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## Newsletter July 2015

# Bumper Summer Edition!

Child's name \_\_\_\_\_

### Farewell to Mrs Turner

Mrs Turner, after beginning her time at Mundy Junior School in the sixties as a pupil has decided to retire as a teacher at the end of the term. I am sure that this will not be the end of her association with us, one which has seen her connected with us in some capacity for every decade since the sixties. She has been a school governor and also served as Chair of Governors during the nineteen nineties. She has also been a parent, with both her children attending Mundy. She had also undertaken supply teaching for the school for a number of years before she joined us full time in 1999. For my part I will particularly miss Mrs Turner's loyalty and support both for myself and the school. She has helped out when we have had staffing changes and always put the needs of the school first. Her colleagues will be losing a highly respected, supportive and knowledgeable teacher. I am sure that you will all wish to join me in wishing her the most enjoyable and well deserved retirement and I am equally sure that she will be thinking of us all in September as she cruises the Mediterranean! Enjoy the time to yourself Mrs T., you've earned it!



### Well done Year Sixes



When I wrote in the last newsletter about the amount of time, effort and dedication of our year sixes in the lead up to their SATs, we couldn't have anticipated how successful they were going to be. We wrote specifically to the parents of the year sixes and the results are displayed on the school noticeboard, outside the school office and on our website. I won't repeat them here but last year our results were classified, in Ofsted terms as 'Outstanding' and this year we have improved again. The outcome is obviously a reflection on the children, supportive parents and a dedicated, talented staff. This will be the last year that SATs will be measured by levels as a new system is introduced, so the current year sixes will forever be the champions of levels for Mundy Junior School! More about the new system below. Congratulations to all of you and good luck for next year. Don't forget parents, we get to say farewell to them all during the Graduation Ceremony next Wednesday (22<sup>nd</sup> July in school, 2.00pm (parents welcome)) followed between 6.00pm and 8.00pm by the Graduation Ball.



## The Future of Progress



For a number of years now schools have worked out children's rate of academic progress by using levels. Level four, being the expected outcome at the end of year six. Next year we enter a new system for reporting progress. We have referred to this on the website but we thought that parents would appreciate an update. During the year we have been looking at ways in which we will change from levels whilst all children, as you will have seen from their reports, have been assessed using levels. The reason for this is quite simple, we didn't want any confusion for parents between the two systems, with the belief being that parents understand how levels work. From the point of view of the children, a new curriculum was introduced in September, which effectively meant that what used be taught in year four is now taught in year three and similarly with the other year groups. Our expectations of the children have obviously been raised in response to this. The new curriculum is what the children's progress will be judged against. There is no nationally agreed system for assessing children's progress and none is currently planned, it is up to individual school to create their own. We want to launch our system and present a clear explanation for parents when we are convinced that we have an approach that is fit for purpose. This is a major change and we want to get it right.

## Horticultural and Agricultural Show



It seems a long time ago now but what an amazing day we had. Even the weather managed to support us, eventually, to produce a day that was so obviously enjoyed by so many. We are very grateful to everyone who offered their congratulations for the event both on the day and afterwards. We estimated and appreciate that this is a conservative guess, at least 1,600 people attended the show. There were so many different stalls and providers we are still to pay some and invoice others. Money of course is secondary to putting on the actual event, it is not about fundraising, and it is more about ensuring that it is self-sustaining. The day is about bringing the community together and trying to offer something that will in some way appeal to as many people as possible, which it so obviously did. I am sure that everyone will appreciate the challenge presented for a relatively small school to produce an event of such magnitude. However, all the blood, sweat and tears are worth it when you sample the atmosphere and genuine sense of community spirit and pride.

## Heanor in Bloom



As an always vital part of the show we have now transported as many of the show gardens in and around Heanor. You may well have noticed the two displays on Ilkeston Road, one on the corner of Mundy Street and the other diagonally opposite the old/new library site, next to Shanakiel. There are also a number of shops with flower tubs that the children, school staff and Amber Valley Council have transported and placed. We have already received a number of thank yous from traders who really appreciate what we are doing. Whenever you and the children see one of the displays it adds to a sense of purpose and pride in what we are trying to do as a school.

## PTA Sponsored Walk to raise Funds for ICT Equipment



We may not have gone 500 miles on our sponsored walk but parents you have certainly gone the extra mile. We are absolutely delighted with the **£1,800** raised by our trek through Shipley and the PTA have helped raise a significant amount of money. We look forward to showing off our new ICT equipment next term. Our sincere thanks to everyone who took part and supported us and to all of you who sponsored the children. It was a really enjoyable day and in keeping with our Healthy School's status.

## Welcomes and Good-byes



Next term we will be looking to welcome Mr Ashton who joins us Assistant Head, Mrs Dudley who will be classroom teacher in Upper School and Mr Urry, who will be taking on Mrs Turner's role of providing non-contact time for staff. We will be bidding a fond farewell to Mr Roach and his ukulele as he completes his contract with us at the end of term. Also leaving us are our TAs Mr Bunting who is going to begin teacher training and Miss Bramley is also starting her training to become a secondary school Art and Design teacher. We thank them all for their contribution and wish them the best for the future.

## First PTA Event of Next Year.....

### Governors' Quiz Night – Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September 7.00pm -9.00pm

Teams have already been entering for our Quiz Spectacular on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September so don't forget to get a team sorted before we run out of space. Also follow the advice of having at least two Mundy Junior School pupils on your team as there are certain rounds where they are probably the only ones who can answer the questions! It is only five pounds to per team to take part and tickets are available from the school office. There is a bar and barbeque, live music and a tuck shop, all in all, something for everyone.



## Lea Green



The year sixes returned this week from their residential at Lea Green near Matlock. They had an amazing time and merely by chatting to them you can recognise how much they have appreciated and gained from the experience. It is an opportunity which presents different challenges to what they would normally have in school and a genuine opportunity to go beyond their normal comfort zone. The staff at Lea Green are excellent and help the children to achieve well beyond their own expectations. Thank you to our own staff of Miss Adair, Mrs Warne, Mrs Bradley (and her daughter who gave up three days from her annual holiday) who gave up time with their own families to be with the children 24/7.

## Creative Arts Day

Whilst the year sixes were scaling new heights, the rest of us enjoyed Creative Arts Day which Mrs Birkin organised for us. We all enjoyed a mixture of musical instruments, designing and building towers made of paper and looking at and experimenting with the work of Picasso. It was a very interesting and stimulating day that the children thoroughly enjoyed. It was such a success I am sure that it is a day that we will be revisiting.



## Sports Report - 64% of Children Represent the School in 15 different Sports



I thought that it would be helpful to list the recent achievements of our sports teams to give you an appreciation of how much we do as a school and how well we have done. Recently we became the Swimming Gala Champions and also won the year 5/6 Dodge-ball Tournament. To avoid any team missing out on a mention from the last few months Mr Hutchinson has very kindly produced a list for me. In 2013/2014 over 40% of our children represented the school this year the figure is an amazing **64%**. Massive thanks to both Mr Hutchinson and Mrs Knighton for enabling us to enter so many competitions and coaching our children so well, building upon the contribution of our regular coaches.

### April

- Netball Amber Valley Finals - 6th place
- Amber Valley Tag Rugby - Group stage 3<sup>rd</sup>

### May

- Heanor Kwik Cricket - Group Stage

### June

- Amber Valley Girls Kwik Cricket - Champions
- Amber Valley Cycling - Runners Up
- Amber Valley Quad Kids Outdoor Athletics - Runners-Up
- Derbyshire Primary and Junior Schools Chess - Runners-Up (for the 2nd year running)
- Amber Valley Mini Tennis - Group Stage

### July

- Amber Valley Orienteering - A Team, 7th out of 31 teams
- English Cricket Board Derbyshire Girls Kwik Cricket County Finals - Group Stage
- Heanor Hockey - 3rd, missed out on the final by goal difference, despite not losing a game or conceding a goal.
- Heanor Swimming Gala - Champions of Heanor
- Heanor Dodge-ball Upper School - winners

Also we have:

- Competed in 15 different sports
- 33 Competitions in All - Won 14 and placed 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> in 21
- For more information, check out the website.

## Dates for your Diary:

ACADEMIC YEAR 2014/2015 (new dates or changed dates in bold)	
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July	Graduation 2.00pm and Graduation Ball 6.00pm – 8.00pm
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> July	End of Summer Term
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> July	INSET Day (5)
ACADEMIC YEAR 2015/2016 This information does not include any Inset Days and will be subject to changes	
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> September	INSET DAY (1)
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> September	Beginning of half term 1
<b>Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<b>Quiz Night 7.00pm – 9.00pm (Doors Open 6.30pm)</b>
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October	End of half term 1
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November	Beginning of half term 2
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> November	Individual Photographs
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	End of half term 2
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> January 2016	Beginning of half term 3
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> February	End of half term 3
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February	Beginning of half term 4
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> March	End of half term 4
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> April	Beginning of half term 5
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> May	End of half term 5
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> June	Beginning of half term 6
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> – Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 6 to Lea Green
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> July	End of half term 6