



Newsletter

SPRING 2017 – NUMBER 4 – TUESDAY 28TH FEBRUARY 2017

Dear Parents and Carers

School Reports

Teachers have just finished writing the children's school reports and Mrs Wills, Mr Norman and I are now reading them. It is always good to hear of children making a real effort with their learning and I hope that your child's report, when you receive it, will be a positive one. You will have an opportunity to discuss reports in detail at parents' evenings which will be taking place on 14th, 15th and 16th March.

School Funding Cuts

As I said in my last Newsletter, Devon schools, including ours, are being badly affected by cuts. The only way to change this is to tell the people who make these decisions that you are not happy about it. **A REALLY SIMPLE WAY** of getting your voice heard is to sign an electronic petition at www.schoolcuts.org.uk I'd really urge you to do it; it'll take less than a minute.

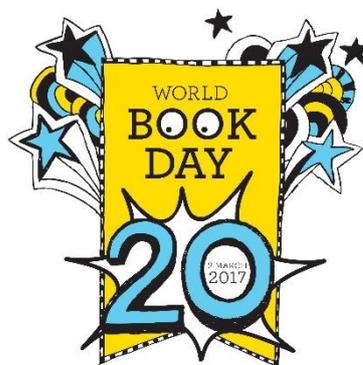
Taking up what's on offer

This is really a plea to years five and six, but probably something everyone should hear. There is a real range of activities on offer across the federation and I've been a bit surprised about how few people take them up. Whether it is Tag Rugby for Y4, 5 and 6 (we still need to build a strong team to take on Exeter schools), Maths Club for Y6 or Bikeability, we simply need more children. I spoke to KS2 children about this yesterday, particularly about Bikeability, where only seven out of fifty-eight Y6 children took part. I have asked the trainer to come back and run more sessions this term and have opened it to Y5 too (all parents have had

consent forms). We will be organising a cycle-picnic to the river in June for Y5 and 6 children and only those who have done their training will be allowed to come. Get those forms back to secure a place!

Guitar Lessons

We have a guitar teacher, Mark Knight, who at the moment only has one student! Perhaps this is an issue with cost as I've had lots of children say to me that they would like to learn (probably because my deft playing has inspired them ... I'm joking!). Mark is happy to run group lessons and this would be a great way to keep the cost down. If your child is interested in learning the guitar and you are interested in finding out more about group lessons, please complete and return the slip below to either school office by the end of this week.



Hopefully all our children and staff will be dressed as book characters this week on the 20th World Book Day!

Who are you coming as on Thursday?



Group Guitar Lessons

I would like more information about group guitar lessons for _____

Name _____





Water-bottles

I forgot to say that you can buy Whipton water-bottles from either school office for the bargain price of £1.20. Jack and Ruby are not getting paid for their repeat appearance in a Newsletter!

A plea from our Crossing Patroller

"I would like to remind car drivers that there are double yellow lines either side of the school crossing patrol for very good reasons. Anyone parking on them is not only doing so illegally, it is risking lives! When vehicles are parked illegally, I cannot see oncoming vehicles, likewise oncoming vehicles cannot see me. Similarly when the vehicles have stopped and I am in the middle of the road, I cannot see pedestrians approaching the crossing, especially little children running up to it. So please think before you park. Some parents/carers in their bid to find a parking space, see a gap and when pulling in and mounting the footpath, forget there are pedestrians on said footpath. There have been several frights! Thank you." – *Fran, your friendly crossing patroller.*

Junior School Footballing Success

Mr Norman was laid up yesterday with a sports-related injury and I was called in to take our KS2 football team to the Exeter inter-school football tournament. It is no exaggeration for me to say that some of the play that I saw from our children was amongst the best I have ever seen from a primary school team. They were a cohesive unit, supportive and encouraging of all their team-mates. They played hard but very fair; I saw Ben Purvis pick one of the opposition off the floor after a particularly positive tackle. Every boy impressed but I must single out the link-up play between Finley King and Luke Soanes; it was almost telepathic. As a result of their efforts, the team won both games: 3-0 against St Nicholas and 10-0 (yes that's right, 10-0) against Montgomery. This, I think, puts us second in the table with a good chance of coming top if the boys' form continues.

Nursery Update

Since telling you about our nursery funding, you will see that work on clearing and surveying the site has started already. We are aiming to be up and running with the new nursery building for the beginning of the autumn term. As I said in the last newsletter, this will mean that we can offer thirty hours per week, teacher-led care for three and four year olds in our nursery **FREE** to those parents who meet the government's criteria. We will shortly be consulting on extending the age range of the Infant and Nursery School in order to accommodate two year olds, too. Look out for details soon.