



Spring Meadow Newsletter

Autumn: October 2016

Welcome

Summer is definitely over! Welcome to our October newsletter. I am pleased to report that the new nursery and reception children have settled in well to the new classes.

Last week Year 2 visited Ely Museum. This visit was organised to link with their History topic of famous people. The focus of the visit was Hereward the Wake and William the Conqueror. The children were allowed to try on costumes, even suits of armour. They also listened to an informative talk about Hereward himself.

Thank you to those new nursery and reception parents who attended our coffee mornings and afternoons. There were only a few of us this year which was probably because the children have settled in to reception so smoothly and quickly. It was a great opportunity for parents to connect and network locally and we are planning to organise more.

Harvest Assembly

Our Harvest Assembly was last Friday. Thank you so much for your donations. Our assembly was led by Reverend Keith Waters from New Connexions Free Church in High Barns. He re-told the parable of the Sower and the Seeds with some help from one of our oldest pupils, Oliver, played the sower and one of our youngest children played the part of the seed. The Food was donated to the Ely Foodbank who reported that we collected over 180kg of food!

Priorities at Spring Meadow

This academic year, our focus is on raising attainment at the end of Key stage 1. Last year our results dipped due to the changes to the curriculum. You may have heard on the news that results have dipped across the country also. However, the children made fantastic progress throughout year 2 and the staff could not have worked any harder. The new interim assessments require children to meet all of the specific criteria to be judged as working at age related expectations whereas previously teachers have provided a best-fit judgement. This is also one of the reasons, we have decided not to set children in Year 2, so the teachers get to know their children as writers in other contexts. You can support your children by encouraging them to learn their spellings in a fun way, practice number bonds to 5, 10, 20 and 100 and encourage your children to write more extended sentences using 'and, when, if and but'.

Dates for October

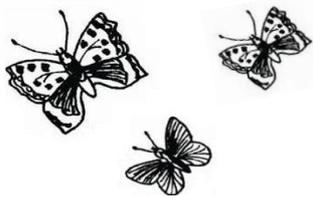
Monday 10 October 3:00-6:00
Reception Parent Consultations

Thursday 13 October 4:30-7:00
Reception Parent Consultations

Thursday 20 October 10:00
Prospective Parents' Meeting

Friday 4 November
Nursery Stay'N'Play sessions
(morning and afternoon)





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Safeguarding and Child Protection

All staff have now completed local authority safeguarding and child protection training. If you have any concerns about a child you can contact social care (0345 0452203) if your concerns are outside of school or speak to one of our designated child protection officers; Mr Cooper, Mrs Latimer, Katrina Wodehouse (Home School Partner) and Karen Hornsey (Deputy After School Club manager).

Just a reminder...

Now that the weather has turned, please could parents remember to dress children appropriately and make sure clothes are labelled. We still have a number of items of clothing left in our lost property cupboard.

Attendance

Any requests for leave during term time will not be authorised. This includes holidays and weddings. There has been an increase in requests of this kind recently. Although the statutory school age is five, we do encourage children to develop good habits around coming to school.

Parental Questionnaires

Thank you to all those parents who completed our parental questionnaires. The responses were overwhelmingly positive. The one area that you would like to see improved is around being given enough notice for events. You may have noticed that the website has been updated to accommodate this.

Thanksgiving 2016

Thanksgiving this year will be on Thursday 24 November. If any of you, particularly our American families, have any ideas on how we could celebrate thanksgiving in school, please contact Mr Cooper or Mrs Bethke (Willow Class teacher).

Half Term (24th – 28th October)

On behalf of us all, we wish you a happy half term break and **look forward to seeing you back on Monday 31st October.**

TERM DATES

Autumn term 2016

1st September Professional Day
2nd September Professional Day
5th September– 21st October
24th October
to Half Term
28th October
31st October—20th December

Spring term 2017

4th January Professional Day
5th January—10th February
13th February
to Half Term
17th February
20th February—31st March

Summer term 2017

18th April Professional Day
19th April - 26th May
1st May 2017 May Day
29th May
to Half Term
2nd June
5th June Professional Day
6th June—21st July

