

NEWSLETTER JUNE 2014

Dear Parents and Friends

Here we are in the final weeks of the summer term. We always have lots to do in the last half term and of course we like to see you in school to share in the children's achievements. It all got off to a good start with our annual **Equalities week**, but of course the messages are for every day of the year. The children researched their enquiry questions and did superb presentations to share what they'd found out. We had visits from our friends at Vision Skills North East and Show Racism the Red Card. Thank you to those parents who came in to be part of **Operation Amphibian** and also to see the workshops run by **Lawnmowers – a disability theatre group**. Those young people are inspirational and have learnt at first-hand how it feels to be bullied. Some of our children have been invited to a conference in early July to talk about their work.



EQUALITIES WEEK FRIENDS AND VISITORS





Last week it was also Y3 “Forest School” and “Come Dine and Read with Me” which continues this week alongside our MADD (music, art, dance and drama) week. If you keep an eye on Facebook you’ll see what’s going on in school and on Friday afternoon you’ll be able to come into school and share in your child’s learning. Please be in the main school foyer at 1.30pm and you’ll be taken to your child’s class.

Horton Heroes will not take place this week due to MADD week but will take place next week as usual!

Unfortunately due to the state of the school field we will not be able to go ahead with Sports Day in its usual form. For those children from Y1 to Y5, we will hold an event in September. Early Years children will have their usual sports in the quadrangle and Y6 children will have an event on the school yard (so they don’t miss out).

This of course is the final half term for our Y6 pupils. They completed their SATs assessments just before half term and are now very busy planning material for the web-site, rehearsing for the production Shakespeare Rocks, planning the prom and completing their handbook. Y5 are busy finding out about the jobs about to be vacated by the Y6 pupils and are deciding which they will apply for.

In September a **new primary curriculum** is to be introduced. A part of this change will be IT changing to 'Computing' as well as 'levels' disappearing to be replaced by more user-friendly language related to age-related expectations. We are already devising our new schemes of work for English and maths which include some of the following changes:

ENGLISH	<p>Stronger emphasis on vocabulary development, grammar, punctuation and spelling (for example, the use of commas and apostrophes will be taught in KS1) Focus on phonics in all years and reading for pleasure. Handwriting – not currently assessed under the national curriculum – is expected to be fluent, legible and speedy Spoken English has a greater emphasis, with children reciting poetry as well as being taught debating and presenting skills</p>
MATHS	<p>Five-year-olds will be expected to learn to count up to 100 (compared to 20 under the current curriculum) and learn number bonds to 20 (currently up to 10) Simple fractions (1/4 and 1/2) will be taught from KS1, and by the end of primary school, children should be able to convert decimal fractions to simple fractions (e.g. 0.375 = 3/8) Telling the time in Y2 By the age of nine, children will be expected to know times tables up to 12x12 (currently 10x10 by the end of primary school) Algebra in Y6 - Calculators will not be introduced until near the end of KS2, to encourage mental arithmetic</p>

We are also looking at our themed topics to see what we can keep and what we need to add in September. Pupils in years 2 and 6 in September 2014 will continue to be taught the current programmes of study for primary English, maths and science in the 2014 to 2015 academic year, to allow for statutory end-of-key- stage assessments in summer 2015. We'll keep you up to date as we go along!



Attendance

Here are our 100% attenders at the Odeon Silverlink. We're still below our target of 96% so please, please, make every effort to get your child into school.

We can always rely on you to support your children when we have in school events, but I know first-hand that sometimes it just isn't possible to come into school due to other commitments. I can well remember my children saying to me "you never come in because you're always at work". **Please remember – if you can't make it to a specific**

event we'll always make the effort to see you at another time.