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Newsletter January 2015

Child's name _____

Hogwarts comes to Heanor

On Thursday 5th February Mundy Junior School is holding a themed book day. Along with many schools across the country we are taking a Harry Potter theme but whereas the original idea was for an evening, our event runs throughout the day and extends into the evening. The aim is that by looking at an amazingly successful writer we can further support our children in the development of their own writing. Also we would hope that it will encourage and promote the joy of reading. During the day we will have a number of themed activities in a similar way to our highly successful science day last term. We are also encouraging the children to dress up as a character from the books; we won't need to encourage the staff! The night-time event is a PTA run Harry Potter Bingo Evening (6.00am – 7.30pm) and there is even a rumour that Dumbledore himself will be calling the numbers!

Girls' Futsal Champions for Amber Valley

Our incredibly successful Upper School girls' football (Futsal is football played with a heavier football to promote skills by playing the ball on the floor, a Brazilian idea) team has done it again. We took on schools from all over Amber Valley, playing a total of five matches and scoring twenty one goals without conceding any. Congratulations to the girls for an excellent performance and a fantastic team spirit. Also, thank you to Mr Hutchinson for coaching the girls so successfully, in spite of the considerable difficulty of being a Forest fan (written before the Derby win!).

Snow and Attendance

Winter is definitely upon us! In spite of the snow our attendance today was excellent so thank you for your support in getting the children here when conditions are not great. We are always very reluctant to close as it means that the children miss out on the opportunity to learn. Always assume we are open, messages will appear very quickly on the website if that is not the case. The biggest challenge is for our staff who drive in from different directions and distances and from places such as Belper, Ripley, Alfreton and Chesterfield, which are all situated within the arctic circle! I am grateful to our staff whose dedication means that they are determined to get to school. This positive attitude is clearly there amongst our children in terms of their attitude to school. Our attendance percentage since September is 97.94% and during the whole of the previous academic year it was 97.45%. We have an ambitious target of 98% which amazingly we are getting closer to. It is interesting that our academic results have improved in line with our attendance and I don't think that is a co-incidence. The most recent national figure is 94.9% which puts our figures into some perspective and we are well above the figure that Ofsted considers to be 'outstanding'.



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Winter Scenes

I am sure you will recall that last term we asked you to email your photographs of autumnal scenes. The response was excellent and the photos are now archived on the website. As it was so popular we are, surprise, surprise asking for photographs with the theme of winter (it has certainly arrived). If you have any photos that you are worth sharing simply email them to chutchinson1@mundy.derbyshire.sch.uk.

Parking

I have had a phone call from a resident on Lockton Avenue who we know well as both of her (now grown up children) attended Mundy Junior School. She explained to me a situation where a car parked across her drive could have caused her significant problems as she has a poorly relative and could be needed at any moment. Fortunately on this particular occasion the driver was in the car and was able to move. Unfortunately, this is not an isolated incident and I am aware that our residents have daily problems with this issue, especially if the driver is not in their vehicle. They appreciate that it is only twice a day and a limited amount of time but it is causing unnecessary difficulty and frustration. I appreciate that there is limited parking availability but for the sake of parking a little further away and adding one or two minutes extra walking time, we could gain significant appreciation from our neighbours. I am aware that the police are planning checks at some point so parking across driveways on the zigzags will be of significant interest to them.

ACADEMIC YEAR 2014/2015 (new dates or changed dates in bold)	
Thursday 5 th February	The Harry Potter Book Day (fancy dress!)
Thursday 5 th February	PTA Event 6.00 – 7.30pm – Harry Potter Bingo
Friday 6 th February	End of First Half-Term
Monday 16 th February	INSET Day (3)
Tuesday 17 th February	Start of Second Half-Term
Wednesday 25 th February	Parents' Evening 4 – 7.30pm – Formal Appointments
Thursday 26 th March	End of Second Half-Term
Friday 27 th March	INSET Day (4)
Monday 13 th April	Start of Summer Term
Friday 22 nd May	End of First Half-Term
Monday 1 st June	Start of Second Half-Term
Tuesday 16 th June	Sports Day 9.30 – 11.30am
Wednesday 17 th June	Reserve Sports Day 9.30 – 11.30am
Saturday 20 th June	Horticultural and Agricultural Show 12.00pm – 3.00pm
Thursday 2 nd July	Year Sixes to Heanor Gate, Year 2s Transition Day
Wednesday 8 th July	Parents' Evening 4.00pm – 7.30pm
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 13 th , 14 th and 15 th July	Year Sixes to Lea Green
Thursday 16 th and Friday 17 th July	Year Sixes to Heanor Gate, Transition Days
Wednesday 22 nd July	Graduation 2.00pm and Graduation Ball 6.00pm – 8.00pm
Thursday 23 rd July	End of Summer Term
Friday 24 th July	INSET Day (5)



