

Lunchtime Review Autumn Term 2017

We have had a busy start to the new school year with the new reception children joining us. Everybody worked hard (staff and pupils) to settle all the new children in as quickly as possible which, without the kind and freely volunteered support of the older pupils, would have taken longer and would have been more stressful.

We also had to say a very sad goodbye to Mrs. Leaman who had supported lunchtime in different roles over many years. Staff and pupils are grateful for Mrs. Leaman's dedication and support during many years.

We welcomed Mrs. Whitehouse to our team as Mrs. Leaman's replacement.

New Equipment

The purchase of a variety of new playground toys for all ages was given the go ahead. This was welcomed equally by staff and pupils and all agreed to make the new things last as long as possible by taking extra care.

Clubs

Monday: Art Club run by Mrs. Burton. This continues to be as popular as ever with children from all classes taking advantage of the varied activities on offer. This term saw numbers remaining at a high level (lunchtime staff member had to be re-assigned to support Mrs. Burton) as the reception children especially love taking home their creations. Mrs. Burton spends a lot of time sourcing interesting and seasonally themed creations which support educational targets such as fine motor skills. Often activities are cross-curricular and the children get introduced to different subjects for example the weather (weather plate, observation/forecast) and time (Christmas calendar). Examples of the different activities and photos of sessions are displayed on the board outside the school office.

Wednesday: Sports Activity supervised by Mrs. Calvert. Different activities are organised using outdoor play equipment which encourage proper use and inclusion. One of the favourite and hotly anticipated activities is the scooter and trike session for Key Stage 1. Weather permitting, the school's own safe 'vehicles' are brought out and ridden in a marked out area on the large playground. The running of this very busy activity, is made so much easier because of the freely volunteered help of some of the older Key Stage 2 children. It is lovely to see how patient and kind the children are with each other.

Friday: Indoor Games Supervised by Mrs. Kell. Different games are chosen every week by Mrs. Kell for all the Key Stages. Children can join voluntarily but also sometimes get chosen to help support their personal targets and improve social skills.

For the spring term 2018 current clubs will continue and new Play-Leaders' activities will be added.

Play-Leaders

Pupils from Class 3 will plan and deliver playground activities for other pupils at school. The new leaders will, as usual, be guided through the different stages of planning for the different sessions

for the weeks ahead by Mrs. Hansell. The pupils will learn about assessing risks, organising and adapting games to their peers' needs. The Play-Leaders' support during lunchtime is very much appreciated by the staff as it helps with providing different activities for the pupils and encourages positive behaviour.

Drop-in Session now run by Mrs. Toth.

These sessions are a vital part of our lunchtime support for the children that need a little more help dealing with solving a problem. Most issues that arise during break time are minor and can be dealt with by any of the staff using restorative practices. Sometimes, however, a more in-depth approach is needed and that is when Mrs. Toth steps in.

Behaviour

Generally behaviour has been good this term. One area that caused some concerns was the dining hall as the noise level during lunch was getting excessive and pupils would leave their seats without asking permission. Pupil's choice of table companions would be the same every single day, leaving some children out, causing some tables to get noisy and over confident.

After discussing these issues with the other staff members, we went back to seating the children in house colours (blue, green, red and yellow) once a week to help with reducing the noise level and mixing up the year groups. Regular reminders of expected "green" behaviour and lunchtime rules are given. House points are handed out and lunchtime trophies awarded weekly.

Diana Calvert