



SPARKENHOE COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 2018

'Together we can...'



Here we are at the end of 2018 already, looking forward to the holidays and the New Year. It has been a lovely term with many trips, activities and assemblies. The children continue to delight us and amaze us with their fantastic attitudes and achievements.

End of term events

Our annual carol concerts will be held on Friday 21st December in the Saxby Hall. The first concert will be at 9.00 am for F2, Year 1, Year 3 and Year 5. The second will be at 10.00 am for Year 2, Year 4 and Year 6. F2 children will sing their favourite song from their Nativity. The other children will sing Christmas songs and carols that they have learned in class. This year children who are learning to play the guitar will perform in both concerts. As this is also the last day of term, it will be a non-uniform day and any children who want to can wear Christmas jumpers.

Christmas parties for children will take place on Thursday 20th for Years 1 and 2 and for Year 3 and 4. Year 5 and 6 will be going to the cinema on Thursday 20th December. F1 will be having parties in class on Thursday and F2 enjoyed their party, including a visit from Santa, last Friday.

Parent Pay Online payment system

Nearly half of parents have registered with parent pay. We are aiming to stop taking cash completely in school by the summer. This means all payments for dinners, milk, trips and kidszone will need to be paid online or with a printed barcode from the school office.

All you need to register is an email address and the letter with your child's code from school. Parents who have registered are enjoying the freedom to pay for items at a convenient time and no longer have to come to school and queue.

Once the registration process has been done, the system is easy to use. We will be holding some sessions in January where we hope parents will come and register. If you need another letter with your child's details please collect one from the office.

In future, letters will also be sent out using parent pay which we hope will make communication better. We will still send paper copies until everyone has signed up to parent pay.

Assemblies and Performances

The Year 4 Greek assemblies earlier in the term were fantastic. The children loved performing and learnt a lot about Ancient Greece at the same time. Last week we saw F2 perform their Nativity assemblies which were absolutely wonderful. The children were so confident and I know there were many very proud parents in the audience.

F1 Admissions

We are currently registering children to start in the Nursery with Mrs Simpson in September 2019. This is for children who have their 3rd birthday between 1st September 2015 and 31st August 2016. Places will start to be allocated after 15th March so if you would like your child to have a morning or afternoon place, please contact the school office to make an appointment. Applications after this date will still be considered if there are places left.

Before and after school care

We currently offer extended day care for children both before school and after school. Before care starts at 7.45 am and children are taken to their classes at 8.30 am. After school care runs from 3.00 pm to 5.15 pm. The costs are: £7.50 a week for before care and £15.00 a week for after care. If any parents are interested, please contact Rita Patel via the school office.

Activities in school

There have been many trips, visits and sporting events recently. The e-safety assemblies for parents were well attended and the children enjoyed the workshops too. The children loved the writing workshops with the author Jane Clarke and produced some fantastic work. Year 3 and 4 had a great time at De Montfort Hall watching the Philharmonic orchestra and some Year 3 children enjoyed a workshop too. Year 5 were very lucky to visit the virtual orchestra in the city centre and there was a lovely news piece on BBC East Midlands. The school choir travelled to London in November to perform as part of the Leicester-shire choir at the Royal Albert Hall. This was an incredible day and such a wonderful experience. Year 6 went to the Warning Zone where they took part in various activities about safety. Year 3 had a lovely morning at Newtown Linford.

We continue to compete in many different sporting competitions. These include football leagues and tournaments for all age groups, basketball, dodgeball and netball. There have been some great success stories and fantastic team and individual performances. All children in Key Stage 2 enjoyed healthy living activities with Leicester Tigers.

Milk

Parents who pay for school milk should have had a letter to order milk for the spring/summer terms. If you have not had this, please speak to your child's teacher or contact the school office. Orders will be taken up to Friday 21st December and payment needs to be made by Friday 18th January. If you have paid for the spring term already, please ignore the letter.

Family Support

Mrs Galton, our family support worker, is available to provide advice for families. This includes support with writing letters, advice on benefits and housing and advice for families suffering from hardship. From January, Mrs Galton will be available every Wednesday and Thursday in the Gopsall building. You do not need an appointment. If you would like further information, please speak to Mrs Cooper.

Bad weather

Now the weather is getting colder, it is important that all children have a suitable coat and shoes to wear outside. We have been very lucky so far this winter but if it does get icy, it is important that children are careful walking on the pavements. The school would only close if the weather was very bad and if it was dangerous for staff and children to get to school. If this was the case, there would be information and updates on the school website and BBC Radio Leicester. We would also send a text message to parents. Please make sure we have your current phone number.

Security

After the holiday we will be making some changes to access through the school car park. For health and safety reasons we will be locking the large green gate in the car park. Concerns have been raised about the safety of children and adults using the car park as a route to and from school. The car park is often busy at these times which is a danger to people walking through. This means that parents and children will no longer be able to walk through the car park to get into school at any time. The gates on Sparkenhoe Street and Highfields Street will be open at the usual times and should be used to take children to and from classrooms. We are aiming to start with the new arrangements from Monday 15th January and will send out a reminder during the first week of term. We do understand that this may be more inconvenient for some families and thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

School closes for the Christmas holiday on Friday 21st December at the usual time of 3.00 pm.

Dates for the diary		
Spring Term 2019		
Tuesday 8 th January	School opens for the spring term	
Wednesday 9 th January	Year 5 topic wow day	Parents will be invited
Thursday 10 th January	Year 6 topic wow day	Parents will be invited
Thursday 17 th January	Year 6 street law session	In school time
Wednesday 23 rd January	F2 and Year 6 height and weight checks	
Friday 25 th January	Fire service with Years 1 and 5	
Monday 28 th January	Governing Body MAT ratification meeting	
Wednesday 30 th January	Parliament UK assembly - KS2	
Monday 4 th February	NSPCC assemblies- Years 1 to 6	
Wednesday 6 th February	PGL Caythorpes residential	Children return on Saturday 9 th
Week beginning 11 th February	Year 2 London's Burning assemblies	
Monday 11 th February	Year 2 author visit	
Monday 11 th February	NSPCC workshops - Years 5 and 6	
Wednesday 13 th February	Year 3 author visit	
Thursday 14 th February	Parents Evening 1	Details will be sent out
Friday 15 th February	School closes for half term	
Monday 25 th February	School opens	
Tuesday 26 th February	Year 3 topic wow day	Parents will be invited
Tuesday 26 th February	Parents Evening 2	Details will be sent out
Wednesday 27 th February	Year 4 topic wow day	Parents will be invited
Friday 1 st March	Secondary school offer day	
Tuesday 5 th March	Year 1 topic wow day	Parents will be invited
Thursday 7 th March	World Book day	
Friday 8 th March	France 4 day residential	Children return on Monday 11 th
Friday 15 th March	Red Nose Day	
Thursday 4 th April	Year 2 visit to Clipston	
Week beginning 8 th April	Year 3 X Marks the Spot assemblies	
Friday 12 th April	School closes for the Easter holiday	
Tuesday 16 th April	Primary school offer day	
Summer Term 2019		
Monday 29 th April	School opens	
Monday 6 th May	Bank holiday	
Monday 13 th May	Year 6 SATs week	
Week beginning 20 th May	Year 1 Four Seasons assemblies	
Thursday 6 th June	Clipston school visiting Year 2	
Thursday 6 th June	Year 5 My best Book event	
Week beginning 10 th June	Year 5 Musicals assemblies	
Thursday 4 th July	Fun day	
Thursday 11 th July	Whole school performance	
Thursday 11 th July	Year 6 Shakespeare evening performance	
Friday 12 th July	School closes for the summer holiday	

All dates and times for assemblies will be sent out nearer the time. Have a lovely Christmas holiday.

We welcome your views and thoughts and are always around if you need to talk to us. If you would like to raise an issue or ask a question to a member of our Governing Body, please email govs@sparkenhoe.leicester.sch.uk. As always, you can make an appointment if you need to speak to a member of staff in private.

Rhian Jones Headteacher