



Nurturing Excellence

Headteacher: Mrs Alison Whittall

18 April 2017

Dear Parents

Welcome back to school after the Easter Break. I hope, like me, you managed to get some much needed fresh air and down time with friends and family before we head in to one of our busiest terms.

Some assessments will be taking place this term (see below) but, as always, the teachers have planned an exciting array of activities to inspire the children - this time with an African theme! We also have Sports Day, Country Dancing, Hyde Heath Fete and End of Year Assembly to look forward to.

Details of activities for this term will follow at "Meet the Teacher" and in the curriculum letter, but in the meantime below is some useful information for the Summer Term - a list summarising dates/events is also attached.

SATs for Year 2 Children

Children in Year 2 will be completing their Key Stage 1 SATs this term, mostly during the month of May. These are partly teacher assessment and partly formal tests. We do not wish the children to become worried in any way about SATs - as far as possible they will be incorporated into the daily routine of their school work. **It would be helpful if children were not out of school during this period** but, of course, if anyone is ill we will accommodate their assessment when they return.

SATS meeting for Year 2 Parents - Thursday 20 April 6:30-7:30pm in the school hall

Phonics Screening Test for Year 1

In May all Year 1 children will undertake a national test with Miss Sanders to ascertain their knowledge of Phonics. Miss Sanders will be preparing the children for this test and we find that many of them actually enjoy it! It is really nothing for you or them to worry about and more information will be given at the Meet the Teacher Session on Thursday. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact the office.

Free Parenting Classes

Mrs Westlake has asked me to let you all know that there are several free parenting classes available to you all over the next term. All details can be found on the Buckinghamshire Family Information Service website <http://www.bucksfamilyinfo.org/kb5/buckinghamshire/fsd/service.page?id=3pF4sb1CqCg> See attached for further details.

Uniform and PE Kits

Although we are experiencing some milder weather now, it can often change and become quite chilly during the day. The children go outside to play and it is important that they should always bring a jumper/cardigan and a coat to put on for break and lunchtimes. During hot weather please make sure that you apply sunscreen (preferably an "all day" cream) on your children before school and ensure that they wear a hat to school. Please check that **all items of uniform and PE kit are clearly labelled with your child's name**. It causes huge disruption to the lesson when a child can't find their clothes!

Please remember: PE kit (including plimsolls) is needed in school every day - this includes Trainers and Tracksuits for PE and Games. All school uniform is available to order on-line at www.pmgsschoolwear.co.uk. You can also telephone on freephone 0800 404 6644. There have been some lapses in correct uniform of late; so please ensure your child has everything off the uniform list. I have spoken to the children about this in assembly so they are aware too. Please can I especially remind you that boys should wear plain grey or black socks only and girls should wear plain grey or red tights or white socks. Sensible black school shoes are the only shoes allowed.

Morning routine from 8.45 am

We ask parents to wait with their children outside the main gates/car park until the side gate is opened at 8.45 am. The school day starts with registration at 9.00 am and children should be in school ready to begin by this time. Unfortunately last term we had some children arriving consistently late and this is having a knock on effect to the start of the school day. Late arrivals cause disruption for both themselves and for their class and is leading to teaching time lost. The very latest time your child should be arriving at the gate is 9am prompt. Now we are well into the year we ask that all children enter the school independently and that you hand them over to the member of staff at the gate.

We are keen to encourage children to walk, cycle or ride a scooter to school. Bikes and scooters can be stored in the bike and scooter racks on the hard standing at the end of the playground. **For health & safety reasons, please ensure the children dismount before coming through the School gates.** All children will get the opportunity to attend scooter training this term.

I am delighted to say that parking outside school has been so much better of late. And I hope you will continue being considerate to our neighbours and , when possible, parking further away from school and walking the last stretch to ease congestion and make the approach to school safer for our families. If unsure please do refer once more to the perfect parking map and adhere to it at all times, park a fair distance from driveways to enable safe access and follow the rules of the Highway code. Many thanks.

Parent Helpers

Thank you for all the parent help given last term for reading, library, book changing and events. We are very appreciative of the time parents and grandparents give to the school and we are always happy to welcome more volunteers. We are still very short of reading volunteers in Year 1 and 2 so if you know of anyone who might be able to help please let us know.

Absence/Sickness

Regular attendance in school is vital for good progress and a settled school life. Department for Education Regulations stipulate that **'Headteachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are 'exceptional circumstances'**. If you need to take your child out of school, for any length of time, (even an early pick up), please make an appointment to see me at least a month in advance, before completing the relevant leave of absence forms.

If your child is unwell and unable to attend school please inform the school office first thing in the morning by telephone or email. Please also remember that under the County guidelines no child should return to school until a 48 hour period has elapsed since their last episode of vomiting or diarrhoea.

Appointments to see the Headteacher or Class Teachers

I am available to see parents by appointment most Tuesday afternoons (between 2.45 and 3.00 pm). However, I hope that everyone feels that they can make an appointment to come in and talk at any time to either myself, Mrs Batson, Mrs Musa, Mrs Rolfe or Miss Sanders as appropriate.

Several people mentioned on the questionnaire that they would like more regular communication about their child's progress. Termly parents evening and then an end of year report is standard practice for primary schools and has worked well in the past, but if you need to speak to me or the class teacher in-between times please do not hesitate to make an appointment or drop in for my open door sessions on a Tuesday. This is what they are for and people rarely use this weekly drop in session.

Pupil Premium Funding

Your child may be entitled to pupil premium funding (previously free school meals allowance). The categories of entitlement are:

- If you are receiving Income Support
- If you are receiving Income Based Job Seekers Allowance (IBJSA)
- If you are receiving Child Tax Credit - provided you are not receiving Working Tax Credit and have an annual household income not exceeding £16,190 (as assessed by the Inland Revenue)
- If your child was adopted from local authority care or left care under a special guardianship order or child arrangements order

Please do let us know if you think your child is entitled as for each Pupil Premium Child the school receives £1,300 which is spent directly on improving opportunities and support for your child and others in similar situations. You can advise us, in confidence, by completing and returning to us the enclosed application form with appropriate evidence of entitlement. If you are unsure please do see Mrs Westlake for more details.

Milk

If you wish to place an order for milk for your child, Cool Milk for Schools order details are available from the School Office, or you can register on-line at: www.coolmilk.com. Please ask Mrs Day or Mrs Smith in the School Office if you need more details. Any child whose parents have completed the pupil premium form may be entitled to free milk - please see the office for details.

School Clubs for the Summer Term

This term we will be running Gym, French, Tennis, Soccer/Kwik Cricket (after half term), Recorder, Eco, Maths Puzzle and Activity Clubs. A separate Clubs list is attached to this letter - please respond accordingly by **9:30am on Thursday 20 April**.

Gym Club for Year 1s - Monday lunchtimes

This will be run by Miss Sanders and our visiting gym coach Kim Damery - first session is Monday 24 April.

French Club for Year 1 & 2 - Mondays 3:10 - 3:45 pm

(run by Mrs Fiona Brown) - starting Monday 24 April

Letters have already been sent out to children last term who are attending this club.

Tennis Club for all years - Tuesdays 3:00 - 3:45pm

Run by Matt Reid from Chesham Bois Tennis Club from 25 April. Cost is £4 per session, totalling £32 for 8 weeks. If this club is oversubscribed names will be picked from a hat as numbers are strictly limited to 20. If your child is successful in getting a place we will send a form home on Friday which needs to be returned to us, with payment by next Monday 24 April.

Soccer Club/Kwik Cricket for Years 1 & 2 - Wednesdays lunchtimes

Andy Mullins will continue to run Soccer Club at lunchtime on Wednesdays for the first half of the term starting 19 April. For the second half of the term, Mr Mullins expects to run a Kwik Cricket Club (application forms available nearer the time). Reception Year children will be welcome to join the Kwik Cricket club - the first session will be on 7 June.

Recorder Club for Year 2s - Wednesday lunchtimes

Mrs Rolfe will continue to run this club from 26 April

Eco Club for Years 1 & 2 - Wednesday 3:00 - 3:45pm

Run by Mrs Rolfe starting on 26 April. This club gives the children an opportunity to plant seeds, to care for them and watch them grow, and to help them to understand where their food comes from. They will be part of a group who will be looking after the school's natural environment, finding out more about wildlife, composting and recycling and making good use of our allotments. Spaces are limited to 20.

Maths Puzzle Club for Years 1 and 2 - Thursday 3:00pm - 3:45pm

This will be run by Mrs Musa starting on 27 April. Spaces are limited to 12 and the activities will include problem-solving and maths investigations.

Activity Club for Reception - Thursday 3:00pm - 3:45pm

This will be run by Mrs Whittall starting on 27 April - spaces will be limited.

Please complete the attached application form for all Clubs and return as soon as possible. As part of Safeguarding in Education we keep a register of the children who have signed up for our after school clubs. This is to double check that we are certain which children are staying for a club and which children are going home.

We also need to know exact numbers to ensure that we have the right resources available for the planned activities. We would therefore ask you to **inform us in writing if a child is unable to attend a club or wishes to leave or join a club midway through the term.**

Other Dates to Note (details will follow nearer the dates, as appropriate):

Wednesday 10 May – Parents Open Forum 7:00pm – 9:00pm

This is a chance for all parents/carers to hear feedback from the Parent/Pupil Questionnaires and to discuss the school's plans for 2016/17 with the Headteacher and Governors. If you haven't already done so, could you please return your parent and pupil questionnaires to the office ASAP – thank you.

Saturday 13 May – Hyde Heath Village Fete

The School will be open from 1.30 to 3.00pm for anyone who wishes to come in and see the school. This year the children have also been invited to sing and dance in the Main Arena. Please note this date as it is a great opportunity for ALL children to represent their school in the local community. More details to follow.

Saturday 13/Sunday 14 May – St Andrews Church Flower Festival

The Flower Festival will run over the weekend 13/14 May to coincide with the Village Fete and the School has once again been invited to contribute an arrangement.

Tuesday 4 July – Induction Day for Year 2 Children

Year 2 children will spend part of the day at their new (for September 2017) schools. Invitations will be sent from receiving schools nearer the time. Year R and Year 1 will visit their new classes, and the new Reception intake will also be invited to visit the School.

Tuesday 4 July – School Open Evening

Formal Parent/Teacher Consultations have taken place in both the Autumn and Spring Terms. This term the School will be open on Tuesday 4 July, from 3:15 until 5:30pm, to give parents the opportunity to look around the whole school (with their children), to view work on display, and to speak to teaching staff informally. Parents of Year 2 children will have the option to make an appointment to see Mrs Batson and/or Mrs Musa if they wish to discuss their child's SATs results or transition to Junior school. Members of the Governing Body will also be in School to meet parents during the Open Evening.

Thursday 6 July - Chiltern Cluster Group Schools Country Dance Day for ALL children. As in previous years, this will be held at Dropmore Infant School, Burnham. More details nearer the date - a voluntary contribution will not be required for this event as the PTA has kindly offered to cover the cost of transport to the event. Parents are invited to watch with a picnic from 12 noon onwards and will be requested to take their children home once the dancing is over.

Sainsburys Vouchers

Thank you to everyone who has put their vouchers in the boxes in the School Entrance Hall. Thank you too to Seb's Grandmother and Lesley Nicholl who have been counting the vouchers for us - please keep bringing them in!

So I can hardly believe we are moving into the final term of this year and soon we will be saying goodbye to our lovely Year 2s and welcoming in another cohort of little Hyde Heathers. In the meantime we will try to jam in as much learning, fun and memory making into their last term of 2016-17!

Yours sincerely

Alison Whittall
Headteacher

DIARY DATES - SUMMER TERM 2017 (as at 18 April)

Tues 18/4	INSET DAY for staff
Weds 19/4	School begins for children First week of term - NO CLUBS THIS WEEK apart from Soccer Club which starts today at lunch time
Thurs 20/4	Meet the Teacher - 9:00 am, Parent Partnership, "Phonics" - 9:30am
Thurs 20/4	Y2 SATS Evening - 6:30 - 7:30pm
Mon 24/4	Gym Clubs begins (at lunchtime) for Year 1
Mon 24/4	French Club begin (at lunchtime) for Years 1 and 2
Tue 25/4	Tennis Club begins (3:00-3:45 pm) - for all Years
Weds 26/4	Recorder club starts at lunchtime for Year 2 Eco Club begins (3:00-3:45 pm) for Years 1 & 2
Thurs 27/4	Maths Puzzle Club begins (3:00-3:45pm) for Years 1 and 2 Activity Club (3:00-3:45pm) for Reception
Weds 3/5	Class photos 9:00 am
Mon 8/5	Year 1 Orienteering at DCHS
Wed 10/5	Parents Open Forum 7:00 - 9:00pm
Fri 12/5	Flower arranging for St Andrews Church Flower Festival
Sat 13/5	Hyde Heath Village Fete (School & Pre School open 1:30-3:00pm)
Mon 22/5	Last week of half term NO CLUBS THIS WEEK except French & Soccer
Thurs 25/5	Break up from School 3:00pm
Friday 26/5	INSET DAY for staff
Fri 26/5 - Fri 2/6	School closed - half term break
Mon 5/6	Children return after half term holiday. First week of term - NO CLUBS THIS WEEK - except French and Kwik Cricket
Wed 7/6	Kwik Cricket begins (at lunchtime) for all Years
Mon 12/6	ALL CLUBS RE-START THIS WEEK
Mon 19/6	Sports Day at 1:00pm
Mon 26/6	Reserve Sports Day (1:00pm)
Tues 4/7	Induction Day: Year 2 children visit their new schools for September 2017, Current Year R and Year 1 in their new classes New Reception children in school (9:30 - 11:30am)
Tues 4/7	Open Evening for current parents and children (3:15 - 5:30 pm)
Wed 5/7	Year 2 Games Day - DCHS
Thurs 6/7	Country Dance Day for whole school at Dropmore Infant School
Fri 7/7	End of Year Reports sent to parents
Mon 10/7	NO CLUBS THIS WEEK OR NEXT apart from last French club today
Tues 11/7	New Reception children visit session during afternoon (1:30 - 3:00pm) 6.30-7.30 pm Meeting in School for new Reception parents
Tues 18/7	9.30 am End of Year Assembly (for whole school)
Wed 19/7	Splash afternoon!
Thurs 20/7	School closes at 1.30 pm for summer holidays
Weds 6/9	Children return to school for Autumn Term

SCHOOL TERM AND HOLIDAY DATES 2017 - 2018

Term	Open on morning of	Close at end of afternoon of
Autumn	Wednesday 6 September 2017	Friday 20 October 2017
	Monday 30 October 2017	Tuesday 19 December 2017
Spring	Thursday 4 January 2018	Friday 9 February 2018
	Monday 19 February 2018	Thursday 29 March 2018
Summer	Monday 16 April 2018	Friday 25 May 2018
	Monday 4 June 2018	Friday 20 July 2018

Recommended in-service training days for teachers:

- Monday 4 September 2017
- Tuesday 5 September 2017
- Wednesday 3 January 2018
- Monday 23 July 2018
- Tuesday 24 July 2018

In addition to the dates above school will also be closed on Monday 7 May 2017 (Bank Holiday)

Having a good education will help to give your child the best possible start in life. If your child is absent for any period, they may miss essential elements of their learning programme.

The School strongly discourages parents from taking family holidays during term time. Absences during term-time are only authorised by the Headteacher in 'exceptional circumstances' as recommended by the DFE.

Please return to the School Office by 9:00am on Thursday 20 April 2017

SCHOOL CLUBS - SUMMER TERM 2017

I confirm that my child [name]
would like to attend school clubs as follows this term:

Monday Begins 24 April	Gym Club for Year 1 (lunchtime) Please tick to <u>request</u> a place	
Monday Begins 24 April	French Club for Years 1 and 2 (3:10 - 3:40pm) Please tick to confirm an existing place or request information	
Tuesday Begins 25 April	Tennis Club for all Years (3:00-3:45 pm) Please tick to <u>request</u> a place - if you child is successful we will send you an application form to be returned with payment. Places are limited and the cost is £4 per lesson (£32 in total)	
Wednesday Begins 19 April	Soccer Club for Years 1 and 2 (lunchtime) Please tick to confirm an existing place or request a form	
Wednesday Begins 26 April	Recorder Club for Year 2 (lunchtime) Please tick to confirm your child will continue to attend this term	
Wednesday Begins 26 April	Eco Club for Years 1 and 2 (3:00-3:45 pm) Please tick to <u>request</u> a place	
Thursday Begins 27 April	Maths Puzzle Club for Years 1 and 2 (3:00-3:45pm) Please tick to <u>request</u> a place	
Thursday Begins 27 April	Activity Club for Reception (3.00-3.45pm) Please tick to request a place	

I confirm that I will collect him/her at the appropriate finishing time.

Signed (Parent/Carer)

Print Name.....