



# Scantabout Primary School

*Achieving our best together.*

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Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been lovely to see so many parents and grandparents in school for the various concerts and events we have this time of year. I am always impressed how much the families of Scantabout support the children of the school - a huge thank you from all the school leadership team.

A special thank you to parents and members of the community who give up their time to volunteer as Governors, classroom helpers and the SSA. You all contribute your time so selflessly to make the school a better place. I would also like to thank the staff for their endless commitment and hard work. I know people who come into school during the day are always bowled over by how much goes on behind the scenes.

I wish you all a very peaceful Christmas and a very happy New Year. I look forward to seeing the children back in 2019.

## **Christmas Fayre**

Thank you to the SSA for organising and running the Christmas Fayre. As well as being a wonderful event for the children and the Scantabout Community, the event raised approximately £2000 towards improving the playground.

## **Congratulations Mr Lyon**

At the last Governing Body meeting, the Governors voted to provide the school with a more streamlined and sustainable leadership team. Mrs Douch has requested that she revert back to her role as a class teacher following her return from maternity later in the spring term. As a result of this, I am happy to inform you, that Mr Lyon has been appointed Assistant Head Teacher. This allows us to balance both budget and capacity to continue to develop our school. We have trialled this leadership structure this term and are really pleased with the impact this has had across the school. Mr Lyon will continue with his usual class duties.

Assistant Head Teachers work alongside the Head Teacher and Deputy Head Teacher to provide whole school leadership. Unlike a Deputy Head Teacher they cannot deputise some functions for the Head Teacher in their absence, but carry the other leadership responsibilities that a Deputy would do.

I am sure that you will all join me in congratulating Mr Lyon.

## **Changes in Lunchtime Supervisors**

Both Mrs Lane and Mrs Haymer will be retiring from the school at the end of term. They have both worked at the school for more than 25 years. I would like to thank them both for the hard work and commitment they have shown the children of Scantabout.

We welcome Mrs Cox, Mrs Pandey and Miss Wagstaffe as lunchtime supervisors from January. Mrs Scappaticci will be taking over the role of Senior Lunchtime Supervisor from Mrs Lane.

### **Strings Afternoon - 22nd January**

We will be hosting a Strings Afternoon with other local schools for children who have reached an intermediate level for violin and cello. This event will be run by Hampshire Music Services. The office will be writing to parents of those children taking part.

### **Scantabout Primary School is an Early Years Talk Boost School**

Mrs Harnett and I attended Talk Boost Training, funded from Pupil Premium, a couple of weeks ago with the view of becoming a Talk Boost School. The aim of the programme is to work with our youngest children in Year R to build their language skills and vocabulary. Mrs Harnett will be using elements of this programme as part of our day to day provision, as well as taking small groups of children for bespoke programmes.

### **Library Volunteer Helpers**

We would like to ensure that every class has time in the library on a more regular basis but need a few more volunteers to make this happen. If you can give up an afternoon on a weekly basis then please let the office know.

### **Leaps in Learning - Maths Programme**

Miss Lloyd and Mrs Everett have also attended training funded by Pupil Premium. This is focused on developing children's maths skills in Year 1-3. This programme is designed to support children who may have gaps in core maths skills. On our Inset day the Learning Support Assistants will be reviewing the programme to look for ways to apply elements of the programme into their day to day work.

### **Inset days - 14th January and 15th February**

We have two Inset days this coming half term. One on the 14th January which will focus on development of fluency in multiplication skills in the morning, then development of foundation subjects in the afternoon.

On the 15th February, we will be looking at developing 'greater depth' in writing in the morning then again, foundation subjects in the afternoon.

### **End of Day Arrangements**

In Year 6, and occasionally in Year 5, parents sometimes allow their children to walk home from school. Whilst this is very much an individual choice for parents, I would ask parents to have look at the advice from the NSPCC website before taking any decisions. Information can be found on:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/leaving-child-home-alone/>

I would also like to remind parents that if children are being collected by someone different, then please can you contact the office so that they can pass on details to classroom staff.

### **Peter Pan**

To welcome the children back after the holidays, the SSA have kindly agreed to fund a pantomime on the afternoon of Thursday 10th January. The children will be seeing Peter Pan performed by M&M Productions.

### **Change of Menu Week 2**

Just a reminder that going forward the week 2 meat choice on a Tuesday will be Roast beef not the advertised Roast pork.

### **After School Clubs**

A sign up letter for after school clubs will be sent out via book bags in the first week back of the New Year.

**With kind regards,**

**Tina Thomas**

## Dates for diary

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
<b>10<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>M&amp;M Productions Pantomime - Peter Pan</b>
<b>14<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>INSET Day</b>
<b>21<sup>st</sup> January</b>	<b>String it Together afternoon</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> February</b>	<b>Year 1 Trip to Sea City Museum</b>
<b>15<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>INSET Day</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> May</b>	<b>INSET Day</b>

## Scantabout Governors' News

In the second half of the Autumn Term, the Scantabout Governing Body has held a series of productive meetings, including reviewing the budget, has conducted school visits and is now looking forward to the opportunities offered by 2019.

The Resources Committee met on 8th November for a series of really interesting and far-reaching discussions around the three year budget, safeguarding the well-being of Scantabout pupils and health and safety. I think everyone was pleased to see that, despite all the strains on education in the current financial climate, the budget is in a healthy position moving forward. I am really delighted to report how much new Resources Governors are adding to the level of engagement in meetings, supporting and challenging the Chair, Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team.

A couple of weeks later, on 21st November, the Full Governing Body met to examine internal data about the progress of pupils and the updated School Improvement Plan, to ratify the budget and to agree a Code of Conduct for Governors, a revised national model, honed for the context of Scantabout School. The Headteacher, in collaboration with Scantabout teaching staff, produced some detailed data, which allowed us to drill down to see what is happening at ground level in lessons and discuss changes for the future. As a result of the discussion, tweaks and amendments were tabled and agreed, to be put into place for pupils in the Spring Term. Full Governing Body meetings are an exciting place to be; my thanks to everyone involved.

In addition to meetings, each Governor also has individual areas of responsibility, necessitating regular school visits. This Half Term, a visit took place around Curriculum on 4th October, Early Years Foundation Stage and Year 1 literacy on 16th October, Inclusion on 18th October and the Monitoring of Progress in English and Maths on 30th November. Visiting Scantabout during the day is a really rewarding process: it is lovely to see the pupils behaving so well and enjoying learning so much. As a result of these visits, reports are submitted and discussed at the next Full Governing Body meeting. We have also reviewed the pay and performance of the Headteacher, teaching staff and the Clerk to the Governing Body.

Looking forward, we are excited about the possibilities offered by the New Year. In January, we will review the vision which governs the way the school operates. We will arrange training, schedule some fresh school visits and we are reaching out to other, local Governing Bodies, to share best practice and to work in closer partnership with them.

It only remains for me to thank Governors, school staff, parents and, most importantly, Scantabout pupils, for a very productive Half Term. I hope everyone has a restful and enjoyable Christmas and New Year.

Steve Bowyer

Chair of Governors