

Newsletter

1st March 2019

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Welcome back to school after the Half Term Holiday! We enjoyed beautiful sunny weather over the break, which continued into this week. It was great to see the children playing outside and using our amazing school field for the first time this year! The children have made a fantastic start to Term 4 and we have welcomed lots of new families into the school. I am always delighted to see how well our children welcome pupils and how quickly the new starters learn our values and expectations.

This term our new value is **Understanding**. In their classes and during assembly, we have been discussing the importance of understanding and the difference between understanding something in their learning, and understanding other people and their feelings. Key Stage 2 took part in a values assembly on Monday thinking about the concept of empathy and how to 'put ourselves in someone else's shoes'. I look forward to hearing about the children who have won an award for showing understanding to others in our first week back.

Invitation to Learn

We are always looking for exciting ways to make the children's learning interesting and engaging. This week I enjoyed watching all of Year 3 take part in their Egyptian Day on Tuesday, following Key Stage 1's Knights and Castles Day on Monday. Children across our school also enjoy our fantastic Forest Schools led by Mrs Batson and PE led by Mr Welch, as well as specialist provision in Music, French, Fencing, Dance and SkillForce.

Online Safety

This week, there have been a number of concerns raised by parents about online safety at home. This is something that we take very seriously at school and we spend lots of time throughout the year ensuring that children know about the potential dangers of going online and how to talk about it to trusted adults. All of the children know the importance of speaking to their parents or teachers if

anything online worries them. Mr Morris coordinates our computing and online safety to ensure that we are up-to-date with educating the children about staying safe. As parents, it is important that you are aware of children's online activities and fully supervise them at all times. If you would like advice on how to keep your children safe online, please ask your child's teacher.

World Book Week

The children will be having lots of exciting book-related activities during World Book Week from 4th to 8th March including a dance workshop and story-telling session. On **Friday 8th March. Children are invited to come to school dressed as their favourite book character.** One of the children's favourite annual events will take place on this day, where they get to hear a story read by every teacher in the school!

500 Words!

Thank you to everyone who supported their children in completing their fabulous 500 Word stories. Winners' certificates will be awarded next Friday. If you would like to enter your child's writing into the BBC Radio 2 official competition, search 'BBC 500 Words'. The closing date is 8th March 2019.

Reading

Many thanks to you for reading with your children at home. Research shows that children who read with their parents regularly make the best progress at school. Reading helps children to improve in every aspect of the curriculum and it is a vital skill when they progress to secondary school (and start working in the future). Reading to your child is just as important as listening to them read and even when older children can read independently, it is still important that they read with an adult. We recommend that all children read at least 3 times per week at home.

Winter Weather

Despite the recent sunshine, please ensure that children have warm coats in school each day. The decision to close the school will be made early in the morning and will only be closed if insufficient staff are able to come in to keep the school running safely, conditions on the site are dangerous or conditions are

considered to become too hazardous for travel. Once the decision has been made to close the school I will ensure that we have notified Spire FM, BBC Radio Wiltshire and BFPS. We will send out a text to all families and update the school website and Twitter.

Parent's Coffee Morning

We will be having a coffee morning on Thursday 21st March from 9.00 till 10.00, with our Family Support Worker, Mrs Pelling. Everyone is welcome, please come along for a coffee and a chat.

Parent Pay Card Payments

We are now able to process card payments through parent pay in the office. If you are unable to pay online at home or have lost login details, we can process payments on bank cards in the office.

Leaving Zouch?

If your child/ren will be leaving Zouch Academy in the near future, due a military posting or any other reason, please collect a leavers form from the office. This way, we can have your child's school documents ready for you to collect on their last day. These can then be passed on to their new school.

Parent Mail

Our communication system used for texting parents has been merged to Parent Mail. Parents should have received an e-mail to verify their addresses. We would like to have all parents using the app for Parent Mail as we are hoping to set-up Parents Evening appointments using the app going forward. Please contact the office if you have any problems with this process.

PE Kit and Forest Schools

Please ensure that your child has their PE kit and Forest School clothes in school every day. These lessons are an important part of the curriculum and without the correct kit they may not be able to participate.

Class Photographs

Children will be having class photos at Zouch on **Tuesday 2nd April**.

Breakfast Club Parking

Please be aware that the school car park is for staff use only. Due to safety reasons, parents are unable to use this car park. Please park outside the school and walk in through the main gate. Children should not be in the car park for any reason.

New Contact Numbers

If you have changed your mobile number, please come to the office and complete a Change of Contact Details form. It will help us keep our contact information up to date.

Term Details

This term finishes on **Friday 5th April at 1PM**, gates will be open from 12.50.

Children start back to school on **Wednesday 24th April 2019**.

Term dates

Mon 4th Mar	World Book Week
Fri 8th Mar	Dress Up day, World Book Week
Thurs 14th Mar	14.00 Y2 Parents Workshop KS2 Hall Please see Miss Hargreaves or Mr Morris to book a space.
Thurs 21st Mar	Parents Coffee Morning
Tues 2nd Apr	Class Photos and Year 6 Leavers Photos
Fri 5th Apr	Finish at 1PM for Half Term

Nina Johnson *Principal*

