



'The Aspin Owler'

Thursday 11th April 2019

Spring Term 2018-2019

Issue 6

Transition Next Term

As we break for Easter at 2.30pm tomorrow, we start to look ahead to our final term of the year. As ever this is a busy time as we transition our Y6 children to secondary school, 60 new children think about starting at Aspin, and in between all of this we ready Foundation to Y5 for their next step too. We take this transition very seriously, as we firmly believe that by making this as comfortable as we can for each child means that they can enter the new school year on a firm footing.

Y6-Y7 Transition

Parents of Y6 children already know where their children are heading in September, however this transition starts in earnest after half term, when direct contact is made with receiving schools.

Foundation – 2019-20

This process begins over the Easter holidays as parents of children due to start Primary School are informed on

Tuesday 16th April. I know this will include quite a few of you, or members of your family, and we will start the process when we return from Easter.

Year 2 & Year 4 Class Mixes

As we have done in recent years, we will mix our Y2 and Y4 classes into two 'new' classes for Y3 and Y5. We will write separately to parents in these year groups with details of this, but please try not to be too alarmed by this process – it is something we have become and more accustomed to, initially in Y4, but in Y2 as well in recent years.

The Royal Academy of Arts

The RAA are holding a Young Artists Summer Show. They are asking any children aged 7-19 to submit up to three pieces of work each. Children have the opportunity to exhibit their work on the website and possibly at the Royal Academy. The art will be judged and each Key Stage may win a workshop and art materials. Children in KS2 have been informed about this opportunity, and we have had some submissions, but if the children wish to submit any further entries we need a permission form and a couple of sentences as to what inspired them. Please ask class teachers or Miss Houseman, our Art Subject Leader for more details.

Next Half Term...is very short!

Returning from Easter so close to May makes the first half term incredibly short, but highlighted below are the major events that are taking place in the **four** weeks before half term!

Monday 29th April – Training Day

Tuesday 30th April – School Re-Opens

Tuesday 30th April – PTA AGM (Staffroom – 7pm)

Friday 3rd, 10th, 17th & 24th – Amy Meikle (Y6 Dance Sessions)

Monday 6th May – Closed for Bank Holiday

Tuesday 7th May - School Re-Opens

Thursday 9th May – Local Governing Body Meeting (6.30pm)

Friday 10th May – FH Assembly (2.30pm)

Friday 10th May – Tempest Photography (Class Photos)

Saturday 11th May – Aspin Harmony in concert with the White Rose Concert Band & Willow Tree Choir

Monday 13th – Wednesday 15th May – Y5 to Robinwood

Monday 13th – Thursday 16th May – Y6 SATS Week

Friday 17th May – Y4 Assembly (2.30pm)

Tuesday 21st – Thursday 23rd May – Y6 to London

Friday 24th May – Y4 Cake Bake

Friday 24th May – Close for Half Term

Aspin is 50!

As you know this July sees the 50th anniversary of Aspin. On Sunday 14th July as part of the celebrations we are hoping to hold a huge community event to celebrate this milestone and look back on 50 years of the school and Knaresborough as a whole.

We are on the look-out for ex pupils, family or friends of the school who would like to take part in this celebration. Are you a singer, band, magician, comedian or any other entertainer and would be willing to perform at the event? Please get in touch if you think you can help in anyway. Please save the date and spread the word. This event will be open to the whole Knaresborough community past & present.

We will be writing separately about events after the holidays and ramping up our social media presence too. It is going to be a busy summer!

Parking

I received this from a parent a couple of weeks ago, again I use their own words to describe what they saw;

'I just wanted to drop you a quick email to draw your attention to an issue regarding the car park. I'm sure you are aware but since the start of this school year in September it seems that more and more parents are parking on the small grassed area by the car park on the Wetherby Road entrance to school. Gradually the grassed area has been getting ruined. However on Tuesday after drop off my little boy wanted to stay and watch a van that had got stuck. In the end it took 3 men to try and get the van out of the mud. When they did finally get it out the grass was in such a state. I wondered if it might be worth trying to discourage people from parking there. I was worried that he was going to end up reversing out at speed into another car, as well as the possibility that one of the people who kindly offered to help got injured.'

This is indicative of the concerns that have been raised by many parents about this area in particular, and up until this year a fence erected by Mr Richardson our caretaker stopped this from happening – however this was knocked down by people parking too close to it. We are looking into ways of preventing people from parking in these spaces, but if you park there on a regular basis, please be mindful that you are only adding to the congestion around that area which has many young children in and around it, either being collected, or walking home.

Last Friday I received a message from a member of staff who is also a parent, about an incident that happened at pick up time last Friday. She noticed that a grandparent picking up a child had blocked the path with where he had parked, and asked him to move his car. She was then verbally abused, before he eventually moved his car, but then blocked the road. She quite rightly pointed this out, before going to sit back in her car. The man then knocked on her window and continued to verbally abuse her. Two parents saw this and stepped in to support her, for which I am thankful – you know who you are. I fully appreciate that tensions run high at such points, but there is no excuse for abusive language at any point, and I would ask that we remain calm at such times – it sets only a poor example to the children at the school. We will be working with the local community in the weeks after Easter to try to alleviate this situation.

Easter Activities

Children's Easter Club – Imaginators!

A message from Gracious Street Methodist Church...

*'This year's Children's Easter Club, 'Imaginators!' will be based at Gracious Street Methodist Church, Knaresborough and will run for three mornings from 10.00am to 12.30pm on **Wednesday, 24th, Thursday, 25th and Friday, 26th April 2019.***

We are looking forward to a fast moving programme of games, crafts, music and Bible stories based around our Lego set! All children in primary education are very welcome to join us. Easter Club is always very popular and numbers are limited, so please book early.

If you would like to register please complete a separate form for each child (attached), together with a payment of £5 per child.

You can email the form back to ctikeasterclub@gmail.com and pay by a BACS transfer of £5 per child to:

CTIK Easter Club; Sort Code 40 26 20 Account Number 30508624 giving your child's name as the reference.

If you are unable to pay in this way, please let me have cash or a cheque payable to 'Churches Together in Knaresborough'. My address is:

June Graham, 9 Fountains Way, Knaresborough, HG5 8HU

We will send you a booking confirmation together with further details and look forward to seeing you at Easter Club.'

Basketball Camps – Tuesday 16th April at St Robert's Catholic Primary School, Ainsty Road in Harrogate. This is organised and led by Coach Mark Gunn. For further information ring **07912 178917** or e-mail coachmarkgunn@gmail.com

Leeds Camps – These run from Monday 15th – Friday 26th April at Harrogate High School. For more information ring **0113 2249331** or e-mail hello@leedscamps.co.uk

Harrogate Town Soccer Camps – These run from Monday 15th – Thursday 18th April & Tuesday 23rd – Friday 26th April. For further information e-mail ryansmith@harrogatetownafc.com

SSE Wildcats – This is not strictly Easter, but this is for all girls aged 5-11 to take part in some football sessions with Scotton Scorchers based at King James on Saturday mornings. These sessions actually started last weekend but if you are still interested contact Mike Collier on **07979 682670** or e-mail mikeandjanec@googlemail.com

Claro Orienteering

Following on from the recent orienteering event at the school, a parent asked me to advertise in the newsletter an event, which actually happened last weekend – sorry! I will therefore give you their website to look out for future family events – apparently her son swears by them – good luck and don't get lost! <http://www.claro-orienteering.org.uk/>

Parental Questionnaires

Many thanks to all of you who have completed a parental questionnaire over the past few days at our Parents Meetings, your feedback is always well-received, and at first glance it would appear that this is overwhelmingly positive. I am going to attempt to place a copy of the questionnaire on the new website for those of you who wish to contribute but haven't as yet. This will be on there until the 3rd May when we will fully analyse the results. If you'd like to print it off and bring it back to the office that is or alternatively e-mail it back to the school both are fine. We also have hard copies in the entrance.

New Website

As we mentioned in today's text, we have moved to a new website domain www.aspinparkacademy.org which is now our official website. We have worked hard in the past year to improve our old website, and much of the information on the old one has been migrated to the new one, however not all of it, so over the next month or so, we will be working to add in that which is missing. We will also be moving some things around on the new website as well to make it easier to navigate, as there are certain areas which are not quite as we'd like them, however it is easier to go 'live' and then do this.

Parents Meetings

Huge thanks to the vast majority who have found the time over the past few days to come and meet with your child's teacher to discuss their progress and attainment at school. Whilst I still believe there are tweaks we can make to the cycle of assessment, I think having the chance to meet with parents three times before Easter can only help to make the home-school relationship more meaningful.

Finally...the bunnies are back!

From the 13th to the 28th April, Painting Pots Knaresborough presents 'The Great Knaresborough Bunny Hunt 2019.' 15 ceramic bunnies will once again be exploring Knaresborough town centre – can you help find them?!

You'll need to collect your map, which costs just £2 from either Painting Pots Knaresborough or The Black Mulberry Café, Waterside. There is a mini-treat for every Bunny Hunter and entry into a draw to win one of three goody baskets filled with treats from all of the businesses involved.

All proceeds will be split between two amazing local charities, Henshaws Arts & Crafts Centre and Harrogate & Knaresborough Toy Library. Check out the Knaresborough Bunny Hunt Facebook Page for more information.