



Newsletter

February 2016

A place to
SMILE

Dear Parents/Carers,

Blink and you will miss this half term! With just over 4 weeks until the Easter break, there is lots to fit in, including a number of parent information meetings and the Spring term parents' meetings. You should have received an update to the diary dates this week which has some additional events included—please do update your calendar.

I hope that lots of you will be able to come along and support the FOWPS Bunny Run event on Saturday 19th March. There will be more information nearer the time, including ways in which families can get involved to support our fund raising efforts—look out for the return of the Great Bunny Bake Off! I can't wait to put on my judging apron this year.

Lesley Pennington—Headteacher

Attendance and Punctuality

This week, I will be carrying out my half termly attendance monitoring and contacting families where either overall attendance or lateness is of concern. Following conversations with some families last half term, please can I clarify that the school start time is **8.50am** and late marks will be recorded for pupils who arrive in school after this time.

Overall, attendance and punctuality are very good at our school—as can be seen by the many children who achieved their 100% attendance certificates for the Autumn term. However, it is important that we work with families where attendance is at risk of falling below 90% as these children are considered 'persistent absentees' by the government. National research published last year shows that even a 10% absence rate can significantly affect a child's attainment. The research, based on data from 2012-13, showed that whereas 92.3% of pupils with no absences achieved at least the expected level in reading and maths test at the end of KS2, only 68% of pupils with 85-90% attendance rates achieved the expected level 4. The difference in achieving the higher level 5 was even more stark—50.7% of pupils with no absences achieved a L5 in maths and reading, with only 16.2% of pupils in the 85-90% attendance band achieving at the higher level. We therefore have a duty to support good attendance for our children wherever this is possible.

If you wish to discuss your child's attendance, please do contact me or alternatively, advice can be sought from our parent support advisor, Stella Pratt (Tel: 01329 843127; Mob: 07748631862).

E-Mailing the Headteacher

Please can I ask parents who would like to make initial contact with me via email to use the admin address or the 'contact us' link on the school website. I have a new 'clutter' email function to help me deal with the large amount of junk email which comes through my headteacher mailbox, and unfortunately several emails from parents have been lost in there recently! (Once I have responded to you, you should be fine to 'reply'.)



February 2016 p.2

Fantastic Quiz Night Result...

...and by result, I don't mean the fact that the staff team won back the trophy this time (although we're obviously rather pleased about that!) I was referring to the amazing **£1004** which was raised on the night thanks to the fabulous efforts of our quiz team and the generosity of those who turned out to join the fun. A huge thank you to everyone who supported the evening, and to those who organised the event and stayed for the clear up.



Life Education Feedback

We hope KS2 children enjoyed the Life Education workshops last month. These sessions were paid for by FOWPS and so it is important that we know we are getting good value for money. It was therefore great to get some positive feedback from one parent who attended the parent session during the week. They explained that their child had thought the workshop was 'amazing' and commented how important they felt it was to help children make the right life choices. They commented on the 'passion and enthusiasm' of the presenter, as well as being very informative. We certainly hope to be able to keep funding this initiative and hope that all KS2 children have benefitted from the sessions.

It was lovely to also have feedback from Donna, the Life Education presenter, who had this to say about our school: "Pupils were considerate, respectful and courteous to each other during the sessions. I was greeted by pupils with positive comments and great enthusiasm. This made me feel welcome and a part of the strong school family which you have built at your school." It is lovely when visitors to our school recognise our school vision in action.



Sporting Success

Congratulations to our Y4 tag-rugby team who recently competed in the Fareham District competition, held at Boundary Oak School. Despite limited experience as a team (and for some, with the game itself!), they won all but one of the games they played during the competition. Well done to all the children involved, and to Mr White who is looking forward to these children moving into Y5/6 where they hopefully will have further opportunities in competition.

FOWPS Bag2School Collection

Thank you to everyone who braved the rain and brought in bags of recycling for our collection last half term. £203.60 was raised for FOWPS at this collection. The next collection will be in the summer term.

New Staff

We would like to welcome Mrs David and Mrs Hogan who join our midday supervisory team this half term. We are still recruiting for a part-time ICT technician—details are on the school website or Hanstnet Job Vacancies.

YR Farm Visit—Sponsorship from Local Firm

We are delighted that Sheila Tarr Independent Financial Services are sponsoring the YR Farm visitors this term, which means we do not need to ask for voluntary contributions from parents. The visitors from Longdown Dairy Farm will be coming in March to enhance the curriculum for our youngest pupils, and we are grateful to this local company for their support.



Parents' Meetings

If you haven't yet made an appointment to see your child's class teacher this half term, please contact the school office or use our online booking system. Class teachers are hoping to see parent(s) of **all** pupils this half term. Y1-6 teachers will be providing parents with the mid-year assessment update at this meeting (replacing the mid-year report) and so we would urge everyone to make sure they have an appointment.