

Newsletter 8

Friday 3rd November 2017

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Balanceability

This week our Reception children had their first Balanceability lesson. These sessions are designed to develop the gross motor skills and spatial awareness needed to make the transition from balance bikes to pedal bikes in a fun and challenging way.

The children had great fun playing games which developed their core skills and balance. In no time at all everyone was zipping around the playground with great confidence.



Celebrating Dance

While most of us were enjoying a well earned rest over the half term break two of our very talented Year 5 pupils were taking part in special dance performances which marked the culmination of months of hard work and dedicated training.



Isabelle had been selected to dance with the prestigious Cambridgeshire Youth Ballet and performed in a specially choreographed production of 'The Stories of Beatrix Potter and Friends' at Huntingdon PAC. The company selects talented young dancers from across the region offering them the opportunity to work and perform with professional dancers and choreographers. Isabelle is extremely dedicated and had been rehearsing with the company since February.

If you happened to be in Kings Cross Station you may have been surprised to find yourself in the middle of a dance flashmob including one of our pupils. Harry has been training with the Royal Academy of Dance's Project B, an initiative to inspire and celebrate boys who dance. Led by Birmingham Royal Ballet Principal Dancer, Iain Mackay, Harry has been taking part in creative, high-energy dance performances which combine ballet with elements of street dance.



Headteacher Drop in Sessions

The drop in sessions are an opportunity for parents and carers to speak with the Head on an individual basis about any matter of school life without an appointment. Due to the 'drop in' nature of these sessions, you may have to wait if a parent is already being seen. Times and dates are as follows:

8th November 3pm—4pm

8th December 9am—10am

16th November 8am—9am

15th December 3pm—3pm

23rd November 3pm—4pm

29th November 2pm—3pm

Sentence starters

Ask your Reception child to pick three Autumn leaves and compare the colours and patterns on them.

Ask your Year 1 child to tell you what an owl eats.

Ask your Year 2 child to explain what their method is for doubling numbers.

Ask your Year 3 child to tell you the legend of 'The Mermaid and the comb'.

Ask your Year 4 child how they know if a story is set in an imaginary world.

Ask your Year 5 child to discuss how a publisher makes a book appealing before you read it.

Ask your Year 6 child how Kensuke was like a father to Michael.

Forthcoming dates

10th November 9am—Aquila Class assembly

24th November at 9am—Indigo Class assembly

6th December—Flu vaccination programme (details to follow)

8th December at 9am—Lacerta Class assembly

12th December 2pm—Year 3/4 carol concert

13th December 1.30am—Reception 'come and share' event

13th December 10am—Year 3/4 carol concert

14th December 2pm—Year 1 nativity

14th December 6pm—Year 3/4 carol concert

15th December 10am—Year 1 nativity

19th December—Christmas parties

19th December—Last day of term

Spring Term 2018

3rd January—INSET day (school closed to children)

Lost Property

Once again the lost property shed is filling up with sweatshirts and many other items of school uniform. We know how expensive it is to continually have to replace lost items of clothing, so please make sure all clothing is named—writing your child's name onto the clothes labels using a biro or permanent marker will suffice. It is then very easy for us to reunite items with their owners.

A Healthy School—A Polite Reminder

Over the past year staff and pupils have worked extremely hard to transform our school and make us a healthy place to work and learn. As parents and carers you have been very supportive as we have made changes to many of our practices and policies which are making sure that our children know how to make healthy choices.

Sweets are not allowed in school as we are all aware of the risks sugar poses to our children's health. As such staff are not able to facilitate or supervise the distribution of sweets to mark occasions such as birthdays at the end of the school day. We therefore politely request that if you wish to distribute sweets to children on the occasion of a birthday that you supervise this yourself when the children are released to your care at the end of the school day. Thank you for your continued support.

Parent Drop-In Sessions and Workshops

Following discussions with our Locality Team we are delighted that we have been able to secure their support to help parents. The Locality Workers will be available in school for an individual 'drop-in' session on Tuesday 28th November from 2pm. You do not have to book an appointment, just come along and have a chat.

In addition to the 'drop-in' sessions we are also offering two workshops on Tuesday 14th November and 12th December at 2pm which are designed to help parents deal with some of the issues we all face when bringing up children. Please do make the most of this valuable opportunity.

Attendance

In September 2015, the Department of Education lowered the amount of absence in which a student is classified as being a persistent absentee from 15% to 10%. This means that any child with an attendance of less than 90% will be classed as a persistent absentee and will be monitored by the Education Welfare Officer. In these instances the Local Authority may issue a Penalty Notice. Schools will need to ensure that parents are informed of any attendance concerns at an early stage and therefore you should expect that you will receive an initial communication from school **if your child's attendance falls under 96%**. The initial letter will be to simply make you aware of your child's attendance level but if concerns persist, then the school may contact you again.

Parents who take a child out of school for term time leave for 6 consecutive sessions (3 days) or more over a 4 week period which are not authorised by the school under the exceptional circumstances rule may receive a Penalty Notice which in the first instance will be £60 per child, per adult in the household. Failure to pay this penalty within 21 school days will result in the charge being doubled to £120. Penalty Notices will be issued for single event absences of at least 3 consecutive school days or more where these absences are unauthorised because they are deemed to be neither exceptional or unavoidable.

Head Teacher Roll of Honour

This week I have been fortunate to witness many small acts of kindness which have made me so proud. These selfless acts have made a huge difference to the recipient and to our school.

Marianne in Delphinus Class—Marianna has been using her excellent foreign language skills to help a new child feel settled and secure in class. She has shown great empathy, patience and kindness.

Georgina in Yellow Class—Georgina is always the first person to step in and help others who have been hurt. Her caring nature is a great asset and she is valued by everyone.

Bethany in Violet Class—Bethany is always thinking about ways we can help people who are less fortunate and has pitched a number of ideas to me this week that she feels would make a difference.

Children In Need Day—The Big Spotacular



On Friday 17th November we will once again be raising money for Children in Need. The theme this year is spots! It will be a non-uniform day and children are asked to donate £1 to the Friends of Monkfield Park bucket collection in recognition of this. In addition we will also be trying to make the longest line of copper coins in the Main Hall. So please help us to help those who are less fortunate than ourselves by donning some spots and donating all your spare copper coins to this very good cause.

Christmas Cards

All the orders for this year's Christmas Cards have been submitted and delivery should be within the next 2 weeks. We had orders from over half of the children on roll and are on for a record amount to be raised this year.



Children In Need

Children in Need this year is Friday 17th November. As well as children being invited to dress down for the day we will also be holding a Copper Trail again this year. As well as donations on the gate please send children in with copper coins to join in the trail which will be conducted in the school hall.



Christmas Bingo

We will be holding Christmas Family Bingo in the school hall on the evening of Friday 8th December. More information will be sent home via parent mail and book bags shortly.



Mailing List

We will shortly be updating our current mailing list as many on it no longer have children at the school. If you would like to be added or would no longer like to be included please do let us know.



EasyFundraising

With Christmas just around the corner don't forget you can help support the school by shopping through Easyfundraising. The school will receive cashback on those all important Christmas Presents.




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