

Newsletter: February 2019

Dear Parents

I hope that you are enjoying the unseasonal weather; the children have certainly benefited from the opportunity to spend playtimes in the warm sunshine at a time of the year when we would really expect 'indoor playtimes' because of the rain, snow and cold! That said, the weather is a cause for some concern. As the BBC has reported, 'Kew Gardens has reached 21.2 °C which is the UK's new maximum temperature record for February, winter and the year so far.' And there have been wildfires in Scotland, Sussex and Yorkshire!

Our assembly theme since the New Year has been environmental with class presentations on the following topics: Y2 – sustainable living (green schools), Y3 – pollution (land, water and air), Y4 – Sustainable living (green homes), Y5 – climate change and Y6 – eco systems. These have complemented Fr. Paul's 'Stewardship of Creation' focus. The children have enjoyed learning about our wonderful world and they have responded thoughtfully to the issues we have considered. We are determined to change our habits within school to ensure that over time we become more environmentally aware and I know that the children are keen to do the same at home. I am certain that this is a topic of conversation within many households too so please respond positively to any suggestions which your child may have!

I will soon share some of the children's work on this subject with you via the school website.

Please remember that we celebrate **Ash Wednesday** next week on the 6th March and that all pupils from Reception to Y6 should meet at church for an 8.50 am prompt start.

The Eucharist and imposition of ashes will be led by The Bishop of Edmonton, The Right Reverend Rob Wickham and Fr. Paul. You are of course, as always, welcome to join us.

A warm welcome to Serena King, our new Y1 teacher who joined us this week. Ms. King will job share with Mrs. De Villiers to the end of the school year, teaching Mondays and Tuesdays. Welcome also to Ms. Sarah Yardley who teaches alongside Miss Starodubtseva in Y2 on Monday and Tuesday mornings through to June 2019.

We took advantage of the beautiful weather this week to organise a key stage 2 **cross-country** afternoon at Bethune Park. Cross country is not for everyone but we were so thrilled with the children to see the effort they were prepared to put into it. The photos are proof of their determination and grit. Some pupils even seemed to enjoy themselves!!



More pictures can be found at the end of this newsletter.

Please, please, please don't forget that this Friday the 1st March we are holding a '**Danceathon**' throughout the school afternoon (all pupils) and late afternoon and early evening (for mums, dads and their children) to raise money to repair and add new equipment to our **activity/adventure trail**. **Friday is also a non-uniform day**. Please ensure that children are suitably dressed for normal lessons and playtimes as well as a dance session during the afternoon. To date we have raised almost £800 through Just Giving contributions and generous donations from our church congregation. Thus far we have no idea of the amount which you, our parent community, have so far raised so please do continue to seek sponsorship for your child's dancing session and return your sponsor forms and donations to school at your earliest convenience. Our target is at least £2000 but we would love to exceed this. We very much hope that this is within our grasp. Anything beyond that amount would be fantastic as equipment is expensive and what we are able to purchase to enhance the children's playtime experiences will be determined by the money available to us. The more we raise the more we can spend! Expenditure will be further supported by the PTFA. Sponsorship can continue beyond the event itself with retrospective funding for your child's participation through to the 15th March! A massive thank you for your support for this initiative.

Our school's 'Wider Curriculum' and 'Sport Enrichment' Programmes: we are very proud of our school curriculum and the marvellous and unusual opportunities we offer our pupils. Please have a look at the two powerpoints which have recently been uploaded to the school website. The powerpoints provide information about the wonderful array of

exciting and stimulating activities the children encounter and I am sure that you will enjoy looking at the pictures too! You will find these power points and an explanation of how we use our sports grant funding within the 'Information Tab' at the top of each page of the website.

Thank you to everyone who attended our recent **Reading Workshop & PTFA AGM**. We were thrilled with the turnout and given your support and positive feedback we look forward to planning our next parent workshops. Information about both the AGM and Jacob Mitchell's workshop will soon be added to the website.

The National Education Group: please remember to log on to activate your personal account to benefit from all the information available to you to help ensure that your children can remain safe on the internet. The governors have fully funded the cost of this fantastic resource for parents and carers for one year. Since offering this resource last month, to date only 10 parents have accessed the material. For more information, see the January Newsletter.

Don't forget that we now have a '**Community Fridge**.' Information about this was included in the January Newsletter too. Remember that fresh food, fruit and vegetables, which you have which you know you will not use (you might be going away for the weekend) can be put in our community fridge in the entrance lobby and enjoyed by someone else rather than wasted and thrown away! We hope that this will quickly become a popular way of sharing food which would otherwise be wasted.

We have noticed an emerging trend of absence immediately prior to and following school holidays. **Attendance Figures** are closely monitored by the school, local

authority and the DfE. Holidays and excursions are not permitted either side of school holidays.

This term's **Parent Teacher Consultations** are scheduled for the week commencing Monday 18th March. Remember that you can book your consultations now using our online booking system.

Graham Gunn
Head Teacher



