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Newsletter – March 2018

Child's Name:

Home Learning Showcase

Thank you to everyone who attended our Home Learning Showcase on Thursday. From the comments I have overheard it was obviously a much appreciated exhibition and celebration of the children's work. It makes sense that if the children have put the effort in to produce something, it is so much more motivating if that work enjoys a wider audience.

Proposed Extension

Thank you to everyone who took the time and trouble to look at the plans for the suggested extension. We wanted to involve parents at the beginning of the process to gauge your views. We all realise of course, that the proposed extension is only a suggestion at the moment. However, thinking it through, regardless of the final outcome, this is an important issue for us as a school community. If you remember, there were three suggestions on the questionnaire. Option1, an attached extension of two classrooms joined onto the school, Option 2, a separate building or Option 3, which was a no, to both.

The results were Option 1 – 63% Option 2 – 13% Option 3 – 24%

As you can see, the majority of you went for the attached extension option. Nearly a quarter of you went with the preference for staying as we are. What was particularly helpful were the comments that you offered and the questions raised. In many respects they echoed what the children thought. There was a general recognition that an increase in numbers would have implications for the size of the hall. We are all aware that it is a struggle to fit all our parents in for concerts. The children had been particularly concerned that we wouldn't be able to fit everyone in for Collective Worship and that lunch times would have to reviewed as well. Play-times are another consideration as you have more children and less space on the playground.

The Governors have met and discussed the proposed extension. They are aware of the questions and issues raised and have decided that a meeting with a representative from the Local Authority (Derbyshire County Council, D.C.C.) would help us seek answers to our questions. We recognise that D.C.C. only seek to expand what they deem to be successful, popular schools. There is also the reality that the schools in Heanor are already over capacity and given the increase in housing this issue will only get worse. We will obviously keep you informed of any developments.



Good Luck Mrs. White!

Mrs. White begins her maternity leave at the end of this term. We are sure that you would all join us in wishing her all the best. We are expecting the new arrival at any moment and my fingers are crossed that the baby waits until the end of term. Mrs. White is always so organised, I am hopeful! I am sure that Mrs. White will be visiting us in the near future with baby White and as soon as we have any news we will let you know. In the meantime, as mentioned previously, we are delighted that Mrs. Cartwright, who is already well known to the children, will be teaching the class in the summer term.

When Summer Arrives....

After hopefully saying a final farewell to the snow, we may start looking forward to spring, possibly followed by summer. Who knows what the weather has in store for us? This is probably a good time to be reminding parents, not that you really need it of course, that the school's policy is that we don't authorise time off for the children during term time. It is of course parental choice but an unauthorised absence 'may well' attract a fine. We are obviously always happy to discuss individual circumstances but our initial stance is always to unauthorise. I am grateful for your understanding and support of the school's position on this. As a result of your fantastic support we continue to enjoy significantly high attendance, which is currently (97.26%). This is well above the national average. When you consider that there have been particularly virulent viruses out there, the children have done remarkably well to attend as regularly as they have done. They have certainly been demonstrating their 'Be Determined' statement.

Crossing Patrol

We have been contacted by Derbyshire County Council to inform us that they will no longer be financing our School Crossing Patrol. We have significant concerns as we believe that Mrs. Stone's role is important for supporting road safety for our children. We are very reluctant to lose her services, so at a recent Governors' meeting we decided that we should meet the costs out of the main school budget. We are sure that you will recognise and appreciate the service she offers. Obviously, with school budgets being stretched, this was a difficult financial decision but Health and Safety considerations outweighed those concerns and as always the children's needs come first.

Digital Parenting – online safety

In this ever-increasing new online world, we as adults need to have as much information at our hands to ensure our children are safe. We are sending you an excellent magazine called Digital Parenting, whose aim is to provide you with the latest expert advice so you can help your children develop the life skills and knowledge they need to use the online world safely and with confidence (whilst helping us as adults too!). Please take time to share this with your child/ren as it has a wealth of excellent information and advice.

Sporting Updates

Our teams have been participating in various competitions since our last newsletter. So, I have made the suggestion to Mr. Hutchinson that we produce a specific Sports Newsletter next term. Whilst they all get their recognition on the website, it is equally important that they have that extra recognition which an individual newsletter can provide.



Dates for your Diary – March 2018

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

