



### **Changes to the timings of the school day have been confirmed**

**From Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February the school day will end at 3.10pm for the main school and for Nursery PM 12.20pm – 3.20pm**

Dear Parents and Carers,

You will all be aware that several weeks ago now we consulted you all on a change to the school day alongside a planned shortening of lunchtime. We also consulted staff and children (through the School Council) about the proposed change and the overwhelming response was that lunchtime and the school day should be shortened. However, we also needed to seek the approval of the Governors for such a change and at the Governors' meeting last night, this was given approval. This means that from after half term, parents will need to arrange to collect children every day at 3.10pm including Friday so that every day is the same. There will be some other changes too which will come alongside this that will have a positive impact on the children and their time with us. We are looking to arrange more clubs, some additional Homework support and 1:1 tuition for the older children, as well as giving teachers and TAs time to review the learning of the day and plan better for the needs of all individuals.

Please could I ask that all parents ensure that children are collected on time from after half term and that we are not in the position of having to call you to remind you to do this; thank you.

### **Meet the Principal – Coffee and conversation**

**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2018 @ 8.45 – 10am**

For those of you who have previously attended these discussions, you will know how very informal they are. About 10 parents attend and it would be really good if many more of you came to meet with me, to talk through concerns, hear what is coming up and what we are focusing on over the coming few weeks and months. Please do come! I look forward to seeing you on Thursday morning.

### **Walking Home**

We allow children in Years 5 and 6 to walk home on their own, with parental permission. If a child is younger than that, we would need the parent to come in and sign a specific form to say they give permission for their child to go home on their own. It is not however something we would advocate as a general rule. If a parent wishes an older child to collect a child at the end of the day we would suggest the child picking up should be aged 16 or more. However a parent can come in and fill in a form for a child to pick up who is younger than this. We will not release to younger siblings unless this form has been signed.

### **School Dinners**

Reminder all school dinners are payable in advance, if there is a debt owing then you will need to provide a packed lunch until the debt is cleared and your account is in credit.

Have a lovely weekend!

### **Nursery News**

This week in Nursery we have been amazed at the writing the children have been producing for our writing wall.

Please encourage your child to write at home especially writing for a purpose.

If you are writing a card for someone get them to 'have a go' at doing their name.

It doesn't matter what it looks like this is how writing develops.

If you are writing a shopping list give them a piece of paper and ask the children to write one too.

We have had an exciting week with lots of pets visiting & the children have learnt loads about lots of different animals.

Next week in Nursery our older children will be going out on a trip to Pets At Home.

At the end of the week will be setting up our role play area as a pet shop.

If you have any empty packets etc for pet food or medicines please may we have them? Thank you so much for your support with all of these things.

### **News Reception**

Next week in Literacy we will be writing all about African animals. It would be fantastic if you could pop to the local library and see if the children could find some books about African animals and even draw a picture of them. It would be great if you could bring in an African animal toy for the children to label on Tuesday such as a giraffe, elephant or lion.

In Maths we will continue our learning on one more and one less. Please encourage your children with number questions at home such as, 'how many raisins have you got? If I eat one raisin how many are left?'

We would love for you to join us on Friday 2nd February in the afternoon to make some African drums and maracas with your children. Please could you collect any bottles and tubs that could be used for this.

### **Year 1**

The children had great deal of fun at the dinosaur workshop. They learnt a lot about palaeontologists and what they do.

Next week we will be writing recounts in literacy about their day learning about dinosaurs, the skills we will be focusing on are time conjunctions and writing in the past tense.

In maths next week, we are starting a new unit and will be looking at adding and subtracting within 20.

### **Year 2 News**

It has been another exciting week in Year 2 with both classes taking part in a 'farm to fork' experience at Tesco. The children were very excited to go behind the scenes to find out about the different foods shops stock. Next week the children will be continuing their writing based on the story 'Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs'. If you have a chance try and watch the film over the weekend. In maths we will be moving on to work about fractions. Our topic work for this week will be art based using the work of Guiseppe Archimboldo as a stimulus. Please try to do some research with your child to find out about this artist.

### **Year 3**

This week in Literacy we have completed our explanation texts on how to work our own inventions. In maths we are continuing with working on multiplication and division and in Science we have started learning about the changing state of water. In reading we have now found out how Grandma reacts to taking the medicine in 'George's Marvellous Medicine' and next week we are looking forward to writing a narrative based around our own inventions. In maths we will continue to learn multiplication and division and will be creating our own kite designs in topic. In reading we will be finally finding out if Grandma continues to grow. We are very impressed with the quality of the children's topic homework, keep up the hard work and thank you for your support with this.

### **Year 4**

It has been another exciting week in Year 4. The children have been working hard in numeracy with converting fractions and representing them in different forms. In literacy the children have worked hard and have enjoyed writing their own stories. They have also enjoyed learning more about the polar-regions and understanding what contributes to the ice melting. They have even created their

own posters explaining how global warming is affecting the planet.

Next week, the children will be moving on with their literacy work and will be reading some real-life diary entries from some famous Arctic and Antarctic explorers, they will then be planning and writing their own in role of an explorer. In numeracy, the children will be concluding their work on fractions by calculating fractions and putting them into real life scenarios.

A polite reminder that if you have not yet paid the **£5.00 contribution** for our Antarctic Team visit, please ensure that it is paid to the finance office as soon as possible.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

### Year 5

This week, we have begun making our rainforest shoeboxes which are looking fabulous. The children have been working exceptionally hard in their groups and the results are impressive. We will be inviting parents in to see these once they are finished.

Next week will be a very exciting week for Year 5. On Tuesday, we are attending an 'anti-bullying' conference at Portsmouth Guildhall during the afternoon (this is during school hours). We are hopeful that the children will find this to be an enjoyable and interesting experience and that they can share the information and skills that they have learnt with the rest of the school.

In literacy next week, we will be beginning our narrative unit where we will be retelling the story of Kensuke's Kingdom with our own endings. We will be reminding children of the work they have done previously on figurative language and are excited to read their rapidly developing writing. In maths, we are continuing our topic on fractions and will be practicing the skills of adding, subtracting and multiplying fractions with different denominators.

### Year 6

Next week we continue to investigate the effect of rationing during the War. Pupils will have the chance to look at a week's supply of food for themselves and sample a couple of recipes produced to help things go further or replace ingredients that were not available. We will debate the benefits and issues associated with rationing compared to our diet today.

As you are probably aware, the preparation for SATs has now moved up a gear and as part of this the year group will be sitting 'Mock' SATs next week. We have begun our science and the focus for the week is on the water cycle. Please remember to read with your child throughout the week and sign the home school link book to show it is happening. The year group have responded really positively to the reading challenge and several have already moved on to their second book on the Y6 list. Well done those pupils!

The Y6 team.