

A challenging and rewarding educational experience



December 2017 NEWSLETTER

Dates for your diary

Friday 1 st December	Non-uniform – Bring-a-bottle Celebration assembly – Drum performance - Zambezi
Wednesday 6 th December	Colour Fair – 5pm-6.30pm
Thursday 7 th December	Nursery Christmas Singing for parents 2.30pm
Friday 8 th December	No celebration assembly today!
Monday 11 th December	Christmas Performance 6.30pm-7.30pm
Tuesday 12 th December	Christmas Performance 2.00-pm – 3.00pm and 6.30pm-7.30pm
Wednesday 13 th December	Singing at Asda (9.30am – 12.00pm approx.) Christmas Dinner
Thursday 14 th December	Christmas Parties Singing at Unilever (2.45pm)
Friday 15th December	Assembly 'Round the Tree' 9.05am Singing at Tesco (10.00am – 12.00pm approx.)
Tuesday 2nd January	School Closes for Christmas break School Re-opens

School Term dates:

Schools open	Schools Close	Holiday
Monday 4 th September 2017	Friday 20 th October	Half term: 21st Oct– 29 th Oct
Monday 30 th October 2017	Friday 15 th December	Christmas: 16 th Dec – 1 st Jan
Tuesday 2 nd January 2018	Friday 9 th February	Half term: 10 th Feb -18 th Feb
Monday 19 th February 2018	Thursday 29 th March	Easter: 30 th March – 15 th April
Monday 16 th April 2018	Friday 4 th May	May Bank: 5 th May – 7 th May
Tuesday 8 th May 2018	Friday 25 th May	Half Term: 26 th May – 3 rd June
Monday 4 th June 2018	Wednesday 25 th July	Summer begins: 26 th July

Training Days : Monday 4th September, Monday 30th October, Monday 23rd July, Tuesday 24th July, Wednesday 25th July

Governor Update -Parents' Evening Wednesday, November 8th

I am writing on behalf of all the school governors to say a big thank you to all the parents/ carers who spoke so warmly and willingly to us on this evening. The focus for our talk with you was our Sex and Relationships curriculum, which was introduced into school last summer term. All the parents we spoke with were positive about the teaching /learning programme for their children, which we had on display. Some parents/ carers took the opportunity to look at the videos that are part of the programme for some year groups.

Parents/ Carers shared their thoughts and responses with us-

'I'm glad it's not just about the physical facts, which is all I got, but, includes the emotional and mental aspects of relationships as well.'

'It's a lot better than it was when I was at school.' This was a common reaction from parents.

'I think it's good that the children learn about it as a class group.'

Many parents/carers expressed their confidence in the school in dealing with this key aspect of their children's learning appropriately and well. One said, 'I have full trust in school.'

There were some parents/ carers we spoke with who were not aware of the programme, but said that they would now go on to the school's website to find out more. You will find there, an overview of the whole programme and, the specific teaching for each year group from year 2, including the vocabulary used in the lessons. Sex education lessons will next take place in the Spring term before Easter next year and a letter will be sent out letting you know when this will happen.

Please remember if you then have any concerns or questions, or would like to watch the videos accompanying the programme, don't hesitate to contact Mrs Drinkall or Mrs Sheerin.

Again, thank you for your time and contributions that evening, we really do value our contact with you.

We have all the exciting Christmas celebrations to look forward to, and, I'd like to take this opportunity to wish all parent/carers and their families a very Happy Christmas.

Jenny Horton on behalf of all the governors.

Parent Feedback – Website

Thank you to all parents who took the time to complete the consultation sheet about our new website. The feedback was really positive and we are really pleased that you find the website easy to navigate, useful and more 'current/up-to-date' - you also gave us some ideas about some areas where we can make some additions.

Below are some of the comments which give an overall flavour of the feedback received:

What do you like about it?

- Content updated more regularly than previous
- Class pages
- Photos – variety of learning
- Colourful, vibrant pictures which demonstrate a vibrant, energetic, positive school
- Easy to read and find things I was looking for eg menu
- Information, pictures and posts are so clear
- Plenty of helpful links about activities, homework, things starting the following month, seeing school pictures

What have you found useful? Letters home

- Parents page
- Easy to send emails
- News – upcoming events
- Subject page
- Diary

What do you want to see more of?

- Photos from nursery

- Examples of maths learning in yr2
- A bit more explanation of what is going on
- Upcoming activities/trip lists
- More updates of pictures and events in classroom activities
- Explaining homework eg maths, suffix etc.
- Search could be easier – sometimes click takes to a different direction

Thanks again for your feedback and please keep checking the website regularly – there are new posts every week!

Colour Fair

Thank you to all parents who have donated prizes, bottles and items for our 'colour' stalls. Now all you need to do is come and buy them back! Please do come along on Wednesday and bring friends and relatives with you.

Colour Fair is one of our biggest fundraisers and last year we raised an amazing £1,250. Last year we used the proceeds to purchase books and also to subsidise visits. We would really like to raise that much again this year so that we can continue to subsidise visits this year.

Nursery Christmas Singing – Thursday 7th December at 2.30pm

Another highlight of Christmas is our Nursery Christmas Singing session. The children have been learning some Christmas songs and we hope they will be confident enough to sing them for you! All parents and grandparents are welcome to join us and sing-a-long!

Christmas Performances

Thank you to all parents who have returned their slips requesting tickets – the deadline is Friday 1st. As you know it is not always possible to allocate tickets for all performances although Mr Barker does a fantastic job of accommodating parents as best he can. Please remember that even though you may not have a ticket for both evening performances we still need your child to attend!

It is really important that ALL children do their very best to attend BOTH evening performances. The children will be working hard to learn all the song words and their own class parts and it would be a shame for them then not to come back to join in. The doors will open at 6.00pm (no earlier) and parents who are not staying to watch the performance can come back to collect them at 7.45 approx. We hope that you will all enjoy our performance and that it will mark the beginning of your Christmas celebrations – we certainly enjoy our rehearsals!

Christmas parties

All our class Christmas parties will be on Thursday 14th December. Children can come to school in party clothes but please remember to wear something suitable for play/lunchtime. Watch out for a note from your class teacher requesting small donations of party food.

Christmas Singing at ASDA, Tesco and Unilever.

We will once again be taking volunteers from year 5 and 6 to sing with us at Tesco and Asda. I am also pleased that we have once again been invited to sing at the staff Christmas event at Unilever! Each year we raise between £1,000 and £1,200 which we split 50/50 between school and our chosen charity. Last year however we were able to sing twice at Asda and as a result we raised a staggering £1,769.45 - it would be amazing if we could get close to that amount again. This year's chosen charity is St Gemma's hospice.

This is a valuable opportunity to raise money for ourselves and for charity. More importantly, it is an opportunity for the children to witness how their actions can spread some joy within our local community. We often have elderly shoppers staying to listen for a while and many tell us how much they enjoy to hear our children sing. These sessions are the highlight of my Christmas! If you are out-and-about shopping please do come along to support us – it's hard work singing for over 2 hours and friendly faces do help to keep us going.

COATS, WELLIES, HATS

No matter how cold and wet the weather we intend to maintain outdoor play at break and lunchtime whenever possible – drizzle will not keep us in! Although sometimes it looks miserable the children are actually much happier outside and certainly more able to keep focussed in the afternoon if they have had some fresh air at lunchtime.

I have noticed an increasing number of children wearing wellies to school and I think it's great! These are the children who then have fun playing and splashing in the puddles but are still dry when they come in.

So wellies/boots/sturdy shoes, warm coats with hoods and/or hats and we can all have fun whatever the weather!

School Gate Parking and Leeds City Council's Parking Enforcement Vehicle

Please read this extract from a letter sent to all schools.

We are writing to let you know that in a bid to combat illegal and dangerous parking near to schools, the council has invested in a new parking enforcement vehicle. The vehicle utilises camera/ video capacity to identify illegal, dangerous and inappropriate parking. Footage captured by the vehicle is verified by parking enforcement officers and where an offence has been committed fines will be issued.



We love Times Tables Rock Stars and Mathletics



Remember to keep using TTRocks and Mathletics at home every day.

Children need to be FAST and ACCURATE.

Check that you know your child's password and challenge them – you could even play against them! Are they faster than you?

Talking Tips

Share a book by reading to your child.

Many thanks for all your support

Mrs Sheerin