

Newsletter



Newsletter 18

10th June, 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you all enjoyed the half term break, and are enjoying the INSET day. The children have bounced back to school, full of energy and enthusiasm, and have made a great start. There are lots of events taking place this term, and we are all looking forward to seeing you at them. Below, are details of the staffing in each class for September: children will have the opportunity to spend some time with their new teacher in July.

Year 6 are heading off to the Isle of Wight on Monday – please keep your fingers crossed for sunshine!



Year 5 Adventure Camp

Earlier in the week, you may have noticed a village of tents on the school field. With just over a week to go, our long awaited residential trip to Green Park Activity Centre was cancelled, due to a lack of appropriately qualified staff. I am sure you can imagine our feelings of shock and disbelief when we received the ‘phone call– and that was just Mrs Bundy and me! Luckily, we have received a full refund.



However, thanks to a terrific team effort between parents, children and staff, we held a Year 5 Adventure Camp on our very own field, and had a fantastic time. The children enjoyed a wide variety of activities including problem solving games, ‘Silly Olympics’, archery, an inflatable obstacle course, arts and crafts, an outdoor cinema, a camp fire with songs, a night under canvas and more! We also had great food - a barbecue for dinner, bacon rolls for breakfast, a takeaway pizza lunch and ice creams from the ice cream van.

I am extremely grateful to everyone who helped to make this happen:

- Mrs Mesher, Mrs Gloyn, Mrs Mason and Mel who embraced the concept and worked really hard to plan the activities and ensure we had lots of fun. Even at 5 in the morning after a couple of hours sleep, they were still as cheerful and positive as ever! We were very well supported by Mrs Henderson and Mrs Crunden too.
- John and Beth Whitbread and their family, for arranging the loan of tents, putting them up and taking them down again.
- The Pack family for providing the fabulous barbecue burgers and sausages.
- Mr Massey for organising the inflatables, helping with transporting items and assembling tents.
- Parents and grandparents – for lending us tents and putting them up, organising the ice cream van and finding any other items we needed.

- The rest of the school staff - for helping with anything needed: barbecuing, clearing up, washing up, setting up the outdoor cinema, staying to sing around the camp fire, ordering and collecting pizzas – the list continues.

Lastly – the children were an absolute delight and credit to their families. They joined in with absolutely everything with enthusiasm and good humour, and were cheerful, polite and kind to each other throughout the camp. It may not have been what we had originally planned for Year 5 but will certainly be a very happy and memorable event in the history of the school!



Staffing for September



After outstanding careers with the school, I am very sad to share the news with you, that the legendary Mrs Abrahams and Mrs Mesher will be retiring at the end of the school year. Mrs Mesher has been a member of staff here for 20 years, and Mrs Abrahams for an even more impressive 31 years. They have shown amazing dedication to our school,

leading a huge number of sporting activities and clubs, and residential school trips. They have also had a significant impact on the development of the curriculum, through their own teaching and also in leading many different subject areas. They have been very generous in the amount of time they have given, outside of the school day and week, to enable the children to take part in a wide range of activities. Although they will continue to work as supply teachers with us, we will all miss seeing them on a daily basis; they are much loved and respected members of our team.

We will celebrate their time with us on Tuesday 19th July. At 3.30 p.m. there will be a tea party to which all families, staff and friends – current and former – are invited. Please let any neighbours and friends who have been part of the school know of this. We will be making a collection for a gift for them - any donations can be sent into school in a clearly marked envelope.

However, every cloud has a silver lining, and we are delighted that Thomas Pyle, one of our former pupils, will be joining us as a teacher, and Miss Churchill and Mel will also be changing roles to become class teachers, having completed their degrees in education. We are very proud of their achievements, which are particularly impressive given that they have been working full time throughout their studies. The good news doesn't end there either - Mrs Laura Frost will also be working in Year 1 this year, and Mrs Mason has increased the number of days she works from two to three. Below is a table, showing the staffing allocation.

Year group	Teachers	Teaching Assistants	Room
Nursery	Mrs Foster	Mrs Smith & Mrs Page	Nursery
Reception – 2 classes	Mrs Ogle Mrs Wood	Mrs Mansell, Mrs Reboul & Mrs Bick.	Reception & Year 1
Year 1	Mrs Pyle, Miss Churchill & Mrs Frost (part time)	Mrs Williams	Year 2

Year 2	Miss Grainger	Mrs Eaton, Mrs Barber & Miss Whitbread	Year 4
Year 3	Mr Pyle	Mrs Henderson	Year 5MM
Year 4 2 classes	Mrs Broad Miss Clarke	Mrs Brett-Lavelle Mrs White	Mobile
Year 5	Mrs Gloyn & Mrs Mason	Mrs Crunden & Mrs Tillson	5GM
Year 6 2 classes	Mr Browne, Mr Massey & Mel	Mrs Day & Mrs Brown	Year 6 & ICT suite (turned into a classroom)
Lunchtime Staff:	Mrs Gull, Mrs Paige, Mrs Brett-Lavelle, Mrs Reboul, Mrs Tillson, Miss Whitbread, Mrs Christie and Miss McKenzie.	Admin & Premises Staff	Mrs Martin, Mrs Bundy, Mrs Day and Mr Blackwell

Reception classes are being finalised once all of the visits to settings have been completed.

Class 3C will be taught by Mrs Broad and Class 3M will be taught by Miss Clark.

Year 6 will be re-organised into two classes. Details will be shared with the children next week, and they will have some input into who they are with. To prepare them for secondary school, the children will work with all of the members of the Year 6 team, and will be in Mr Browne's registration group for half of the year, and Mr Massey's for the other half. They will have the opportunity to work in different groupings, as in Year 2, pre pandemic!



Football Success

Huge congratulations to our fantastic football team, who won the Stevenage Football League and were runners up in the cup final only going out on penalties. The boys have played brilliantly throughout the season and have shown outstanding team work and attitudes. We are exceptionally proud of them. Thank you to Mr Browne, Mrs Mesher, Mel and our parents for all of the support and encouragement they have been given throughout the season.



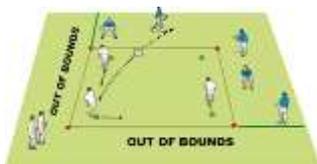
Athletics

On Thursday, a team of children from Years 4 to 6 took part in the Athletics Festival. They did extremely well, winning medals in a number of events, finishing in 2nd place overall, missing out on first place by one point! They represented the school impeccably, and we are delighted with their achievements. Thank you very much to Mrs Broad and Mel for training and taking them.



Basketball

Just before half term, we took two teams of basketball players to a tournament in Stevenage. They played fantastically, and won the competition, making it through to the County play offs, representing our area. Although some of the players are unable to take part as Year 6 will be in the Isle of Wight, we will be going ahead with our subs. Please keep your fingers crossed!



Roulers

Congratulations also go to our lower and upper school rounders' teams, who took part in tournaments this week. The children played extremely well and enjoyed the events. Thank you to Mel, Mrs Abrahams and Mr Blackwell for taking the children, and to Mrs Abrahams and Mel for coaching the teams.



Ducklings!

Our ducklings are continuing to thrive. The three we have hatched out have also been joined by another duckling which was found abandoned, and taken in by Miss Grainger and Year 2. We are adapting Barnaby's enclosure to keep them in. Look out for them on your way into school!



PTFA

Our next meeting is on Monday, at 7.00 p.m. in the staffroom. All parents and friends welcome.



Next event: Summer Do! Saturday 25th June – 6.30 – 9.30. Please come along to this popular event! All families and friends welcome. Entry costs: £10 for adults £5 for children – tickets available in advance via the school gateway, or from the school office. This includes the barbecue, live music and entertainment. Come along with friends, or meet up with other families when you arrive. Please let us know of any dietary requirements

when buying tickets so that these can be catered for.

As part of our environmental efforts, we are requesting that people bring their own unbreakable glasses/cups. Re-usable ones will be available for purchase on the night, if you forget! We have a temporary events notice enabling us to sell alcohol; it is not permitted for alcohol to be brought to the event and consumed.

Big Breakfast and Sponsored Walk: 29th June. 8.30 a.m. – 10.00 Breakfast will be available from 8.30 including bacon rolls and brioche. Please let us know of any dietary requirements in advance, so that we can order the relevant foods.

The sponsored walk will begin at 9.15. Sponsor forms will be coming home next week. At present, we can only accept cash to be able to benefit from Gift Aid, but we hope to be able to offer online payments by next year.



School Expansion

The Art area has now been transformed into a fantastic food tech room, and work has started on re-flooring the rest of this end of the school. We have also chosen colours for the additional adult toilets in this block, and for the children's toilet in the new block.

After looking at multiple places for re-siting the mobile to allow access to the building work, we have been able to agree our preferred option, which is to move it onto the car park, alongside the staffroom. However throughout the build, parking will be extremely limited on the school site. Staff are already planning lift shares where possible, but it does mean that we will not be able to allow access to any parents' cars between 8.30 and 4.30. once work starts. We will continue to provide full access to school where mobility is an issue.

Next week, a meeting is being held to finalise the programme, and following this, I will be able to update you further.

Thank you for reading this newsletter. Please remember I am always happy to discuss any issues with you.

Liz Pollard
HEADTEACHER