

NEWSLETTER

Year 6 Easter School

We are planning to run an Easter School in the first week of the Easter holidays. This will be for year 6 children to help keep their skills sharp over the holiday period. The sessions will run from 9.00 to 12.00 am Monday to Friday week beginning 7th April.

We have found in the past that children's skills can dip during the Easter break and therefore attendance will give your children an advantage when it comes to their SATs after Easter.

This is a new venture for the school and we would like all children to attend if at all possible!

Further information will come out shortly.

**Year 5/6 Residential Journey
Autumn 2014**

We have a few final places left for the school journey in the Autumn Term 2014. The trip is to Aylmerton Field Studies Centre in Norfolk – a specialised centre which provides bespoke activities for school trips. The children take part in a range of activities and visits to develop their self-confidence, teamwork and knowledge about the area. The children visit different coastal areas including a boat trip to see the seals and take part in team building activities including low ropes etc. The trip is for current children in year 4 and 5. If you are interested in taking up one of these final few places then please speak to the school office to find out more or express an interest. Remaining places will be allocated on a first come first served basis. Please also visit the centre website at www.afsc.co.uk

**Assessment Week
for Children in Year 1 to 6**

The children will be completing a range of assessments next week in class for us to measure the progress they are making this year and plan accurately for the next steps in their learning. It is important that children arrive at school on time so that they don't have to rush into class at the last minute, to sit down immediately to a task.

Please ensure that your child arrives in school before 8.45am and that they have had breakfast before coming to school each morning.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Assembly

This morning, 2JG took us back to the year 1666 and narrated the Great Fire of London in a lively way through drama. The children spoke confidently and clearly and they also enjoyed singing all the songs too. We were told some amazing facts about what happened during the fire outbreak. We also got to see the children play 'London's burning' using different instruments. Well done 2JG.

**It's important to have 2 way
conversations with your children**

An article published in the Daily Mail on 24/02/2014 summarised the results of a research study about how children develop language.

Educational programmes do not help young children develop language

- *Educational TV shows do not help toddlers learn words, study has found*
- *Young children need to have two-way conversations to develop language*
- *'The study highlights importance of responsive interactions,' says expert*
- *Educational television shows do not help toddlers learn words as they need to have real conversations to develop language, says a study*
- *Young children will pick up words from adults when they are spoken to, but scientists say learning from a screen is more difficult*
- *Researchers from the US attempted to teach three dozen two-year-olds new verbs in three different ways. [Some children had conversations with a person face to face, some used video chat such as Skype, and others watched a film of someone instructing another child who was off screen.]*

In the study, published in the journal 'Research In Child Development', the children learned new words only when conversing with a person face to face or through live video chat.

They didn't learn the new words through the prerecorded video instruction, which was not responsive to the child.

The study highlights the importance of responsive interactions for language learning.

Interactions allow adults and toddlers to respond to each other in a back-and-forth fashion. These reciprocal interactions seem to be central for learning words.

'Young children are not good at learning language if they are merely parked in front of screen media.'

From: Daily Mail on 24/02/2014

Lost Property

We have a large collection of lost property please come and reclaim any lost items from outside the medical room.

Writing Competition Winners

Writing Competition Winners - February 2014

Class	Best	Most Improved
1PC	Joshua Bond	Maddison Chapman
1YN	Bobby Hastings	Charlie Irvin
2TS	Amy Humberstone	Zara Patel
2JG	Quinda Boateng	Oliver Scott
3CM	Lauren Millar	Zofia Kiesel
3MN	Maria Popa	Muthush Anpukkaran
4DH	Erin Fox	Hayden Hastings
4LL	Alisha Shahood	Nathan Gibbs
5MM	Eve Carroll	Daisy Palmer-Fennell
5DP	Justus Badu	Christopher Opoku-Badu
6YS	Jena Jackson	Coral Copping
6AP	Casey O'Neill	Jaresse Daniel

The 3 children whose work is being put into the Knebworth House competition are - Jena Jackson, Casey O'Neill and Justus Badu.

Class Attendance

The classes with the best attendance from Friday last week to yesterday in Reception/KS1 is R-JT with 98.7% attendance and in KS2 4LL with 97.5%.... WELL DONE R-JT and 4LL.

Group – Reception/KS1	Possible	% Attend
Reception - Jo Thomson	100	98.7
Year 2 - Jenny Gilbert	100	97
Reception - Grace Colhoun	100	94.8
Year 2 - Tara Sassoon	100	94.4
Year 3 - Melissa Newberry	100	94.2
Year 1 - Philippa Cooper/Heather Woodward	100	93.5

Group – KS2	Possible	% Attend
Year 4 - Lougene Lillywhite	100	97.5
Year 3 - Chris Marland	100	96.4
Year 5 - Moira McCarthy	100	95.7
Year 5 - Sarah Day/Nadia Parker	100	94.8
Year 6 - Andrew Penn	100	94.1
Year 4 - Deborah Harris	100	93.5
Year 6 - Yesim Soyel	100	92.4
Year 4 - Lougene Lillywhite	100	97.5

Year 3/ 4 Indoor Athletics

On Tuesday our Year 3/ 4 Indoor Athletics squad competed in the Sports Partnership Finals having qualified through from the District Round. They competed in a range of track and field events including 4x1 relay, hurdles, long jump and javelin throw. All members of the team competed with a great enthusiasm and determination and were fantastic ambassadors for the school. Overall we finished in 5th place. Well done to everyone who competed. A special thank you to our parent helper.

Nursery Admissions for September 2014

Children born between 1st September 2010 and 31st August 2011 can register for a Nursery School place for next September. The deadline for applications is 21st March 2014. If you would like to look around the school please contact the school office to make an appointment.

For further information log on to www.hertsdirect.org/admissions

For those of you who do not have internet access you are very welcome to use a computer in the school. If you would like any help please ask any member of the school office. **The closing date for applications is 21st March 2014.**

Sainsburys Active Kids Vouchers

If you shop at Sainsburys please accept the Active Kids Vouchers they are handing out and bring them into school.

Class Assemblies

Friday 14 th March at 9.15am	Reception - GC
Friday 21 st March at 9.15am	1YN
Friday 28 th March at 9.15am	Nursery

Spring Term Dates

Nursery Admissions Open for September 2014	Monday 10 th February
Assessment Week	w/c 3 rd March
Secondary Places Offered for Year 6 Children	Monday 3 rd March
Year 1 Trip to the Roald Dahl Museum	Thursday 6 th March
Swimming Gala	Friday 7 th March
Non-School Uniform for Red Nose Day	Friday 14 th March
Gala Concert at the Royal Albert Hall	Sunday 16 th March
Science Week	Monday 17 th March
Chess Match @ Samuel Ryder	Wednesday 19 th March
Governor Day	Thursday 20 th March
Science Evening	Thursday 20 th March
Nursery Admissions Close	Friday 21 st March
Year 4 - Egyptian Day	Monday 24 th March
Full Governing Body Meeting	Tuesday 25 th March
KS1/2 Base Trip to Dinosaur Safari Adventure Golf	Wednesday 26 th March
Girls Football Tournament	Thursday 27 th March
Finish at 2pm for the Easter Holidays	Friday 4 th April

Jon Hood
Headteacher