

March Newsletter

Breakfast and Tea Time Club

Our Breakfast Club and Tea Time Club are brilliant. The children are looked after from 7:30am in the morning and then from the end of the school day until 5:15pm (4:45pm on a Friday). They are given a hearty breakfast or teatime snacks and then have the opportunity to play, draw or even complete homework. The costs are minimal and it is great way for the children to start and end the school day. If you would like to know more or to book into the club, please speak with Mrs Oldroyd or Mrs Allanson or call in at the office. I can guarantee that you won't be disappointed and your child will have a great time.

Parking in the School Entrance

I am delighted to see how respectful many people are when parking near school. This keeps everyone safe, reduces the risk of accidents and also the amount of parking tickets issued. If you need to park on Manor Park or Park Lane, please be considerate of our neighbours who do need access to their properties at all times. And just as a reminder, if you do stop on the double yellow lines near school and there are Traffic Patrol Officers about, you will get a ticket.

School Development Plans Update

So far, this year has been a very busy one for teacher development with our focus being on Maths, Reading and Early Years. These developments have been led by Mrs Brown, Mr Allinson, Mr Hayes, Mrs Thomas and Miss Asad, all of whom have implemented some really effective new strategies.

Reading: Mrs Brown has carried out parent, staff and children surveys, implemented a whole new reading strategy across school and has even managed to get the mobile library to stop at school every Tuesday, which has been a real success for the promotion of reading. We now have 54% of all the children in school becoming Reading Champions every week!

Writing/Curriculum Development: Through our new curriculum links, we are using a related book as a writing stimulus; this could be a novel, picture book or non-fiction book that underpins the topic that we have chosen. The children are then taught the skills of writing through the context of these books. This then means their learning links directly to their topic, covering History, Geography, Art and DT skills and knowledge. The children are really enjoying this way of learning and it means the teachers can make links in learning really clear.

Maths: Mr Allinson and Mr Hayes have been developing the school's methods of and approaches for calculation, giving the children strategies to improve their times tables knowledge and ensuring they have lots of opportunities to develop their reasoning and problem solving skills. I am sure we will see lots of good progress in the children's Maths learning this year.

Early Years: Miss Asad and Mrs Thomas have been working with an Early Years Consultant to enhance the already amazing provision that we offer even further. Over the coming weeks and months, I am confident that you will see a big difference to the environment both inside and out. This will really enhance the learning opportunities the children have on a daily basis.

If you have any questions about our School Development Plan, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Brilliant Residentials

All of our children work hard, play fairly, treat each other with respect and are brilliant ambassadors for our school – all of which was clearly demonstrated during our Year 4 and Year 6 residentials this term. The children really pushed themselves to participate in activities that even the staff found challenging and it was great to see them having such an amazing experience - one which I am sure they will remember for the rest of their lives. Well done to all the Year 4 and Year 6 children and a big thank you to all the staff involved.

Up and Coming Parent's Evening

This term's Parent's Evenings are fast approaching and are scheduled for Tuesday 2nd and Thursday 4th April. All the teachers really look forward to these evenings as they get the opportunity to share the fabulous learning that the children have been doing throughout the year with you. We will be opening the online booking system at the end of this week and will text to let you know when this is available. As on previous occasions, Leeds Catering will be offering some samples of the amazing dinners that we serve every day in the Dinner Hall during both evenings.

Assembly Dates

Date	Reception/KS1	KS2
26 nd April	Year 1	Years 3 & 6
3 rd May	Year 2	Years 4 & 5
10 th May	Reception	Years 3 & 6
17 th May	Year 1	Years 4 & 5
24 th May	No assembly – Training Day	

London Marathon

This year, we have two members of our school community running the London Marathon, Mr Turner and Mr Hopes, who are both fundraising for a charity called Henshaws – a northern charity supporting people with a range of disabilities to go beyond expectations, live a full and quality life and to be as independent as possible. A Just Giving page has been created for any donations, big or small, which can be reached through at www.justgiving.com/fundraising/lads-running-london. I know the hours of training required to prepare for the 26 mile run is a challenge in itself and so I am sure everyone will get behind them, support them and wish them all the very best of luck. We will be holding a fundraising event in school at the end of this half-term, further details will be with you soon!

FAB Update

It has been great to see some new faces coming to our FAB PTA meeting on Friday mornings recently. Thank you to everyone who comes and donates some of their free time to continue to raise some extra money for school.

This week, FAB will be launching their '5p Challenge'. Each class will be given an empty two-litre plastic bottle, with the aim being to fill it with 5 pence pieces. We will be encouraging the children to bring in any spare 5 pence pieces to put into the bottle with the class with the highest total at the end of the year winning a prize and all the money raised going to FAB.

One of the things FAB are currently looking at purchasing with some of the money that has been raised this year is a defibrillator for school. If anyone has any information about defibrillators (or experience of buying one), we would be interested in having a chat about the process. Please get in touch.

Just a reminder that we will also be holding our annual Easter Egg decorating competition this year, with entries welcomed from the 25th March. Judging will then take place the following week.

Use of Social Media and the internet

So far, this has been an amazing year in school with the children making great progress in their learning through collaborative working and open lines of communication between school, parents and children. At the

moment we use email, text, Twitter, blogs, the website and paper copies of letters to ensure communication across school is as effective as it can be.

However, the reverse of this becomes true when people post concerns or opinions on social media which can often inflame situations rather than solve them. I am very grateful to everyone who has made an appointment to come and see me recently about concerns they may have had. This keeps everything private and confidential and is the correct way to have concerns addressed. This is just a quick reminder to let you know that if anyone has any worries, issues or concerns regarding school, please do not hesitate to contact us at any time rather than posting these on social media. We will always endeavour to work with people to solve whatever the concerns may be to ensure all children reach their full potential and school runs as effectively as it can.

We are also aware of the increased use of X-Box and PlayStation games that are not always age-appropriate for primary school aged children. These games have a real impact on the children affecting how they interact with each other on the playground. Also, the blue light effect from playing these video games (and using mobile phones) before bed can make sleeping more difficult. This then has an impact the next day on concentration in school. Turning them off at least an hour before bedtime is therefore strongly recommended. This helps the brain slow down so it is ready for sleep. If you would like any more information, please visit: www.thinkuknow.co.uk

Thanks in advance for your help and support on reducing some screen time for young minds.

A Message from the Headteacher

I can't believe that Christmas was over two months ago and the spring flowers have started to bloom. Although the weather has been mixed, it has been nothing like last year's snow storms. I am confident that we will be seeing and feeling the heat from the sun soon as the children are all very keen to get on the grass so they can use the adventure playground and play football. Our school is filled with brilliant children who do brilliant things every day with help from all our brilliant staff. Everyone works very hard to provide a safe and stimulating environment for our children where learning is the focus. Having a busy, learning orientated environment really stimulates the children and helps us achieve our aims.

With their SATs coming up in May, our Year 6 children (and staff!) are working very hard. Their effort has been fantastic and we are sure this will pay dividends when the results come out in July. We really value your help and support in ensuring the children complete their revision homework on time and I am sure they will continue working hard right up to their SATs in May. Please do visit our school website which contains some great links to revision websites. It is also imperative that you book an appointment at one of the Parents' Evening before Easter.

If there is anything in this newsletter that you would like to discuss further, please do not hesitate to contact school.

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