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Newsletter

June 2017

Child's Name:

Year 3 /4 Sports Day and News of the Year 5/6 Version

We were absolutely delighted to be able to run our year Sports Day recently and relieved that the weather had enabled it to take place. Thank you to all the parents who were able to support the children, it was much appreciated. Thank you also to the PTA for organising the well-earned drinks and biscuits for the children following the event. We are planning to hold the year 5/6 version on Wednesday 5th July at 9.30am, parents are of course welcome to attend.

Horticultural and Agricultural Show Show

If I was to attempt to define what awe and wonder is about, I would suggest that it occurs when people's jaws drop wide open, often accompanied by the word 'wow'. We certainly had a lot of those reactions from people at the 'Show' on Saturday, especially from people who attended for the first time. It isn't only the size and variety of what is on offer, it is that buzz and sense of positivity which makes all the difference and there was a real sense of a community coming together. We have had phone calls, emails and verbal congratulations since the show to add to the many lovely comments offered on the day. Given the size of our school I believe that it is nothing short of miraculous that we are able to host such an amazing event. The reason we are able to is due the fantastic support, dedication and commitment offered by the children, parents, staff and the wider community, for which I offer my grateful thanks and appreciation. The news has recently been full of sadness and tragedy, highlighting divisions within our society, we are delighted to be part of something which connects us without it being born from catastrophic event. We thank you for your support. This was the first year that we have had a dedicated photographer to record the event, we are always too busy to do the job justice. The photographs for the show, taken by keen local amateur photographer David Vowles, are now on display in the Galleries section on the school website. I think you'll agree that they look anything other than amateurish.

Organisation for Next Year - Induction Day

The children will know their new classes today in preparation for Monday 26th June's Induction Day. All the children will spend the day with their class for September. Miss Adair, Mr. Wainwright and Miss Brown will be teaching years 5/6 and Mrs. White, Miss Lavery and Mr. Urry will be with years 3/4. We bid a fond farewell to Mrs Dudley, who as organised as always, has realised that next year her children who attend two different schools, will have significantly different holiday patterns to ours. Appreciating how difficult this would be to manage, she has decided to leave us at the end of term. We would like to thank her for everything she has contributed to the school in her time with us and wish her well for the future.

Hungry Caterpillar Walk – The PTA Sponsored Walk, Monday 3rd July

Our sponsored walk organised by the PTA this year is titled the Hungry Caterpillar Walk. It is our annual adventure into the depths of Shipley Park and no matter how many times Mr. Gibbs leads it, he always manages to get 'lost'! To be fair we always manage to eventually find our way back. We hope that you will all support what is the PTA's main fund raising event of the summer. They have been raising money this year to support us to replenish our sports and playtime equipment. We have had to replace our goal posts and we look forward to our new ones being delivered. Of course it isn't simply sporting items we want to have a range of activities available for the children and of course they will be involved deciding what we purchase.



Amazon Drone Competition

We recently entered a competition run by Amazon to design a drone capable of providing humanitarian support in areas which need it. We were absolutely thrilled that in the East Midlands region we had, not only the winner but also the runner up from 1,700 entries! There were six judges representing a wide variety of disciplines who made the decision. So, this week Niall (who won) and Izzie (runner up) were presented with their prizes and photographed by the press. A special word for their parents who attended the ceremony as they had managed to keep the news to themselves. The children's faces when they found out why we were meeting with their parents and people with cameras in the school library was a joy to behold. Congratulations Niall and Izzy on an amazing achievement. The school also benefits in the shape of a cheque for a £1,000 which I am sure that Izzie and Niall will help us to decide what to do with. Thank you Miss Brown for arranging for us to take part in the competition. We now have our own Creative Arts Blog on the website which is worth checking out.

David Nieper – Make do and Mend

Each year our 'Make do and Mend' after school club produce entries for the David Nieper Fashion Competition.

Chatsworth Royal Horticultural Show – Bug Hotel

Obviously copying Mundy Junior School, Chatsworth held their own Horticultural Show recently. They also ran a competition for schools to design and build a Bug Hotel. We ran our own internal completion to produce the design and congratulations to Ella whose design was chosen. Even more wonderful, our Bug, which the ECO CATs constructed according to Ella's plans, won second prize in the competition. Sadly, when we took the ECO CATs to Chatsworth to see the Bug Hotel in situ, alongside all the other exhibits, the weather was so awful that they had to shut the show early. It was a shame but hopefully if enter again next year conditions may be more favourable.

Sport - Competitions Update

We have taken part in so many competitions recently that we have decided to produce a specific sports newsletter which will be going out shortly. It will also provide you with an overview of how we have done as a school.

Governor Visits

Two of our school governors, Dave Barker and Theresa Curran have been in to school as part of their role. To have an informed view of what we do and how we do it, they really need to experience it first-hand. You may remember that from our Values and Vision session earlier in the year we had the Junior Leadership Team attend a Governors' meeting and one of the outcomes was the request/expectation that governors visit the school more often. You will have picked up from recent Newsletters, especially our Governors' Special in April that this initiative has been eagerly taken up by our governors.

School Parliament

The Junior Leadership Team is now officially the School Parliament. The children presented in Collective Worship recently what the changes involve. We now have various ministerial roles and the Head Boy and Head Girl are now designated as the Prime Ministers. For full details please check out the school website in the 'Children' section.

Pew Painting

You may well have noticed that our pews and the benches in the Jubilee Garden are looking rejuvenated following their varnishing makeover. Our thanks to Jackie Stones the Crossing Patrol, whose efforts with the paint brush have been much appreciated.

Confirming Christmas Holiday (2017/18) Arrangements

It would seem that following our suggestion as a local cluster of schools to adopt Heanor Gate Science College's Christmas holiday pattern for 2017/18 makes a lot sense as we have not received any questions or queries. We will there go ahead with the suggested pattern, which is the school closing at the end of Friday 22nd December and re-opening to the children on Monday 8th January 2018.





INSET DAYS – Summer Term, Thursday 20th and Friday 21st July 2017.
2017/2018 – Monday 4th September 2017, Friday 5th January 2018, Monday 26th February 2018, Monday 18th June 2018, Friday 20th July 2018

Dates for your Diary (new dates or changes in bold)

Summer Term 2	7 Weeks
Monday 26 th June	Transition Day for Year 6 and Year 2 New Parents' Evening 6.00pm
Thursday 29 th June	Transition Disco (years 2-5) 5.30-7.00pm
Wednesday 5 th July	Parents' Evening 4.00-7.30pm (non-appointment)
Monday 10 th July – Wednesday 12 th July	Year 6 to Lea Green residential
Thursday 13 th and Friday 14 th July	Year 6 to Heanor Gate Science College (transition)
Wednesday 19 th July	Graduation 2.00pm Graduation Ball 6.00-8.00pm
Wednesday 19 th July	Last day of term for children
Thursday 20 th and Friday 21 st July	INSET training for staff
Autumn Term 1	7 Weeks
Monday 4 th September	INSET 1
Tuesday 5 th September	First day for the children
Friday 20 th October	Last day of half term
Autumn Tem 2	8 Weeks
Monday 30 th October	Start of 2nd Half-term
Friday 22 nd December	Last day of term
Spring Term 1	6 Weeks
Friday 5 th January	INSET 2
Monday 8 th January	First day back for the children
Friday 16 th February	Last day of half-term
Spring Term 2	4 Weeks
Monday 26 th February	INSET 3
Tuesday 27 th February	First Day for the children
Friday 23 rd March	Last day of term
Summer Term 1	7 Weeks
Monday 9 th April	First day back for the children
Monday 7 th May	Bank Holiday
Friday 25 th May	Last day of half-term
Summer Term 2	7 Weeks
Monday 4 th June	First day back for the children
Saturday 16 th June	5th Annual Horticultural and Agricultural Show 12.00pm – 4.00pm
Thursday 19 th July	Last day of term for the children
Friday 20 th July	INSET 5

