



Newsletter 3 Spring Term

5 February 2016

Dear Parents and Carers

It is hard to believe that we are almost at the end of the first part of the spring term. However the mornings and the evening are getting lighter, and not only are the first snowdrops appearing, but I have seen a few early daffodils too!

Sports' Relief

I have been absolutely amazed and humbled by the generosity and kindness of our children this week. Our Sports' relief challenge was only launched this week by Mrs Churchill and so many children have emptied their own money boxes of coppers and put the money in the red buckets in Reception. The ladies in the office have been very busy counting them and so far we have about £30. We have quite a way to go to reach our target-please feel free to contribute other coins too.

Swimming Lessons

It has been brought to my attention that a number of children are trying to opt out of swimming lessons, which not only form part of the National Curriculum, but also teach the children a vital life skill. The curriculum states that by the end of KS2 all children should be able to swim a minimum distance of 25 metres unaided. It is therefore essential that your child participates in all swimming offered, in the same way that they have to take part in other lessons, so that they reach the required standard.

School Buses

Although we have not officially been notified, we understand that from 7th of March the coach transport to and from school will no longer be Grayline but instead a company called Walters. A few parents have raised concerns about this change. The contract for school transport is arranged entirely by Oxfordshire County Council. The contract has gone out to tender and the County has chosen Walters presumably on the basis of price. Our school has had no consultation in this decision. If you have any further concerns about this change, please contact Phil Earnshaw on 07713 329531 or by email to Philip.earnshaw@oxfordshire.gov.uk.

School Meals

The ordering facility for Fresh Start meals for next term opened on Tuesday the 2nd and the deadline for orders if you would like your child to have school meals from the start of Term 4 will be Tuesday 16th February. The theme day for next term will be St Patrick's Day and this will be held on 18th March.

Uniform

There are an increasing number of children coming to school in trainers because "my shoes are broken". I counted three on Monday and two more since then. Please try and ensure your child's school shoes follow our uniform policy, and if for any reason they do have to wear an alternative make those shoes as discreet as possible ie: black. Many thanks for your support.

Musical Box

I have been visited this week by Tim Kirkham, the Studio Director from the Musical Box, who offers extra-curricular music lessons to our pupils. Unfortunately, due to the low number of children taking lessons, the Musical Box might have to withdraw from our school. This would be a real shame as there are very few schools

that offer contemporary music tuition of this standard. Please look out for a letter from the Musical Box in the children's book bags tonight (Years 2-6) and a registration document. Lessons cost £19 for half an hour, which might seem a lot for lessons during school time, but it is 1:1 tuition, is comparable to lessons taking place outside of school hours and the students make rapid progress. Tim is offering trial lessons at the moment, so you can pay for one lesson and let your child try the instrument first. If you want your child to learn a new instrument please complete the registration form and return it returned to school by next Friday, so that Tim can judge whether he will be able to continue to offer his services.

Volunteer Readers

We have a number of parents and community members who give up their time to come into school and listen to readers. We are very grateful for their participation and they make a difference to all of our children. If anyone is interested in becoming a Volunteer Reader then please contact the school office, or speak to me in the playground. If you don't have a current DBS we will organise one for you.

Kind regards

Debbie McLeod
Headteacher

SCHOOL DIARY

12 Feb- End of Term 3
22 Feb- Back to School
23 Feb- Year 6 visit to Pizza Express
26 Feb-FoFS Bingo Night
3 March- Library Van
14 March- Year 3/4 Performance
15 March- Year 3/4 Performance
18 March-Sports Relief
19 March-FoFS Easter Egg Hunt
24 March- 10am Years 4/5 Easter Service
24 March- End of Term
11 April- Back to School
14 April- Library Van
2 May- Bank Holiday
9 May- SATs Week
12 May- Library Van
27 May- End of Term 5
6 June- INSET Day
7 June- Back to School
11 June- Summer Fete
16 June- Library Van
24 June- Sports Day
14 July- Library Van- Book Collection Only
14 July- Presentation Evening Year 6
20 July- Leavers' Service and End of Term