



Headteacher – Mrs. Fiona Newton

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January 2020

What a lot to pack into this month's newsletter!

Governor Vacancies

You will remember in previous newsletters we have been looking for new governors to join the governing body. I am pleased to let you know David Huddleston and Jon Borgia have been appointed as parent governors, and Elisabeth Donachie has been appointed as a partnership governor. Part of the role of a parent governor is to give a parent perspective; if parents/carers have any questions or concerns, the first point of contact should continue to be your child's classteacher. A full list of governors can be found on the school website.

Behaviour Policy

Thank you to the parents who contributed to ideas and suggestions regarding the behaviour policy; a close parent/school working relationship is important to us and this was reflected in the comments received from parents too. The finalised version of the policy can be seen on the school website. Parents/carers may find the section relating to responsibilities (of all) particularly helpful.

Parents may have noticed we have recently presented additional certificates in recognition of different values we consider to be important: kindness, respect and perseverance. In the future, we will also recognise children who are a good friend and are honest which I'm sure you'll agree are important values to hold too. Children all have different talents and areas of strength which we recognise and plan to award certificates for too. Our new pupil of the week cards also have space for staff to write to parents the reasons they have received the award as I'm aware some children don't always relay the message to parents/carers.

Road Safety

The governors and I have recently been considering different measures which could be implemented to improve road safety in the village and specifically around school. We have spoken to police, fire brigade, highways agency and active travel department.

I am aware there will be sessions planned for the community to be delivered in different locations in the village and at different times; further details to follow as we know them. I am hoping to meet shortly with a representative from the highways department to look at the location of the school and the surrounding roads and to take advice on the options available. We are investigating the possibility of a school crossing patrol being deployed to school as well as the using speed monitoring devices.

Following discussions with the police, I have also suggested to Key Stage 2 children, if travelling to/from school on foot from Duke Street, that they enter and exit the school grounds via the nursery gate as they are then further away from the road. Some parents may not be aware that sometimes children in Key Stage 2, who have been dropped off at school, then walk back towards the village to meet their friends in the morning. I have suggested to the children they either walk to school with their friends or stay on the school grounds once they have been dropped off as this would ease congestion on the pavement during this busy time; parents may wish to discuss this with their children. Also, a reminder that children are not supervised before 8.50am when the doors are opened.



One other possible option we are looking into is setting up a 'walking bus' scheme and once I have further details about this, I will let parents/carers know.

Attendance

Following advice from the Local Authority, we have changed the written information we send to parents requesting time off school in term time. Parents/carers will now receive a letter after completing a leave of absence request. If the absence is to be recorded as unauthorised, the letter will inform parents if we are required to forward your child's attendance information to the local authority. Parents/carers may also receive a text message if your child's attendance drops below 95% as we strive for our attendance to be in line with the national of 96%.

Please can I also remind parents/carers to phone school between 8am and 9am to report a child's absence – thank you for your co-operation as this helps checking our register much easier.

Sponsored Welly Walk

Earlier in the week, your child should have brought home with them a sponsor form from the PTA for the sponsored welly walk which is taking place on Friday 31st January. All money raised will go towards a new quiet area outside for the children to use at playtimes and lunchtimes. Any parent/carer who would like to join the sponsored welly walk is most welcome to join us on Friday 31st; please come to the school field just after 1pm (with wellies on if you have them!).

Nursery/Reception

At the beginning of January, we welcomed an additional nine children to Nursery and we are going to be at full capacity for some sessions after Easter, 31 children at any one time. It's lovely to see so many new faces and families joining our school.

This does however mean the cloakroom area can be quite congested and I would therefore ask parents/carers to leave pushchairs outside the door to prevent blockages as I know the space is tight. Thank you for your co-operation.

School Meals - Lunchshop

You may have noticed there has been a 'packed lunch from home' option added to the meals section of Lunchshop. Please could I ask parents/carers to use this when ordering meals for the week to help us reduce the number of missed/unordered meals.

World Book Thursday 5th March 2020 – Dressing up

This year to mark World Book Day we would like to invite children to come dressed as their favourite character from a book. There are lots of super ideas on the internet and I'm sure the children will enjoy the opportunity to dress up. If children don't want to dress up, they could instead come in their pyjamas (ready for bedtime and sharing their favourite book). We will award two prizes per class for inventive ideas. I look forward to seeing them all.

Best Wishes,

F Newton

Mrs. Fiona Newton
Headteacher



Dates for the Spring Term 2020

Thursday 23 rd January	Swimming Years 3 & 4 (Week 2)
Wednesday 29 th January	Year 5 to Dowdales - Performing Arts. Transport provided.
Thursday 30 th January	Swimming Years 3 & 4 (Week 3)
Friday 31 st January	Sponsored Welly Walk. 1pm (Nursery am)
	Key Steps 3 Gymnastics @ DASH.
Monday 3 rd – Wednesday 5 th February	Robinwood
Thursday 6 th February	Swimming Years 3 & 4 (Week 4)
Friday 7 th February	Year 5 to Dowdales - Aladdin. Transport provided.
Monday 10 th February	Valentines disco KS1 5.30pm-6.30pm. KS2 6.45pm-8pm
Thursday 13 th February	Swimming Years 3 & 4 (Week 5)
Monday 17 th – Friday 21 st February	Half Term

