



Mary Exton News



Spring Term Newsletter 1

9th January 2018

Dear All,

Welcome back at the start of the Spring Term. We hope you all had an enjoyable break with your families and friends. Mrs Miles and Mrs Brocklehurst join the teams in Reception and Year 4, and I am sure you will join me in extending them a warm welcome to the Mary Exton Community.

As highlighted in the newsletter at the end of term we already have a number of activities for the term ahead and please find attached a copy of the updated calendar sheet.

Communication

We are aware of the amount of correspondence that we all deal with on a daily basis, both personally and professionally. Over the past term we have been listening to feedback and looking at our systems within school. This term we will be trialling the following approach to sending out information starting next week:

- A weekly email will be sent on a Friday with any relevant information or attachments required to each year group. This may mean that information is shared more than once if you have more than one child in school, however emails will be limited to a Friday.
- Reminders will be sent via SchoolComms, so please ensure that you are signed up and by downloading the App, you receive messages in a timely manner. By using the App, it also allows us to save money as a school, alternatively, each text message which is received directly to your phone costs us money.
- Twitter will be updated on a daily basis wherever possible
- Newsletters will be sent out on the 1st Friday of the month along with the weekly email.

I appreciate that there may be times when additional emails may need to be sent which cannot wait until a Friday, but we hope to limit these.

Today you will be receiving this newsletter, updated diary dates and a number of letters. You should have already received the curriculum letters and maps for each year group yesterday. The weekly emails will begin w/b 14th January.

SENCo

Alongside this newsletter you will have a letter from Mrs Taylor in relation to SEND parent surgeries and other details for the term ahead. Please note that there will no longer be the option to leave a voice message for the SENCo, however, there is a direct email which will be accessed daily. If you have an urgent query, please contact the school office and you will either be put through to Mrs Taylor if she is available or a message can be passed on.

Clubs

You will receive notification by the end of the week as to the clubs which your child/ren have been allocated. Please could you also let us know how the online system worked for requesting places? We continue to review our systems and would be grateful of any feedback.

Maths Parent Workshop

Next week we have our second parent workshops which focuses on Maths. It is being held on Wednesday 16th January at 7pm in the school hall. This will be followed by the opportunity to work alongside your children in class on Friday 18th January between 9-10am. If you would like to attend either session please could you let us know via the Parent Evening System. Whilst there is no charge for the workshop, we would like to know numbers attending so that we are able to accommodate everyone.

Headteacher: Mrs Angharad Paterson

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Severe Weather

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the School's procedures in the event that severe weather or another emergency forces us to close the School. This is not a decision we take lightly and in the interest of parents and also for staff who have to travel from a distance we will try to make this decision by 7.30 am. We will send a text via the Schoolcomms system to all parents, and also, the Everbridge system will be notified. By registering for the School Closure Notifications System, you will automatically receive any notification. This may be either that the School is open or closed. This is the system which is used by Hertfordshire County Council. To sign up to the Everbridge system, please visit:

<https://member.everbridge.net/index/892807736725489#/login>

This link will direct you to the 'sign up' page. Please click on the 'sign up' button located on the grey strip at the top right hand side of the page and then follow the on screen instructions.

The following radio stations should also receive any closure notification although please be aware that when lots of schools have to close, it may take some time for them to update their lists:

- BBC Three Counties Radio (103.8 FM)
- Heart Radio (96.9 FM)

We will also endeavour to update the school website. If you know the School is closed, please contact friends to pass the message on. By helping us in this way, we will be able to deal with the situation quickly and efficiently.

Easyfundraising

Thank you to all of you who have now registered for Easyfundraising. It really is such an easy system to use, and costs you nothing, but the donations made by the retailers slowly add up - £52 has been raised in the last 30 days alone. So please think of us and help Mary Exton raise free funds today by shopping online via www.easyfundraising.org.uk. Different retailers donate a different percentage, and so far we have raised over £500 by using Easyfundraising. It's simple to use and doesn't cost you a penny! Please use the link below.



Angharad Paterson

Headteacher