



Dear Parents,

2018 has had another busy start, with lots of exciting opportunities for pupils across the school. All classes have settled well and have made a good start to the year. Reception has had a visit from some owls as part of their Enquiry. Year 1 have all learnt how to make smoothies with our kitchen catering company, Chartwells. Year 3 have had a Stone Age Day where children dressed as stone age children for the day. The weather was not really on their side so they truly experienced what it would be like to live outdoors. They also made bread with Chartwells.

Swimming

This year we have made some changes to when and how our children go swimming. As a school we have a duty to support all children learn to swim 25 meters (a full length of the pool) before they leave primary school. They also have to know how to swim front crawl, backstroke and breaststroke. We have always taken children to learn to swim for one year of lessons. With many of our children this has meant they have become more confident in the pool but have not been able to swim the required 25 meters by the time they leave us for secondary school. We made the decision to increase the amount of swimming all children receive so that most if not all children learn to swim confidently in all strokes and achieve the 25 meters. This has meant we are spending more and having to organise swimming lessons differently. Both year 4 and 5 are going swimming on a Wednesday morning. Children are being assessed at the moment so that we can make sure they are in the correct group. It means that all children now swim together. We appreciate that this is a change. We are excited and the children are too, they thoroughly enjoy their swimming lessons. We will invite all parents of year 4 and 5 children before the end of term and then again at the end of the year so you can see how your child is progressing.

Would you like to help children learn to read?

We have our first workshop for any parents who are interested in supporting children at school with their reading. If you have a little time to give to school each week and would like to come into school and listen to some of our children read we would love to hear from you. The first training session took place on Tuesday 25th September at 2.00pm. We have another planned for the 9th October at 2.00 pm (for those who attended the first session) or 1.30pm for anyone who was unable to make that initial meeting. Please let the the office know if you are planning to attend - it would be great to see you there.

Please take the time to read the letter below from our school governors

Have a good week

Mrs De N'Yeurt

Letter from our Governing Body

Dear Parents and Carers

I trust you had an enjoyable summer break and wish you a warm welcome back to May Park. I am writing to update you on the work of the interim governing board which met on Monday 17th September.

Once again, the interim board covered a range of agenda items with the acting headteacher, posing questions to clarify points and to agree actions and future agenda items.

The board reviewed the number of pupils at the school and the levels of mobility over the course of last year. Almost one hundred pupils left the school during the year and one hundred arrived. This was very useful information as mobility does mean that targets and teaching need to be adapted regularly to meet the needs of new pupils who arrive at the school. This is something that teachers and leaders need to be confident in dealing with. The actions being taken to improve the consistency and quality of teaching will support this.

The attendance data for 2017-18 is below the national average and the board discussed how leaders might increase the percentage of pupils attending school in the coming year. Leaders will prepare an attendance action plan that will set out how they are working with families and pupils to improve attendance. The board agreed that pupils whose attendance is between 90% and 95% should be a focus for leaders as well as those who are classed as persistent absentees (below 90%). The board agreed they would review attendance at each meeting and leaders would update governors on progress with the plan.

We would also like to ask parents for your support in improving attendance. Making sure your child attends school every day is the best way to ensure they make good progress and achieve. Avoiding holidays during term time and medical appointments in the school day wherever possible will help reduce interruptions to children's learning. This is a key way in which parents can support the school to improve children's learning so they can achieve their full potential.

Outcomes for pupils were looked at in some detail. The data was presented in a clear way that enabled the board to check on the achievement of all pupils and particular groups. Although outcomes overall are low across the school, there are particular groups that perform below their peers. The board noted that boys achievement is low and below girls across the school. Pupils with English as an additional language also perform below those whose first language is English. The board asked leaders to review these groups when monitoring the work of the school so that there is a clear understanding of how teachers are supporting these them in the classroom. Planning support will also help teachers structure their lessons to support pupils with EAL. The board asked that the performance of the identified groups is also added to the school's self-evaluation document as an area for development.

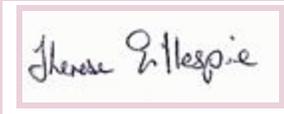
A review of pupil premium is scheduled for the 9th October. This will be led by the manager of the primary teaching school alliance. This will help identify how pupil premium funding can be used more effectively to support pupils and improve their rates of progress. The documents for the review have been received and leaders are now completing in preparation for the visit. Once the review is complete the board will use the recommendations to develop an action plan.

The acting headteacher presented an overview of all staff roles and responsibilities. This provided a clear picture for the board of who is accountable for the various responsibilities across the school, including line management. Staff performance management and professional development will support staff in meeting their responsibilities. Lesson observations of all teachers will be completed by the acting headteacher and the school improvement officer in the coming weeks. This will also help establish teachers' professional development needs and identify the impact of support to date. It was agreed that a staff survey will be completed in term 2 and the outcomes reported to the board. This will also inform planning for terms 3 onwards.

The school development plan has been agreed and is linked to the priorities identified in the recent Ofsted inspection report. A meeting was held last week with the National Leader of Education, the teaching school manager, the school improvement officer, the board and acting headteacher. The school development plan and Local Authority support were reviewed and actions were assigned to ensure that work with external support is joined up, targeted at the right members of staff and does not overwhelm the school. A plan of action was agreed up until the end of term 2. The group will meet on 8th November to evaluate the progress made so far. This will also inform planning during term 2.

I hope you find this information useful. We are looking forward to a productive and successful term and look forward to working with you over the coming months.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jhenese Gillespie", enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

SuperNovas After School Club

Bookings for after school care are now open. Please text our dedicated Supernovas line to request an Information pack 07469413322. Please provide your child's name and class in the message.

More information can be found on the school website; use the **Clubs** link.

PTA

If you are passionate about helping the children in our community and raising funds, pop along to one of the next meetings this term; email MayParkPTA@gmail.com, text or call the PTA Chair, Sadie on 07748486747, or chat to someone at the ice cream stall outside school on Mondays and Thursdays. All help and ideas are gratefully received! Check out the Facebook page for regular updates

www.facebook.com/MayParkPTA/

PTA Cafe

As you may know, the PTA Cafe is open every Friday from the beginning of the day to sit and chat with other parents, have a coffee and a cake and just relax. We normally have a great turn out and you can even ask your children's teacher if they are able to come along for a chat too! Please come.

Every Friday from first thing.

| Event | Date | |
|---|-----------------------------|---|
| Training for parent reading volunteers | 09/10/18 2.00 - 3.00 pm | Parents who have signed up to read with children in school (1.30pm start if you missed the first session) |
| Library Planning Meeting | 12/10/18 9.00 - 10.00 am | For parents interested in setting up a school library |
| End of term home and school learning showcase | 19/10/18 3.00 - 4.00 pm | Parents of all children These showcases will happen in all classes from 3.00 pm |