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# Newsletter

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SUMMER 2017 – NUMBER 3 – FRIDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> JUNE

Dear Parents and Carers

## Vacancies at Lunchtime

We have two mealtime assistant vacancies. I am planning to review our lunchtime play provision, so this is a really good time to be joining the team. The posts are for five lunchtimes per week from 12.10 to 1.20pm. The pay is £7.80 per hour. Please see Mrs Hall for more information.

## Maths Challenge

A team of children in the juniors entered a Maths Challenge at St James' School. Having got through the first round, they were up against nine other schools in the final. They worked really well together and came fifth out of ten finalists. Here are Eva, Kannan, Daniel and Finley – only they know what maths they were doing in this picture!



## Drinks in School

The rule has always been and remains: water only in drinks bottles. I've noticed lots of children with juices in their bottles and having spoken to a couple of parents, they have said that their children do not like water. I would say that water is the best thirst quencher, does not leave a sticky mess when spilled, does not give children a sugar rush and does not rot their teeth. You may have seen a recent BBC report showing that 40% of children in England did not see a dentist last year. Hopefully, these are good enough reasons for sending the children in with water.

## Whipton Barton Table Tennis

If you have been in the junior playground, you will see that we have acquired a new table tennis table. It came free from Active Devon along with a good number of bats and balls. The children (and some staff!) have been enjoying playing during playtimes and lunchtimes. Please feel free to bring your own bats and balls in and use the table before or after school as long as the gates are open. When you feel you are good enough, you could challenge Mr Norman to a game!

## Supervision of children

Talking about the table tennis table; on Wednesday and Thursday after school this week, we had to remove children from the infant school from the table as they were standing on it and one child was kicking the net. Yesterday, I spoke to a child about swinging his scooter around very close to a staff car. Please make sure you keep an eye on your children at the end of the day. I don't want to nag, but I do expect parents to make sure they are responsible for their children before and after school.

## A growing success

If you look around on your way into school, you will see that plants and seeds planted earlier in the year are growing healthily. We have a bumper crop of potatoes adjacent to the drive, a range of vegetables in the garden area near the pond and a good number of tomato plants outside the Y2 classrooms. Many thanks to the children, parent helpers and staff

## Would you like to help with reading?

We are looking for a team of parent volunteers who can help hear children read across the Federation on a regular basis. Mrs Wills will provide you with some basic training in return for a commitment from you to come in regularly for an agreed period of time. You will also need to have a DBS check. Once trained, DBS checked and inducted, Mrs Wills will match you up with a class and off you go! We will send a letter out with more details in the next week or so. Please give it some thought and watch out for the letter.