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Newsletter - January 2018

Child's Name:

Ethos



There was a time when I thought that Ethos was one of the Three Musketeers. Over time you realise that the most important aspect of school is how well it treats everyone, and to make decisions in the best interests of the children. High academic standards are of course important but our success in this area is based upon children fully embracing everything that school has to offer and making the most of their ability. Miss Adair and I have been reminded of this at meetings we have recently had with other schools within the East Midlands, as part of a project run by the Church of England. We know that our 'Ethos' was positively commented upon by OFSTED following their visit in September but we are always looking to question and seek to improve what we do. Our 'Be Statements' run through everything that we try to achieve and our 'Ethos' is defined by them. The children are encouraged to question and discuss, constantly looking at how we can improve the school. The 'School Parliament' is of course central to that process. We will also be looking at these issues as a staff and governing body and will obviously be looking to involve parents to see how you view the school's 'Ethos'.

Sports Updates

Futsal

Our children never cease to amaze us and the time when we become blasé and take sporting success for granted is the time we need to worry. Over the years we have not been particularly successful in the Futsal Tournaments. For anyone who does know, Futsal is simply football played with a heavier ball which encourages passing. Over the last couple of weeks we have become the Amber Valley Champions for Futsal in the boys, girls and Futsal Plus categories. In all the years we have been competing in these competitions, no school has ever achieved the double, yet alone the treble. It is a fantastic achievement and I am delighted for all the children who took part. Mr. Hutchinson decided that playing 'We are the Champions' by Queen, for each successful team was not enough on its own. We ended up having all three successful teams up whilst they were serenaded with 'Simply the Best' by Tina Turner. Many congratulations to all of those children who took part.



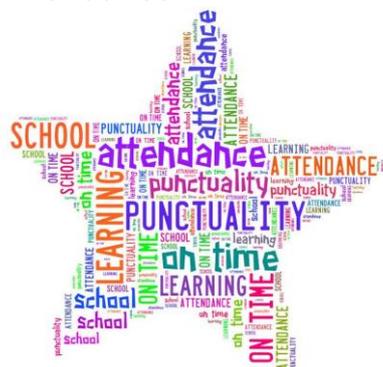
Wheelchair Basketball

Mrs. Knighton and I took a group of children to the Wheelchair Basketball event at Alfreton Leisure Centre recently. Apart from being fantastic fun (I know from previous personal experience) it also provides a brief insight for the able bodied into living life at wheelchair level. The children had a



wonderful time, soon acquiring the rules and the skills needed. Whilst it was designed as a festival we took note of the scores and our proud record was played two, won two. A fact which was shared with everyone in Collective Worship.

Attendance



We wanted to share with you how well our children are doing with their attendance. The national average is 96% and yet we are currently at 97.93%! We want to thank you for your support and appreciate that a significant part of our achievement is through parents recognising the importance of not taking the children out of school for holidays during term time. To be fair, we make that point very clear and by choosing to send your child here is to acknowledge our expectations. As Ofsted quoted one of the children in the Ofsted report 'If you are not in school you are not learning'. On this note we would just like to remind you that if your child is

absent due to illness please ring in school every day that they are off sick and then send a letter in on their return. If you have a medical or dental appointment please issue the school with your official letter or appointment card.

Lea Green

What an amazing time the year sixes had at Lea Green. Our residential trip is a significant event for the children, for many of them it will have been their first experience of being away from home. It provides wonderful opportunities and challenges for them and they shared some of their experiences in a recent Collective Worship. It provides a great opportunity for the children to make memories and to work together as a team – all great skills as they go forward into secondary school. Thank you to all of the children for their fantastic behaviour and efforts during their trip – you did us proud. Also, a word of appreciation to the staff who supported the children brilliantly and gave up time with their own families.



Lea Green
Learning and Development centre

Safety of our children



I began this newsletter talking about Ethos and its importance, linking it with how the school wants to ensure it always acts in the best interests of the children. I would like to thank the vast majority of our parents who park responsibly, away from and not opposite the zig-zags outside the school because they recognise that by doing so, it reduces the risks to our children. We are fortunate to have a Crossing Patrol in Mrs. Stones as many schools in Derbyshire do not. Whilst we are not responsible for the Crossing Patrol (Derbyshire County Council are) we

obviously encourage everyone to make Mrs. Stone's job as easy as possible by co-operating. Parking further away from school not only makes it safer for our children but has the added health benefit of a longer walk. However, wherever you park, please avoid blocking driveways, as a Church School we should be certainly looking after our neighbours.

Reading and supporting your child at home

Thank you for your continued support with our Home Learning. Please remember to record all reading evidence in your child's reading records. Again, children get rewarded for evidence of reading at home. This can be an adult's signed/initialed short note in children's reading records. Reading books are changed in school and monitored by class teachers and teaching assistants. You can help your child at home by working on your child's Spelling booklets (these booklets should be coming



home with your child). Children get rewarded for evidence of spellings practised at home. Children are also working on battling their super hero for their mental maths training. We train and test every day in school on these. All you can do to help your child at home can only benefit their learning – so thank you so much for your support. Also please feel free to complete the challenges with your child.

Headlice

They are rearing their little heads again! Please be vigilant and check your child's hair regularly. If needed please treat hair as appropriate.



Dates for your Diary (see reverse)

Dates for your Diary

Spring Term	
1 st half	6 weeks
Friday 16 th February	Last day of term
2 nd half	4 weeks
Monday 26 th February	INSET day 3
Tuesday 27 th February	First day back for children
Wednesday 7 th March	Parents Evening – 4pm to 7.30pm (Appointments)
Tuesday 20 th March	Easter Day (both in school and Church)
Wednesday 21 st March	2pm – Easter Service
Thursday 22 nd March	PTA event – Disco – 5.30pm to 7pm
Friday 23 rd March	Last day for children
Summer Term	
1 st half	7 weeks
Monday 9 th April	First day of term
Monday 7 th May	Bank Holiday
Monday 14 th May	SATS week for Year 6
Thursday 24 th May	Group Photographs
Friday 25 th May	Sponsored Walk / Last day of term
2 nd half	7 weeks
Monday 4 th June	First day of term
Tuesday 5 th June	Sports Day (Y3/4 at 9.30am)
Wednesday 6 th June	Sports Day (Y5/6 at 9.30am)
Saturday 16 th June	Horticultural Show
Monday 18 th June	INSET day 4
Friday 22 nd June	Reports to parents (except Year 6)
Wednesday 27 th June	Parents' Open Evening – 4pm to 7.30m
Thursday 28 th June	Transition disco – For Years 2 to 5 – 5.30pm to 7pm
Thursday 5 th July	Transition Day / New Parent's Meeting – 6pm
Friday 6 th July	Data input deadline
Tuesday 10 th July	School Production – 2.00pm & 6pm
Wednesday 11 th July	School Production – 6pm
Thursday 12 th July – Friday 13 th July	Y6 HGSC Days
Thursday 19 th July	Graduation Ceremony - 2pm Graduation Ball – 6pm
Friday 20 th July	Last day of term for children INSET day 5





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