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15<sup>th</sup> April 2016

## April Newsletter

Dear Parents,

I hope you all had a lovely Easter break and made time for relaxation and time with friends and family. This is only a brief newsletter to keep you up to date with future events and to provide you with the results of a recent school inspection.

As part of the borough's quality assurance cycle our school was inspected this week to validate the school's judgements about standards in teaching and learning.

As a school we continue to grade ourselves as outstanding in all areas due to standards rising at the school over the past two years in achievement and attainment (KS2 SATs) along with the improvements we have made to the curriculum, pupil behaviour, quality of teaching and learning and the building itself.

Anyway, I am pleased to say that Teaching and Learning within the school was judged to be outstanding. This followed a learning walk conducted by our school improvement partner who gathered evidence from a range of sources including: observing lessons in EYFS, KS1 and KS2; scrutiny of work in pupil books and viewing behaviour around the school.

Senior Leaders' judgements of the quality of teaching and learning over time were judged to be accurate and supported with reliable evidence of latest data and work in pupil books.

It was noted that the school's robust cycle of assessment and monitoring was highly effective in identifying any areas for improvement and then putting plans in place to address these.

Whole school strengths in teaching observed were:

- Outstanding attitudes to learning as a result of all adults' high expectations and explicit modelling with the result that pupils demonstrate maturity and independence in a variety of settings; working independently, with a partner and in groups;
- Outstanding relationships between adults and pupils and amongst pupils themselves;
- A sense of urgency and pace in teaching with maximum use of learning time;

- A wide variety of assessment strategies such as effective use of talk partners, group work and mini-plenaries, result in full engagement of pupils;
- High quality next step teacher marking for misconceptions and additional challenges set for pupils in the core subjects with pupils returning to tackle these;
- Teaching Assistants make a significant contribution in moving learning forward through well- established, daily 'catch up sessions and reshaping and modelling the learning intention;
- High quality teachers' and TAs' challenge through open-ended and targeted questioning with extension of pupils' responses.
- Outstanding pupil behaviour both within lessons, at break times and as pupils moved around the school.

As you are aware, our priority over the next few years is to maintain standards as the school expands. We are very proud of the school's current reputation and the high demand for places at the school and I am determined that this continues to be the case. The fact that we are ranked in the top 1% of the schools nationally across the UK and top of the borough league tables is brilliant but this does not mean we are complacent. In truth, quite the opposite is true in that we continually strive to improve what we do at the school and positively encourage inspection of our processes to reassure us that our pupils are receiving an education of the highest quality.

However, of course we know this does not happen without the support of parents. This partnership is a key ingredient in the school's success and the achievement of the children so I would like to say thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Jan Taylor  
Head Teacher

#### Dates for Your Diary:

Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> April	-	Book Fair starts
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> April	-	FoSA Meeting 7pm
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April	-	Netball match vs Hacton (away)
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> April	-	Book Fair ends.
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> April	-	Y1D Class Assembly @ 9:15am
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> April	-	FoSA Inflatables 3.15pm - 5pm
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May	-	May Day - School closed.
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May	-	School nurse Drop-in session from 8:30am
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> May	-	Selected Y3 & Y4 at tennis competition - details to follow.
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> May	-	Y1H Class Assembly @ 9:15am Open Door Session from 3:15pm
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> May	-	Netball match vs Harold Hill (away)
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> May	-	Y6 SATs week.
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> May	-	Netball match vs Nelmes (away)

- Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May - Whole school debate led by Y3
- Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May - Netball match vs Newtons(away)
- Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May - Linda Galloway Girls Football Tournament - details To follow.
- Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> May - Y4 visit to Country Park - details to follow
- Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May - INSET Day- school closed.
- Monday 30<sup>th</sup> May - Half term
- Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June - School reopens.

