

Newsletter 21 - 8th March 2019

Dear Families,

The construction work is finally coming to an end - doesn't it look lovely with all the block paving and landscaping going in? Our pedestrian gate can be used from Monday. Please follow the footpath to the Reception Class gate. You will notice that we now have some beautiful benches. Please ensure that your children are supervised when sitting on the benches and that they do not stand or climb on them. The electronic gates are soon to be fitted but the final tarmac surface for the driveway at the entrance will need to be done during the holidays as the school will not be able to be accessed during this time. This work is due to be completed in the Easter holidays. I will be able to give you more information about the use of the car park next week.

World Book Day: What an amazing day we had yesterday! The children looked absolutely fantastic! Thank you so much for making such an effort to provide such an array of costumes and the books that went with them. The children really enjoyed sharing these in class. Please see our whole school photograph below of all of us dressed up in front of our new 11B411 mural (more information will be provided about our 11B411 campaign over the coming weeks). The children will have brought home the special World Book Day vouchers. These can be exchanged at participating bookshops for one of the special twelve World Book Day books. Alternatively, you can use it to get £1 off a full price book. Please see the following website for more details: <https://www.worldbookday.com/books/>. The vouchers need to be redeemed by 31st March.

Tapestry: It has come to my attention this week that some of the photographs or films that are being uploaded to Tapestry by the teaching staff are showing as unavailable on your app. I have logged this with Tapestry as we can't see why this is happening from our end. As soon as they have rectified this problem, I will let you know. Apologies for this and hopefully Tapestry will resolve this issue quickly.

Relationships Education, Relationships & Sex Education & Health Education: In February, the Government published their guidance on this new policy which becomes statutory (schools are required to teach it) in September 2020. There has been some media attention around this with particular focus on some elements of the policy. I would like to reassure parents that we will not be teaching anything in relation to this policy until it has been discussed with yourselves and the teaching materials shared with you. We do not anticipate that this policy will be introduced in our school until September 2020 even though schools can start to teach it from September 2019 if they want to. Before Easter, I will send some guidance out about this so that you can peruse it and ask any questions you might have at this time.

Parent Governor & Mothers' Day Lunch: Don't forget to apply for this vacancy on or before next **Friday 15th March**. Application forms are available on our website under the 'About Us' tab and then click on 'Our Governance' or please ask Mrs Dennis for a paper copy. Please speak to

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myself or Mrs Dennis if you have any questions about this. The 15th March is also our deadline for the Mothers' Day lunch slips and payment.

Department for Education (Dfe) visit - On Tuesday we have our next visit from Val McGregor, our Dfe Education Advisor. She will spend the day observing lessons, chatting to the children, looking at their work and discussing their progress with myself and the teaching staff, as well as looking at future admissions and how the school as a whole is developing. It will be a very busy day but I am very much looking forward to Val seeing how much has happened since she last visited in November. I will share how the visit goes next week in the newsletter.

Recruitment: We are currently advertising for our next teacher to join us. We have been inundated with requests from candidates to tour the school. So far, we have shown round 30 teachers with more to come next week! Never have I had such interest for teaching positions so I am extremely excited to see what applications come through on the 18th March deadline. We will be interviewing for the post the week beginning 25th March and I look forward to sharing the outcome with you shortly after that.

Harrier Award: Miss Coxon and Mrs Blackshaw have chosen Summer Thorley for this week's Harrier Award as she has shown great resilience in her Maths when doubling numbers. She was able to double 10 and show the picture representation to go with it! Well done Summer! We have had lots of entries for our competition to name our lovely school mascot. Today was the deadline, so we will be drawing one of them out of the hat early next week and we will share the winning name with you in the newsletter. Who's will it be?

Wishing you a lovely weekend and hoping the sun shines for all of us!

Very best wishes,

Mrs Hopkins



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