



Scantabout Primary School

Achieving our best together.

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ACADEMIC YEAR 2017/2018

NEWSLETTER NO:13 w/e: 20th July 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

It was lovely to see so many parents at our Sports Day and Summer Fair. Both were great events for the children and school community. As with any event, none of this would be possible without the hard work of individuals. A special thank you to the SSA for organising the summer fair and to everyone who ran stalls, who helped set up or clear away. Thank you.

Thank you also to Mrs Hedges for organising Sports Day. The children really enjoyed every moment. These events serve to remind me of what a wonderful school community we have.

A special thank you to Lizzie Dunn and the SSA for organising the end of year outside disco. The children had a ball and loved dancing on such a lovely summer's evening.

The last term the school has been a very busy place. In addition to the above, we have had a number of enrichment events for the children including: the Rock Steady and Instrumentalists concerts, Year 4 visit to Sir Harold Hillier Gardens as part of their Art in the Garden unit of work and Year 3 enjoyed a cooling day in the river at Gilbert White's Study Centre.

The whole school enjoyed a visit from a local self-published author Anne Wan - Snow Globes series. The SSA kindly funded this visit and the children and staff thoroughly enjoyed learning about how an expert authors a story.

We have also had various sporting events such as the Chance to Shine Cricket days; various tournaments such as tennis, cricket and football; the swimming gala and a visit from the team GB gymnast – Kelly Simm.

Key Stage 2 Summer Production - Wednesday 18th July 7pm

The Year 6's thoroughly enjoyed their day working with a professional drama coach from the Konflux Theatre Company. They have been busy writing their own version of a Midsummer Night's Dream - the Musical! This will be performed by the children in Years 3 to 6 and should be a fun event.

We have been very fortunate to be able to use Sir Harold Hillier's Gardens for this event. So please do bring a picnic and join us for an evening of Shakespeare in the Park.

Family Picnic

Our family picnic is at 12 noon on Monday 23rd July. Please come and join us at school for this social occasion.

If the weather is fine, there will be another opportunity to take part in 'Soak the Teacher'. So please bring your pennies as we are hoping to use this opportunity to raise money for dictionaries and spelling resources.



Parents' Forum/Head Teacher's Surgery and Classes Update

Thank you to everyone who attended the Parents' Forum or the Head Teachers' surgery and to parents who have spoken to me over the last few weeks with suggestions and questions. I am very keen to know people's thoughts so that we can continue to grow the school with parents' ideas very much in mind. One subject that is very much on everyone's minds are school budgets. Like many organisations, schools are finding their budgets in real terms to be shrinking especially in light of rising costs of supplies, increases in levies, salaries and National Insurance. Sadly, the budget we get for pupils in Hampshire schools is lower than in the majority of other local authorities. I have joined a head teachers' campaign organised by West Sussex, Cumbria and Hampshire Schools to ask the government to look again at why this is the case and to rectify this, so that children in Hampshire have the same opportunities as the rest of the country.

To update everyone with our plans, we will be going for a small increase in class sizes in Key Stage 2 of one child (33). This is with the Governors providing flexibility to increase to 34 if this was right for a particular cohort in the older classes. However, there is no plan at this time to do that. We will of course notify parents if this is likely to happen.

I have been bowled-over with how supportive you have all been with parents coming with offers of help and suggestions. This is very much appreciated. One way parents can support the school is supporting our various fundraising events and helping out at events such as school grounds days. Parents helping with the school grounds saves us hundreds pounds every year. Together with the Community Payback days, we have transformed the pond area and carried out much needed maintenance on the playground and garden areas. The governors and I are continuing to explore different options to balance budgets whilst ensuring that every child has a first class education.

Other agenda items at the Parents Forum were appreciation of the new lunchtime activities, which we have funded through Sports Grant. As well as looking at how we can encourage children to take care of their possessions and whether a jumper box actually helps with this or not. After discussion, the conclusion was that this is the best solution, at the moment, as space on children's pegs is tight.

Reminder - Lunch and Other Monies Owed

Please ensure that any outstanding balances are cleared within the next week so that the school can balance its finances for the end of the academic year. All balances need to be cleared for the end of the term.

If you have not already registered with Tucasi Online payments please think about this option. It saves the office a huge amount of time and we have had overwhelmingly positive feedback from parents who have been using it.

In the autumn term, we will be using a more interactive method for the children to choose their own dinner options each morning. By using the Interactive Whiteboards the children will be able to select their menu choices as part of their morning registration routine.

Weekly Circle and Class Discussion Time

As part of our revised PHSCE programme the children in each class will be having a weekly 'open forum' to support their personal, social and emotional development. In Year R and Key Stage One this will take the form of a weekly Circle Time. In Key Stage Two the children will have a weekly class discussion time. In these sessions the children will have a dilemma to solve, this can be one taken from a recent worry or class issue, or from a scenario chosen by the class teacher. The aims of the sessions are to encourage children to develop strategies to support one another and to solve difficult situations.



Monster Phonics is Coming!

Over the last few months the Year One team have been looking at different ways of developing children's decoding and phonic skills. We have been researching and trialing different methods including Monster Phonics. The results from this have been hugely positive in that we have seen a significant improvement in the children's ability to apply their phonics skills. This was shown in our **Year One Phonics with 100% of children passing the statutory assessment. Well done Year One!**

From September, we will be launching this across Years R to 2, and into Year 3 for children who require a boost in their phonics skills.

Miss Lloyd will be holding a literacy information evening in the Autumn term about this. In the meantime, if you would like more information on this please look at: www.monsterphonics.com

The SSA have also agreed to provide £1000 towards improving our Year R to Year 3 reading schemes. To support the younger children with reading we will be using this money to buy Project X reading books. This particular scheme is particularly good at providing opportunities for young readers to apply their phonic knowledge.

Classes for Next Year

Our classes for next year will be:

Year R - Mrs Smith;

Year 1 - Mrs Hedges and Mrs Dominy - I will write to parents to let them know what the class arrangements are for Mrs Douch's return from maternity once I have details;

Year 2 - Miss Lloyd and Mrs Czapp;

Year 3 - Mrs Lane and Mrs Chakrabarti;

Year 4 - Mrs Fenny;

Year 5 - Miss Hocking;

Year 6 - Mr Lyon.

The children have already begun to get to know their teachers through activities such as joint story time and swapping classes. This Thursday the 19th the children will also be exploring their new classrooms in our Move-up Morning.

Meet the Teachers & Show and Share – September/October Dates

This is an opportunity to meet your child's new teachers and find out about the coming year.

Our Meet the Teacher sessions are as follows:

Year 1 – Monday 10th September;

Year 2 – Thursday 13th September

Year 3 – Wednesday 12th September;

Year 4 - Friday 14th September;

Year 5 - Tuesday 11th September;

Year 6 - Friday 7th September. .

All sessions are **2.45 until 3.15pm.**

Our first Show and Share for Years One to Six is on **Wednesday 3rd October** 3.20-.3.40 and 5.00-5.30. This is an opportunity to meet the class teacher again and see your child's work ahead of Parents' Evening.



INSET Days

Friday 21st September – Development of Teaching and Learning & Safeguarding training;
Monday 12th November - First aid and epi-pen training;
Monday 14th January - Development of Teaching and Learning;
Friday 15th February - Outdoor Leader Training;
Thursday 2nd May - Development of Teaching and Learning & H&S training.

Tables - table tennis and picnic tables!

I am thrilled with the delivery of our new table-tennis table to the refurbished courtyard. This has been funded through Sports Grant. The children are already using this at break time and as part of class reward times. Thank you also to the SSA for funding our new picnic benches and for everyone who turned out to assemble and paint them.

Lost Property

We have a large quantity of lost property. If your child has mislaid any clothing, please do pop-in to check. Unfortunately, this may not be kept over the summer holidays.

Key Stage Parents Meeting and E-safety Update Two SRE

Thank you to the parents who attended the Sex and Relationships Information Meetings. At the evening, we also recapped on some of the main points of the E-safety Parent's workshop.

As promised in a previous newsletter, we will be holding an information evening on E-safety and Cyberbullying as an evening event to help working parents attend. To this end, I have been speaking with various other local schools and we have decided to hold a cross-school event with an expert on E-safety to provide parents with a more in-depth understanding of their child's online world. The event will take place on the evening of **Tuesday 9th October at Thornden School**. Details of this joint event will be published in the new term.

Our website has been updated to include information from the NSPCC/O2 parents' E-safety Workshop. Please look under the Key Information Tab and follow the link through E-safety. The NSPCC have updated their webpage to include an information video on **Fortnite**. If your child is using this App then please do take a few minutes to look at this video as it provides valuable information on how to safeguard your child if they are playing this game.

Year 5 first week back -former Olympic Swimmer visit – Friday 7th September

In the first week back in September, Year 5 children will be spending a day developing their sports leadership skills with Team GB Swimmer - Madeleine Campbell. She will be coming to the school to teach the children Play and Sports Leading through the Change for Life scheme.



Ernest Cook Grant - an extra £2,000 for equipment!

Over the Easter Holidays, I completed a grant application for robotics equipment for the school so that the children across the school can continue to develop their engineering and programming skills. I am very pleased to announce that we have been successful and will be receiving **£2,139**. This will really help us to deliver the new computing units of work we have developed on our INSET day.



SATs results – Year 6

I would like to say a special well done to Year 6 children for how hard they have worked this year. I am proud of the achievements of each one of them. Our results have seen a significant rise over the last two years compared with national averages.

	%At Scantabout Reaching Aged Related Expectations or above	National figures
Reading	97%	75%
Writing	94%	78%
Maths	94%	76%
Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling	97%	78%
Reading, writing, maths combined	91%	64%
Science expected standard	97%	Not yet published

Last But Not Least....

I would like to wish the Year 6 children well as they begin their journey to secondary. You have all excelled in your own ways, with each of you bringing something special to the school community. You will be missed!

I would like to thank parents, volunteers, Governors, the SSA and staff for your support. I wish you all a safe and enjoyable summer and I look forward to seeing you in the new school year.

With kindest regards,

Tina Thomas

Key Dates

18th July	KS1 Fun Day
18th July	KS2 Play 7pm Hillier's Gardens
19th July	Move up morning for whole school
20th July	Year 6 Leavers Assembly 9.15am
23rd July	Family Picnic 12 noon – END OF TERM
3rd September	First Day of Term
Friday 7th – Friday 14th September	Meet the Teacher sessions 2.45pm
Friday 21st September	INSET Day