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Newsletter

23rd September 2014

Thought for the day: 'Children are the living messages we send to a time we will not see' -John W. Whitehead

Take One Picture

We have had a great two weeks producing work around the painting *Saint George and the Dragon*, by Paolo Uccello, so why not drop in and take a look? The children's work is on display in the hall and in the classrooms.

Contact Details and Curriculum Information

Last week, you should have received a copy of the contact details form we hold for your child. If you have not done so already, please check this form, amend as appropriate, sign and return to school as soon as possible.

Phonics into Reading Evening for Parents - Wednesday 24th September

After last year's success, we have again arranged a special evening of phonics for parents of children in Reception and Year 1, this Wednesday evening. Parents will have the opportunity to find out about how children are taught phonics at school and how they can help their children more effectively with reading at home.

Pupil Numbers Increase Again

After a small influx of pupils following the summer break, pupil numbers have once again increased, to 227, which is just short of the maximum capacity of the school. This figure represents the largest pupil numbers in nearly 20 years.

'You Said, We Did' Display

At Purwell School, we feel strongly that the whole school community is included in helping the school to improve. A new display in the entrance lobby is underway. This will show the school's responses to parent and pupil suggestions for school improvements. With the success of pupil voice sessions at school, and with significant parent written feedback offered to us at the Open Day and those offered to us via parent questionnaires, many good suggestions have been received. The intention of the 'You Said, We Did' display, (as we are calling it) is to inform parents and visitors of the school's response to some of the school community suggestions for improvement.

Commendation Book

Some parents have requested that there be a system where the reason their child receives a commendation certificate be communicated to them. This is more relevant to younger children who may not remember the reason after their teacher tells them and when it is announced in assembly. So, from next week, a commendation book will be left in the reception area on Mondays and Tuesdays with the certificate winners' names and the reasons they were commended written in it. Parents are welcome to come in and have a look at the book.

Extra Curricular Clubs

At the Open Day, in the summer, several parents fed back to us that they would like to see more clubs being offered by the school, with more variety and clubs for younger pupils. I am delighted to say that, this year, we are able to offer pupils twice as many extracurricular activities than this time last year and more than we have offered for many years, with clubs being offered to KS1 pupils, too.

However, the increase in school pupil numbers has contributed to the fact that places cannot be offered to every child that wants to join a club. Some will be put at the top of the list when the club is run again.

The administration around organising clubs has been more challenging than we expected and several parents have expressed their disappointment that their children have missed out and, also, about the order in which information has been released. I apologise for teething problems we have experienced this term with regards to clubs, and promise to review the process, before announcing how clubs procedures will operate in the Spring term.

Harvest Assembly

The harvest assembly will take place on **Wednesday 15th October at 9.30am** in the school hall. Everyone is most welcome to attend this service. Donations of produce should be brought into school either on the day before or on the morning of the assembly. These items will be distributed amongst the senior citizens living in our community. The school holds a list of senior citizens in the area. Please let us know of any new senior citizens who have moved into the area, or of any who have not received harvest gifts from us before but would like to do so now. Pupils are invited to decorate a shoebox and bring it to school to be used to distribute our harvest gifts.

Book Fair

The Travelling Book Company 'book fair' is in school from Friday 3rd October until Wednesday 8th October. It will be open from 3.20pm until 4pm on these days for you and your child to come and visit.

Display of the Week



Beech Class pupils have created their own moving dragons using compressed air.

Fun Lunch Change for Thursday 2nd October

Next week, fun lunch will be on Thursday and not Friday. So please bear this in mind when looking at the menus with your child. We will be on menu 2 next week and Thursday and Friday will be swapped for one week only. This is due to an expected late delivery of food.

School Meals

A reminder that school meals, for pupils in Years 3 - 6, now cost £2.15 per day, £10.75 per week. Cheques should be made payable to *Hertfordshire Catering Ltd.*

Cash Payments

When sending cash payments to school, please ensure that the money is enclosed securely in an envelope. It does not have to be a new envelope, but it must be sealed and should have written on the outside the name of the child, how much is enclosed and what the payment is in respect of.

It can take several days for sufficient coinage to be accumulated to pay change, so it would be very helpful if the correct money could be sent in. Please be patient if waiting for change, it will be returned in due course.

Naming Uniform

We are delighted at the standard of school uniform at the start of this year and would like to thank parents for your efforts. However, when new clothing is purchased, it is important to remember to write children's names in them.

Coffee Morning: SEN Information briefing to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support

A coffee morning will be held in the school hall on 30th September 2014, at 9.00am. Anybody is welcome. Miss Lewis and Ms Wells will spend the first part of the session discussing the new reforms taking place for SEN children and schools, and then we will all enjoy CAKE! During the session...or while we are eating cake... we would welcome parental input into how we can further support families of children with SEN and listen to any suggestions you may have. We look forward to holding regular coffee mornings in the future.



St Faith's Church Pantomime

St Faith's Church Pantomime for February 2015 is to be "Robin Hood"! Are you interested in taking part? There will be lots of opportunities on stage for speaking or non-speaking parts, also for back stage and front of house assistants!!

If YOU would like to be involved - either on or off stage - please contact Penny on 01462 624369 or mobile 07817 985 466 OR Mike on [07909 921 674](tel:07909921674) before 3rd October.