed.

In last year's questionnaires, parents were particularly keen for greater opportunities to share progress and to look at the subject of homework. This year this area has showed a huge improvement. Although as with all things, we will continue to evolve over time. We are continuing to look at how we share progress in a way to provide more insight. The National Curriculum is assessed on the basis that a child either "meets expectations" or doesn't. We would like to be able to provide greater clarity and detail of how the children progress. We will continue to work on this over the coming year.

Homework is often difficult to gauge in all schools as what individual families and children want is very individual. Whilst almost all parents were positive about this, I know that one or two parents felt that there was either too much or too little. If you feel that home learning needs a little fine tuning, then please do speak to your class teacher. We also run a weekly homework club to help and support children with this.

One aspect that a couple of parents asked about, was having greater notice if events change in school. Unfortunately things do change and sometimes at short notice. I am sure you appreciate that such things as staff sickness is difficult to forecast. We always endeavour not to cancel or move things, however, this is not always possible and I recognise that it can be annoying and difficult for parents. Having met with the leadership team we are looking at ways to ensure the information is conveyed accurately and promptly. Please do let me know if you experience any issues with this.

Headteacher of Scantabout Primary School is a busy role which I am very proud to hold. Recently I had the privilege of joining the Year 5 children on their residential trip and as a result I was out of school for the week. I am very lucky to have a strong Leadership Team that enabled me to leave the school in safe hands. There will be times when I may not be on site but my team (Leadership, Office and Teaching) are always on hand.

Summer KS2 Play 18th July 4pm and 7pm

We are very excited to be holding our Key Stage 2 Summer Play at Thornden Hall. This is following suggestions from staff and parents and will provide the children with a real experience of rehearsing and performing a play in a theatre. The Year 3 to 6 children will spend part of the day at the hall rehearsing the musical using the school's drama facilities. We will then have a matinee performance at 4pm with an interval for drinks and a chance to socialise for parents. Followed by a 7pm performance again with the same format. To cover costs for the day we will need to charge a small entry fee of £2.50 per seat at the performance; this will also enable parents to have more tickets than the usual number they are allocated. The Key Stage one children will be able to watch a special performance earlier that week, during the school day.

Following the heat of the school hall during last year's performance, we are looking forward to a cooler environment on what we hope will be a glorious summer day.

Details of the musical will go out shortly from Mr Lyon who is organising this event.



Best wishes,

Tina Thomas

Key Dates

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| w/c 21st May | Year 6 Residential week Isle of Wight |
| 28th May – 1st June | Half Term Holiday |
| 4th June | INSET day – focus curriculum |
| 8th June | Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust – Year 5 and 6 |
| 10th June | School Grounds Group 1.30-4pm |
| w/c 11th June | Year 1 Phonics Screen |
| 11th June | NSPCC Online Safety Parents Workshop – 2pm |
| 14th June | Show and Share – 3.30pm till 4pm and 5pm till 5.30pm |
| 15th June | Chance to Shine Cricket Event Y4, 5 & 6 |
| 18th June | Drama day Year 6 – details to follow |
| 18th June | Year 1 Trip |
| 19th June | Class Photos |
| 20th June | Country Dancing Festival – Bishops Waltham |
| 29th June | Year 4 Adventure Day |
| 6th July | Fire Engine Visit Key Stage 1 |
| 8th July | School Grounds Group 1.30-4pm |
| 11th July | Music Concert – 2.15pm – details to follow |
| 13th July | Sports day am |
| 13th July | School reports to be issued |
| 14th July | SSA Summer Fayre |
| 19th July | Move up day for whole school |
| 23rd July | Family Picnic 12 noon – come and join your child for lunch and early finish. END OF TERM |
| 3rd September | First Day of Term |

