



SPARKENHOE COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

## NEWSLETTER - MARCH 2018

'Together we can..'



It's nearly the Easter holiday already. Let's hope it starts to feel like spring soon! It has been a lovely term with many events, trips, activities and assemblies and we have another busy term ahead of us.

### Curriculum Enhancements

We have managed to fit quite a few visits and events in so far this term. Year 2 enjoyed their visit to the synagogue as part of their assembly topic. Year 4 had a fantastic day at Fleckney Primary where they created a butterfly canvas together and made lots of new friends. They are hoping to have another joint trip in the summer. Year 4 also had a fantastic Victorian day at Beaumanor Hall. They really looked the part in their Victorian costumes and loved experiencing life in Victorian times. Year 1 went to New Walk museum as part of their Art topic and loved everything they saw. Year 2 and 3 had a brilliant time at Leicester Tigers for the author visit. They saw John Dougherty and were inspired by the talk and workshops. The exemplary behaviour of the children was commented on by John Dougherty and we were given copies of his book for school. Year 6 also had an inspiring day at De Montfort University where they experienced computing activities and a tour of the campus. Years 1 and 5 enjoyed fire safety activities delivered by Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service where they learnt about safety in the home. Year 3 learnt about saving water with an assembly and activities delivered by Severn Trent.

### Sport at Sparkenhoe

As a school, we continue to take part in many different sporting activities and try new things. The Year 5 and 6 football team are making progress in the league and beginning to win a few more matches. The Year 2 football team are doing well and are currently 3<sup>rd</sup> in the league after eight games. They have won five and lost three. Year 3 enjoyed weekly rugby sessions with Leicester Tigers this term. The basketball team won their group at the recent tournament and reached the area finals. This was a fantastic achievement. The netball team had some success in their league, winning two matches. They were awarded the 'Spirit of the Games' trophy for fair play and sportsmanship. In the latest hockey tournament, the Year 4 team reached the final of the competition where they were narrowly beaten. Well done to them. All in all, it's been a successful term which we hope will continue with the Year 3 and 4 football league in the summer and many other events and tournaments, including cricket and athletics.

### Residential Visits

The children and staff had a fantastic time at Kingswood. They enjoyed archery, fencing, climbing, quad biking, zip wire and laser zone as well as taking part in team challenges. The camping residential in May is already full. We are going to France again in March 2019. Although this seems a long way off, the letter will be sent out to children in Year 3, 4 and 5 after the Easter holiday! In the Autumn term, the Year 3 children enjoyed a one night camp in school. Another one night camp for children in Year 2 will be held in May so look out for the letters.

### **Fundraising**

Thank you to everyone for your continued support with fundraising for charity this term. We were overwhelmed with donations for the cancer research collection. Seventy two bags were donated, raising over £2000. This week we are finishing off the term with Sports Relief activities. Thank you for your continued generosity.

### **Health and fitness**

All classes have started doing extra weekly activities in school to improve general fitness. In the summer term, we will be holding a healthy living day with healthy eating and dental hygiene activities as well as exercise and fitness sessions. On Sports Relief day we will also be focusing on activity and exercise.

Last term we sent out information about food allergies and would just like to remind parents not to send any food to school that contains nuts. This includes all packed lunches and treats sent for birthdays. Thank you for your support with this.

### **Assemblies and Performances**

The Year 2 Creation assembly was wonderful. The children were very confident performing in front of a large audience and the costumes, acting and singing were amazing. The assembly also included a very important message about looking after our planet. The Year 3 Easter assembly this week was a resounding success with the children performing admirably.

### **Workshops and events for parents**

This term, all year groups invited parents to take part in their topic 'Wow' days. Lots of parents came to these and joined in activities with the children. We hope you enjoyed them as much as the children and staff. We will be offering more of these in the future.

Year 2 parents are still enjoying the weekly handwriting workshops and the Year 1 reading workshops are also going really well. Year 3 have started weekly maths workshops this term and Year 4 are holding a one off maths event for parents. F2 held very successful phonics and maths workshops for parents. Science days are planned for the summer term where we hope parents will join us to take part in science experiments. We hope these activities and events are useful. If you have any suggestions for other events or workshops you would like to see in school, please let us know. The parent survey will be sent out after the Easter holiday and you can include any suggestions on this too.

### **Illegal parking**

Every day there are many cars parked illegally on Sparkenhoe Street at the beginning and end of the school day. There are also cars causing obstructions on Severn Street in the morning and after school. We would like to remind parents that it is illegal to park on zig zag white lines, yellow lines or half on the pavement. It is dangerous to other road users and pedestrians. We are working closely with the traffic enforcement office to try to tackle this problem as we are very concerned about the safety of the children. We would encourage parents who live a long way from school to park further away from the school and then walk. Not only will this help with the problems outside school but it is also a healthier option. Thank you for your support in these matters.

### Visitors

This term we have welcomed University international students from Panama, China, the Caribbean, Taiwan and Japan. They all really enjoyed seeing lessons and talking to the children and were very impressed with everything they saw. Many of our Governors have also been into school to see maths, computing, Early Years and to look at sports in school and health and safety. Teachers from other Leicester schools have also visited to see our approach to teaching maths.

### Milk

Parents who pay for school milk should have had a letter to order milk for the summer term. 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 13<sup>th</sup> April and payment needs to be made by Friday 20<sup>th</sup> April.

## Dates for the diary

### Summer Term

<b>Monday 9<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>School opens for the summer term</b>	
<b>Week beginning 16<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Vaisakhi Day activities</b>	
<b>Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Science afternoon for Years 3 and 4</b>	<b>Parents will be invited</b>
<b>Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Science afternoon for Years 1 and 2</b>	<b>Parents will be invited</b>
<b>Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Science afternoon for Years 5 and 6</b>	<b>Parents will be invited</b>
<b>Week beginning 23<sup>rd</sup> April</b>	<b>Earth Day activities</b>	
<b>Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Year 5 and 6 cricket tournament for girls</b>	
<b>Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Year 1 visit to the Sikh temple</b>	
<b>Week beginning 30<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Year 1 Vaisakhi assemblies</b>	<b>Parents will be invited</b>
<b>Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> May</b>	<b>Years 5 and 6 cricket tournament</b>	
<b>Monday 14<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Year 6 statutory tests start</b>	
<b>Friday 18<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Healthy Living Day</b>	<b>Activities for children and parents</b>
<b>Week beginning 21<sup>st</sup> May</b>	<b>Buddha Day activities</b>	
<b>Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May</b>	<b>Camping residential</b>	
<b>Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>Athletics competition - Years 4, 5 and 6</b>	
<b>Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>My Best Book awards - 10 Year 5 children</b>	
<b>Friday 8<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>Year 5 visiting Fleckney Primary</b>	
<b>Week beginning 18<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>Year 5 Eid assemblies</b>	
<b>Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>Fleckney children visiting Year 5</b>	
<b>Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>Year 4 brass performance at De Montfort Hall</b>	<b>Letters will be sent nearer the time</b>
<b>Week beginning 2<sup>nd</sup> July</b>	<b>Sports Days</b>	<b>Parents will be invited</b>
<b>Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>Whole school outdoor performance</b>	<b>Parents will be invited</b>
<b>Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>Year 6 Shakespeare evening performance</b>	
<b>Friday 13<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>School closes for the summer holiday</b>	

All dates and times for festival assemblies will be sent out nearer the time. Have a lovely Easter 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](mailto: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*