

Thursday 11th February 2016

Dear Parents and Carers

Firstly, I would like to thank all the parents and grandparents who attended our curriculum workshops last week. The feedback from each workshop indicates that we provided a great deal of information which was very useful and attendees felt much better informed. We will be making any documentation provided available on the website over the half term so if you were unable to make it on this occasion, you will have access to the relevant information. It is also our intention to run similar workshops in the Autumn Term (ie before October half term later this year).

Diary Dates: Spring Term 4

Please check the calendar on the school website as additional events or changes will be uploaded regularly.

February	Monday 15th-Friday 19th	HALF TERM
	Tuesday 23 rd	Travel to the Stone Age Workshop – Year 3&4 Pirate Adventure Workshop – Year 1&2
	Wednesday 24 th	Parent Consultation Evening
	Thursday 25 th	Parent Consultation Evening
	Friday 26 th	FoS Lottery Draw
March	Thursday 3 rd	World Book Day
	Tuesday 15 th March	Class Photos
	Monday 21 st	Y3/4 Dress rehearsal for school
	Tuesday 22 nd	Y3/4 Performance of Peace Child – 2pm
	Wednesday 23 rd	Y3/4 Performance of Peace Child – 6pm
	Thursday 24 th	Swimming Gala Disco FoS Lottery Draw
	Friday 25th March – 8th April	EASTER BREAK

We are aware that some sporting events are advised at short notice – please note that this is due to notification from other schools and in many cases, is beyond our control. We endeavour to encourage as many children as possible to engage in additional sporting activities and will attempt to provide you with as much notice as possible where possible.

Children's News

Since we returned from the Christmas break, the children have been involved in many different activities. We had a visit from an Olympic athlete which was a real inspiration and a fun fitness circuit was enjoyed by all (even the teachers!) Other sporting events have included sportshall athletics and multi skills.

Children in Year 5 and 6 held an enterprise Egyptian market and recently visited the Manchester Museum as part of their Egyptian topic work. A fabulous Stone Age workshop took place in Year 3 and 4 where children became archaeologists and had to dig for artefacts.

Mrs Rhodes has recently launched details of Chris Evans' 500 words writing competition (closing date is 25th February) and Read for My School which runs between now and April – details of which have been provided to each child in KS2 and links will be available on the website.

World Book Day on the 3rd March will be an opportunity for children to dress up as a character from their favourite book and will launch the opening of our new School House Library – more details will follow about this after the half term break.

Year 4 were today able to demonstrate their musical skills in playing the ukulele which was amazing! Well done fantastic fours!

Building News

I am delighted to advise you that our new reception/office area will be open from **Monday 22nd February 2016**. Obviously, this impacts on the day to day access into school and the wraparound care services provided by AGES as detailed below:

From **Monday 22nd February:**

- Both gate accesses will be secured until 08.30hrs each morning when a member of staff will supervise each gate entrance – a third member of staff will be on the playground.
- Children attending breakfast club will need to be 'buzzed in' via the **car park** entrance from 07.40am onwards – they will not be allowed access onto school site prior to this time and, as a reminder, parents must escort children into the portacabin – not allow them to walk in alone.
- Both gates will be closed and secured at 08.50hrs – as all children should be on school premises and led into class by their class teachers by 08.50hrs. Parents should also be off site by this point. Staff will be available for you to speak to on the yard from 08.40hrs.
- Any parent delivering a child during school hours (ie after 08.50hrs), or collecting them during the school day, should come into school via the NEW entrance – official signage may not be in place immediately however, I confirm that the main door from Narrowleys Lane will be the new main entrance to school and the office area – you will no longer need to walk through the playground/staffroom to access the school office.
- Each child arriving late or leaving early will need to be signed in/out of school.
- At the end of the day, the school gates will open at 15.20hrs to allow access for parents to collect their children and gates will be secured again at 15.45hrs when all parents collecting children should be off site.
- If your child is attending an afterschool club, please wait at the gate from the staff car park and the club teacher will release your child to you from there.
- If you are collecting your child from aftercare – again you will need to buzz in to ask for entrance to the school grounds to receive your child from the aftercare team at the portacabin.
- Nursery children should be deposited and collected from nursery door at the allocated times and parents with children in main school will not be allowed access onto main school property until the allocated times detailed above.
- Holiday club access will work in accordance to this – please contact AGES with any concerns.

Aspire & Achieve Re-branding

Uniform bearing the new logo is now available to order and will start to be seen worn around the school following half term. Alongside this there will be the opportunity to purchase other items such as water bottles, travel mugs, pens, hats etc details of which will be sent out after half term. We are pleased with the new look website and our new prospectus is in the final stages of development.

Staff News

I am pleased to inform you that Mrs Harvey will return to school following the half term and Mrs Greenway is intending to return to school before the Easter break. As a result of this, Mrs Ludlow will be leaving us today and I am sure that you will join me and the rest of the staff in thanking her for the amazing job she has done in Year 4 and in running the Engineering Club. We all wish her the best of luck as she takes up her new post in March.

Miss Stanway will also be leaving us at some point during the next half term when Mrs Greenway returns and, again, we would like to extend our deepest thanks and best wishes to her, not only for the amazing job she has done over the last 18 months in our Reception classes and running Cooking Club but in securing a position

elsewhere. Furthermore, we wish her the best of luck as she faces an enormous personal challenge in completing the London Marathon! If you would like to help her raise £2000 for her designated charity, the National Deaf Children's Society, you can do so at;

<http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/fundraiser-web/fundraiser/showFundraiserProfilePage.action?userUrl=LindaStanway>

We would also like to congratulate her and her partner, Ben, on their recent engagement.

Adverse Weather

Please be aware that the advice remains the same as the previous newsletter which is available on our school website.

Parking

We continue to receive complaints from local residents regarding their driveways being partially blocked at drop off and pick up times. May I remind you that the Village Hall Car Park, which is a short walk away from school, can be used by parents dropping off in the morning or collecting children at the end of the day. Please make use of this facility where possible.

Fundraising

Many thanks to everyone who has contributed to our fundraising activities this half term which have included Sports for Schools and non-uniform day.

Furthermore, please remember to go via easyfundraising to help us raise funds for school whilst shopping online. To register;

1. Go to www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/friendsofashoverschool
2. Sign up for free
3. Get shopping - your donations will be collected by easyfundraising and automatically sent to school. It couldn't be easier!

In particular, if you are booking your summer holiday online or considering changing broadband providers or similar, these things can result in large donations! We are also collecting used ink cartridges and old mobile phones for recycling – please deposit any relevant items in the box which will be in the new reception area after the half term break.

I am fully aware that the changes in terms of access to school at the start and end of the school day constitute considerable change and I appreciate that there may be some members of the school community who disagree with these changes. May I point out that these changes bring us in line with the procedures at most other schools. I would like to reassure you that these changes are being made to improve the safety of all members of our school community, and to comply with safeguarding requirements and I hope that you will fully engage with this. I welcome your views and am more than willing for anyone who has concerns to meet with me – or the AGES team managers – to discuss relevant issues.

I wish you all a happy and relaxed half term break and look forward to welcoming you back to school on Monday 22nd February 2016.

Yours faithfully

Mrs V Spender

Headteacher

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Headteacher: Mrs Vicky Spender | **Assistant Headteacher:** Mrs Sharon Hallsworth | **Chair of Governors:** Andrew Coates

