

Head Teacher's Newsletter



@MrGarley

Irthlingborough Junior School

Date: 18th November 2018

Last week...

Olympic Athletes and Supermarkets

It was an interesting week in school last week. We were asked to get involved in the opening of the new Co-op and Aldi shops. Thank you to the children and parents who supported us with both events. It was a privilege to be invited and both shops provided us with 'goodies' as a reward for the children.

Aldi are sponsors of Team GB and we were really pleased to welcome 2012 medalists Annie Panter and Sophie Hosking into school on Thursday for an assembly. Both athletes shared their inspirational stories and answered the children's and staff's questions about life as an Olympic athlete.

Attendance

Last week's attendance is as follows:

Year 3			
3NM	93.3%	3EW	97.4%
3MW	98.1%	3YS	99.6%
Year 4			
4CP	93.8%	4JC	96.3%
4TM	96.9%	4HG	97.1%
Year 5			
5GD	95.1%	5BR	95.3%
5TW	93.9%	5MM	96.4%
Year 6			
6ED	97.7%	6BL	97.8%
6SU	97.1%	6ET	96.9%

Topsoil request

Thank you to everyone who responded to my request for topsoil for our planters at the front of the school. Mr Evans managed to put us in touch with Winvic Construction who provided two tonnes of topsoil free of charge.

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Reading

We're still giving away free books to children every week. All they have to do is read at least three times at home and have that evidenced in their planners with a signature from parents or carers.

If you remember last year we bought books for the year 6 children from a recommended list of quality novels that children should read at 11 years old. We're doing the same this year for years 3, 4 and 5. Look out for your child bringing one of these books home to share.

We still have our book blog linked to our twitter feeds which we've used to connect to authors of children's books. If your child really enjoys a book and writes a review, please share it with me or their class teacher and we'll publish that review online.

Mrs Meekings and the Year Team Leaders have designed an Advent reading project that you can follow or dip in and out of. We are determined to re-engage children with a love of books. We need your help with that so please continue to encourage children to read at home.

Facebook

We've started a Facebook page. This is for us to communicate school events with you. It is designed to be a one-way process and we won't respond to questions or queries via the Facebook page in the same way we do with our Twitter feeds. At the moment, I don't really know how it will work with regard to sharing dates so if things appear and then disappear, please be patient with it.

This week...

Reading Development

We are all going to learn something about reading this week because at some point we're all going to watch the year 6 teachers teach a reading session. We have chosen year 6 because they have been choosing some really interesting materials to read with the children including magazine articles and song lyrics. Teachers will watch the session and write down something they have learned from it and think about how the session can impact on their own reading practice.

Next Monday (26th November), we are having a staff meeting where year 6 will share how they thought their reading sessions went and teachers will be able to discuss the next steps for us to improve reading in school.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'NPG' followed by a stylized flourish.

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History and Geography Curriculum

Miss Thompson is leading our staff meeting tomorrow looking at how we plan and deliver history and geography in school. We plan our units as an enquiry with all the learning stemming from a central question.

We are on a drive to improve children's vocabulary (along with our own) so please look out for word lists coming home connected to their topics. I am sure these will also appear on our twitter feeds and on our Facebook page.

Sports-hall Athletics

We still have the passion to strive to be the best we can be on the sports field – or in this case, the sports-hall. This takes place on Wednesday and we wish the competitors the best of luck.

Look out for pictures on the @sportijs twitter feed and on our Facebook page.

Erasmus Training Opportunity

We have been very lucky to gain funding for some European courses from the Erasmus project, for our Trust schools. This funding comes from Europe and is additional to our school funding from the DFE (Department For Education). The funds have to be used for courses in Europe based on our Trust Improvement Plan and our school's individual needs. The funding will pay for the courses, trips to European schools and flights. We will be able to take advantage of expertise in a variety of areas from across Europe. The areas we are looking to develop are wellbeing, special needs, creativity particularly in the early years, IT, outdoor learning and global learning. Teachers from across the Trust will have opportunities to take part in some of the courses and share their learning with others, in our Trust, other schools and the wider school community.

The first teachers to have this opportunity are Mrs Moore and Mrs Colquhoun who are visiting Italy this week to learn about the Reggio Emilia approach to creative teaching.

We need your help...

Road Safety

There were two worrying incidents last week involving road safety around our school. I was driving back from Finedon and whilst driving along College Street a child ran out in front of me as I passed the fire station. I also received an email from a parent whose child was reversed into by a car. Both these incidents could have resulted in serious injury or worse. Please:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'NPG' followed by a flourish.

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- Reduce speeds around the school site.
- Try to avoid parking around the school site.
- Walk to school where possible.
- Do not park in front of the fire station doors.

Uniform

It states in our uniform policy that children should wear shoes to school. There are children breaking our school uniform policy and arriving in trainers. Converse style, black pumps are not shoes and are not in line with the school uniform policy.

If your child wears earrings, they should be small metallic studs.

If girls wear headbands for their hair, these should be smart and unobtrusive. 'Cat ears' should not be worn to school.

We will be having a uniform check this week and children who are not in correct uniform will be coming home with a letter outlining what needs to be changed. Please endeavor to follow our policy.

If you need support with school uniform, we always have spare jumpers and cardigans in school that you can have. Please contact the school office.



Well done to the children and thank you parents for helping us raise over £1000 for Children in Need on Friday.

Your generosity for good causes is incredible.