

Friday 13th May 2016

After School Club Vacancy, Collaboration, End of Year Assessments, Classes in 2016/17, Financial Audit, Year 6 Legends, Young Musicians Concert, Queen's Birthday Party Tickets, Summer Fair, Healthy Eating, Punctuality, Communication, Governors and Student Teachers

After School Club – URGENT APPEAL – one more vacancy

After half term, we need one more adult for our Thursday Activity Club. If you can help or know anybody who can, please do let us know as soon as possible. The children and parents value these clubs enormously so we desperately want them to be able to continue.

Collaboration

On Wednesday, teachers took part in some excellent cross-school work with teachers from St John's, Hennock and Bearnes. We put ourselves through rigorous moderation of each other's teachers' assessments. I'm very pleased to tell you the results demonstrate that we assess your children's writing accurately against the standards for the new curriculum. This gives us all confidence that we are getting it right and that you will receive accurate assessments of your child's ability in their end of year report.

End of Year Assessments

On your child's report you will find an explanation about their attainment in relation to national expectations. As I've mentioned previously, the new national curriculum for children in Year 1 through to Year 6 is much more demanding than in previous years. Therefore, children will typically fall short of reaching expectations in the earlier years of implementation. Also there will be considerably less children achieving above expectations (working at DEPTH) for the same reasons.

Classes in 2016 / 2017

For your information I can confirm that from September we will have 4 classes: a Reception class, a Y1/2 class, a Y3/4 class and a Year 5/6 class.

Financial Audit

This week, we have had a two-day financial audit of our school. I'm very pleased to inform you that it was very successful and recognised our good practice in finance as well as acknowledging that we meet a wide range of other statutory obligations including governance, policies, trips, safeguarding and risk assessments. Many thanks to Karen for her hard work and expertise. Thanks also to Richard Whiffin whose governor oversight and budgetary competence makes a real difference.

Year 6 Legends

As you probably know, Year 6 ploughed through their SATs this week. Although it will be a while before we know their results, they all gave a 100% and, I think, secretly enjoyed their week. Thank you very much to Mrs Brewer who has been supporting us with additional booster sessions since January. Now Year 6 are embarking on their final 9 weeks at primary school. This will be a different and exciting time for them as they work towards achieving a special Leavers Award and engage with a wide variety of other real life and exciting education projects. We are all very proud of them and they should be very proud of themselves. We look forward to them enjoying their final weeks and creating some final happy memories.

Young Musicians Concert

On Thursday 24th May, Mary Collins's young musicians will be celebrating their skills in a school concert starting at 2.30pm. Although this event is primarily for the family and friends of the musicians, anybody else who is interested is very welcome to attend. Thank you to Mary for organising this event.

Queen's Birthday Party Tickets

This is a reminder that you can collect free tickets at Model Stores today for the party on Sunday 12th June.

Summer Fair

Our Summer Fair (Saturday 25th June) is fast approaching and our wonderful PTFA is looking for volunteers. If you can spare any time, even just one hour, it would be greatly appreciated. This is the PTFA's main fund raising event for the year and there a lot of jobs that need doing so the more who can sign up, the better the workload is shared. Many thanks.

The PTFA would also like donations for a variety of stalls, including tombola items, teddies / cuddly toys, toys, games and raffle items. If you have anything to spare, there is a box in the foyer for donations. Thank you.

Healthy Eating

Please can I ask you to consider carefully the food you send into school with your child. We are keen to promote positive healthy lifestyles and show children how a balanced, considered diet is important. Therefore, snacks at playtimes should be healthy ones (i.e. no crisps, chocolate, sweets etc) and the drink for class is water only. With their balanced packed lunch, a fruit drink (but no fizzy) and crisps are fine.

Punctuality

Please can I remind you that learning starts at 9.00am. Lessons start at this time and this is often a key time of day for running intervention groups and focussed learning where we allocate time, staff and resources. Please can you do your best to get your child into school promptly. Thank you for your understanding.

Communication

We are always very keen to keep clear lines of communication between school and home. If you have any concern, please can you see your class teacher in the first instance. If you want to pass on some brief information then first thing in the morning is ok. However, this is a busy time of day, so if you need a bit longer, after school is better or you can make an appointment via the office. I am also very happy to meet with you if you feel this is also necessary.

Governors

The full governing body met last night to review school progress. Thank you very much to them for their time and insight, which is so valued and helps keep the school moving forward successfully.

Student Teachers

For your information, we will be joined by 4 student teachers next week. Miss Taylor and Mr Cramp-Sherry will be working in Puffin Class. Miss Miller and Miss Moffat will be working in Swift Class. They will be with us until Friday 17th June.

Have a wonderful weekend.