



February 2017 Newsletter



Dear Parents and Friends,

Thank you to all those who were able to come to our January parents' consultations, we had conversations about 152 children, it was an 84% attendance rate. For those of us who like numbers this means that 98% of parents have attended at least 1 consultation session and 78% have attended both. This was an important session we had the opportunity to discuss your child's learning progress over the autumn term and any other issues that were raised from the autumn report card. The spring report will not contain assessment information, it will, instead, focus on aspects like learning behaviours and homework. The summer term consultations are scheduled for the 2nd & 3rd May.

Well done Year 1, they will be winning the attendance prize for January, with an attendance of 96.1%. It has been a difficult month for attendance, the sickness and vomiting bug has been especially virulent and most unpleasant for those who have gone down with it. Please, be sure to observe the 48 hour quarantine period before returning your child to school should he/her catch that particular bug.

Our builders are back on site and pushing on with phase 1 of the plans – new offices and reception area. They were held up with the footings because a good few drains ran through the trench they had dug, this is now resolved so we expect them to be busy on site right through to the end of August.

In an earlier letter I explained to you the progress with the playground, it seems that we are by no means in a unique position and I'm told that many schools have found the rubberised surface to be inadequate for their needs and are opting for an overlay of needlepunch carpet – this is the recommendation of the company that Sport England have engaged to support us with this remedial work. I have put a specification out to tender and on the basis of this have commissioned the repair work from a company based in Wisbech. It will take 3-4 weeks to manufacture the overlay to our specification but I'm optimistic that the fitters will be on site during the week that begins 6th March. The situation is not ideal but the end is in sight; I'm told by the experts that as the weather warms up the surface friction increases and so I'm proposing that from now on, on dry days only, and provided that they are wearing trainers children can play on the rubber surface. I will take a day-by-day decision on whether or not the playground is fit for play, you, of course have every right to request that your child does not play on the surface, if that is the case please send in a note and we will ensure that they remain on the tarmac. Trainers have a far better gripping sole than most school shoes and so we will insist on trainers (not plimsoles) for children

playing on the rubber surface. Thank you for your cooperation with this.

There has been a good handful of returns to my consultation letter about the after school club – I really would like to get the views of the whole community and am surprised that some regular users have not yet responded, please remember that I would like to make a decision on this by Monday afternoon. Please be assured that I am eager to maintain an affordable and flexible service for the whole school community. However I feel that I also need to point out that the care we offer does have to be paid for and some families are taking a very long time to pay their invoices. Please make every effort to pay for these facilities as soon as you receive the invoices.

Congratulations to Mrs Lascelles and the school's sporting achievements in again achieving the School Games Gold Award. All year groups will be taking part in sporting activities this term. In fact only this week Year 6 girls came 2nd in the South Norfolk Sportshall Athletics against some very large schools. Look out for separate letters regarding sporting events for your child's class.

Finally we would like to remind you that half term is from Monday 13th February to Friday 17th. Easter is from Monday 3rd April, returning to school on Tuesday 18th April.

Yours sincerely

James Richards