



School Newsletter February 2017



Dear Parents and carers

Welcome back to school. We hope you had an enjoyable break. Term 4 has already got off to a flying start and a range of things are on the horizon. You will find dates for forthcoming events on the calendar on the school website. The school website is an excellent place to start if you need information of any kind.

Knight without a Name

Thank you for participating in our first challenge to find our Knight a name. We hope it created a good opportunity to debate together as a family. Each class put forward some well thought through nominations and we were delighted that 68 families participated. So the results are in and our Knight, generously sponsored by Chestnut Homes and Core Architects, will be known as Sir Armour!

Sir Armour will be spending time in each class with a new challenge, 'The Knights and Castles Snap Challenge'. Our engagement in the Lincoln Knights' Trail will include all the children in contributing to the design of the Knight which will be featured in the Knights' Trial around Lincoln later in the summer. We are using this opportunity to explore with the children what we mean by equality and diversity and over the next three weeks each child will be sharing his/her ideas through drawings as initial ideas to inspire the overall design. So a very creative and exciting challenge ahead. Do follow our progress on twitter and don't forget to let the school office know if you want to get involved on a practical level or sponsor the purchase of materials. There is lots to do with deadlines to meet! Our first deadline is Monday 13th March when Mel Langton, Emma Hackney and Derek Hopson will be coming into to view the initial ideas the children have come up with so watch this space! We will also be having a visit in March from the full sized Knight that Chestnut Homes have commissioned for the trail. All very exciting!



Keeping Safe – Working with the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC)

We welcomed Sara Parker from the NSPCC on Monday who led two assemblies with Reception and KS1 and KS2 to empower children to keep safe and raise awareness of Childline. She will be returning on Monday 27 February to run workshops with our children in Y5 and Y6. Information from NSPCC is available on the school website (www.dunholme.lincs.sch.uk) and also through their own website www.nspcc.org.uk/schools.



Recreational Spaces

Mrs Ackroyd has been working hard with FODs and Angela Hopson to improve our recreational spaces. A big thank you to Mrs Rawson and the Jumble sale team who recently donated £400 towards this project. We are seeking funding from Community Champions and the Parish Council and will keep you posted with our progress.

Music is in the air

Improvised Session with Steve and Tom

The children enjoyed an impromptu musical delight on Tuesday morning when Steve, the drummer, and Tom, the guitarist, met for the first time. They improvised playing together a rendition of jazz, flamenco, blues and Ed Sheeran. The whole school were jiggling and getting into the rhythm at our very own mini concert! It was a great experience with opportunities for children to sign up for group or individual sessions. Steve and Tom obviously enjoy their music so much and are keen to offer opportunities for anyone to learn to play. See the separate letter that went out earlier in the week.

Reception and Key Stage 1 Choir

This afternoon, we finished the week with another musical treat and fantastic performance from our Reception and Key Stage 1 Choir who showcased their singing as part of our Celebration Assembly. We have an enthusiastic group of about 38 children led by Mr Clayton, Mrs Rawson and Mrs Ashall.

Key Stage 2 Choir Preparing for the Lincoln Music and Drama Festival

Our newly formed Key Stage 2 Choir are busy preparing for the Lincoln Music and Drama Festival. This is the first time we have entered the festival and the Choir under the leadership of Mrs Beryl Faulkner supported by Mr Adam Clayton will be performing at the Central Methodist Church, Lincoln, on Thursday 16th March.



Junior Road Safety Officers

Lewis and Nathan have been busy analysing the recent survey sent to parents and neighbouring residents. Thank you for your responses hopefully they will be able to share some of their ideas for solutions at Parent Consultation Evenings in March.

Health and Safety

Please can we remind parents to ensure that children and adults use the pedestrian gates and paths provided at school and do not cut through the car park under any circumstances. There was a near miss involving a child this morning.

We would also be grateful if you could ensure that you do not block the entrance gates to the playgrounds when dropping off and collecting your children. If you could stand away from the gates to allow other families to enter more easily it would be appreciated.

Promoting a Healthy and Active Life Style

As you may be aware, for the first time we have signed up to the Lincoln Cross Country Athletics Association and earlier in the year introduced a Cross County Running Club as part of our extra-curricular activities. This is led by Mrs Gill Ashall and supported by Mrs Lisa Williamson. This week 12 children represented the school (made up of 6 boys and 6 girls). They did fantastically well with the boys coming 9th out of 19 schools and the girls coming 14th out of 19 schools – overall we are 14th. Thank you to all the parents who were able to support us with this. We couldn't do it without you. Next week we will be racing at Saxilby School.

We were delighted that school was represented this week by swimmers from Ys 6 and 5 at the Schools Gala. They did very well and enjoyed the competition. Thank you to Mrs Dawson and Mrs Manterfield for supporting our swimmers at this event.

What's Happening Next Week?

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Racing – details have already been sent out – weather permitting. If we cannot hold the races outside a flipping contest will take place in the hall. Unfortunately we are unable to fit in spectators but will publish photographs on the school website.



Ash Wednesday – a separate letter has been sent out please return the slip if your child does not want to be ashed.

St Chad's Day

The school will be going to church to mark St Chad's Day on Thursday 2 March. We will parade with our school banner and hear the story of Chad. Chad represents the Christian values of Love, Truth and Humility which are the foundation of our church school ethos.

Children as Writers

Over the last few weeks it's been a delight to spend time in classrooms talking to the children about their writing. Children, of all ages, have confidently talked about 'the build up to writing', how they plan, draft, and re-draft their work. They are very productive as their stamina and independence in writing increases. We hope you enjoy reading some of the fantastic writing when you visit classrooms at Parent Consultation Evenings in March and hopefully recognise the progress they have made since the beginning of the year. Well done, everyone is working really hard.

And finally the governors are delighted to announce that following interviews yesterday, Mrs Catherine Ackroyd has been appointed to the permanent position of Assistant Headteacher at Dunholme St Chad's. Congratulations to Mrs Ackroyd.

Thank you for your continued support.

Patricia Ruff

Patricia Ruff
Headteacher



Don't forget.....

Afternoon tea and
coffee 10th March,
School Hall,
3.20-4.30pm!

DIARY DATES



(Please note that whilst correct at the time of printing these dates may be subject to change, please check the school website for the most up to date information)

March 2017

Wednesday 1st	Ash Wednesday
Thursday 2nd	World Book Day
Thursday 2nd	St Chad's Day
Thursday 9th	RAB Christening service
Thursday 9th	Mid Year Reports issued
Friday 10th	Afternoon Tea and Coffee (3.20pm)
Monday 13th	KS2 Mad Science Workshops
Tuesday 14th	Parent Consultation Evening
Thursday 16th	Lincoln Music and Drama Festival
Thursday 16th	Parent Consultation Evening
w/c 20th	Shakespeare Week
Tuesday 21st	RAB Visit to Pink Pig Farm
Thursday 23rd	Class photographs (Wrates)
Friday 24th	Golden Ticket Day
Friday 24th	Non Uniform Day (FODs)
Monday 27th	Year 3/4 Production dress rehearsal
Tuesday 28th	Year 3/4 production (1.45pm)
Tuesday 28th	Year 3/4 production (6.30pm)
Wednesday 29th	Year 3/4 production (6.30pm)
Thursday 30th	Easter Service
Thursday 30th	Easter Parade (2.30pm) and Easter Fayre
Friday 31st	Last day of term 4.

April 2017

Tuesday 18th	Term 5 starts
Thursday 20th	Y6 Sports Morning at William Farr
Friday 28th	Family Night (FODs) To be confirmed

May 2017

Thursday 4th	Y4 Visit to Lincoln Mosque
W/C Monday 8th	SATs week
Wednesday 17th	Y3 visit Snipedales
Monday 22nd	Open Morning
Thursday 25th	FODs end of term disco
Friday 26th	Last day of term 5

June 2017

Monday 5th	Term 6 starts
Monday 5th	Athletics Morning (children only)
Tuesday 13th	RAB Visit to Natureland, Skegness
Wednesday 14th	Sports Afternoon