



Newsletter

AUTUMN 2017 – NUMBER 3 – MONDAY 2ND OCTOBER

Dear Parents and Carers

Heads of School

Just a reminder that Mrs Wills has now started her maternity leave, so we now have Mr Norman heading up the Infant and Nursery School and Miss Hardinge as acting Head of School for the Junior School. As usual, your child's teacher is always your first point of contact. Heads of School are then available if you have further or wider issues to discuss. As you know, I am around and about every day, so please feel free to talk to me too!

Pesky Paint

I found out last week that in the Infant School, we inadvertently bought some paint for the children to use that is very difficult to wash out. Please accept our apologies for this. I only found out because someone brought in a screen-shot from a Facebook page where this was being discussed. Obviously the parents discussing it were rightly quite cross about it but unfortunately, the school was not linked in to this discussion so had no idea that the paint was an issue. Please, if there is something you need to discuss with us, come to us first before Facebook. We can only deal with things we know about. So: back to the paint. Clearly we won't be using it again but it is a waste to throw away. We are collecting it together and will be offering it free to you for use at home. If you would like some free paint for home-based art fun, then bring a bag to the infant playground before and after school on Wednesday this week where you will be able to collect it.

No Pens Day Wednesday

It is becoming a tradition across the federation that once a year, we put our pens and pencils down and show the children that we can actually learn without them. Wednesday 4th October is national No Pens Day and we will again be learning without pens. Our teachers are preparing some interesting activities for the children, so don't forget to ask your child what they got up to in school this Wednesday.

Pupil Achievements

I have mentioned this before, but I am more than happy to share the achievements our children have made outside school. This can be in any area. Whether they have got a Karate brown belt, walked up Snowdon, read 100 books or, like Keira below, won rosettes for show-jumping, we want to know about it. Simply send a good picture and a bit of text to our school email address and I will include something in the newsletter.



Gardening Club

I would like to help out at gardening club on Mondays after school.

I would be willing to come into school to do some maintenance on the school gardens and flower beds.

Signed:

Parent of:



Please return to either school office.

Number Bond Letters

All teachers from Y2 to Y6 have assessed the children in basic number bonds. As you know, we want to ensure that all children have mastered the very basic addition facts. We still have a few children who are not completely secure on these and if this applies to your child, you will be getting a letter late this week letting you know and giving you a few ideas for how you can help. This is how we are targeting our expectations:

- Year 2: number bonds to 10 (eg: 8 and 2, 3 and 7)
- Y3, as above and: number bonds to 10 and 20 (eg 17 and 3, 13 and 7 etc)
- Y4 and 5, as above and: pairs of multiples of 10 that make 100 (eg: 60 and 40, 30 and 70 etc)
- Y6: pairs of multiples of 5 that make 100 (eg: 75 and 25, 15 and 85 etc)

We will be making a big thing about this in both schools, testing the children as they walk around the corridors and out at play. I hope that you will be able to encourage this at home too.

Gardening Club

Mrs Crocock has taken up the reigns of gardening club during Miss Nash's absence and has been helped out by Mrs Maxwell. There is a lot to do, so they would appreciate some help. If you can spare some time after school on Mondays or could help out by coming in during the week for a spot of weeding, we'd love to hear from you. Please complete and return the slip on the front of this newsletter to either school office and Mrs Crocock will be in touch with you.

Outdoor Play and Learning



Tomorrow we will be holding our second meeting to plan major changes to how our lunchtime play looks for children in both schools. We have one of the most expansive sites in this part of Exeter but despite some spending on play equipment over the years, I feel that we are not making enough use of the space and that it is not entirely suited to the range of imaginative play we would like the children to experience.

I was going to try to explain my thinking behind this, but a recent cartoon in Private Eye summed it up better than I could. I want to create an environment for your children, using all the school grounds where active, imaginative play can flourish, where children who are not drawn to games like football are catered for and where well-managed risk is part of the children's experience.

The PSA is supporting the work that we have embarked on and I look forward to keeping you up to date with our progress.