

Newsletter - April 2017

PTA EASTER FAYRE

The PTA would like to thank everyone who supported the Easter Eggstravaganza.



Over £300 was raised on the day which will help the PTA continue to support curriculum enrichment activities across the school.

PARKING OUTSIDE SCHOOL

Can we please remind parents that the yellow zig-zag lines outside the school are there for our children's safety.



Like other schools, we are unable to offer parents parking facilities in our car park, either before or after school. Over recent weeks there have been several incidents that have caused congestion on the drive as people try to enter and leave on the single width drive at the same time.

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER...

A really busy term is nearly behind us. Teachers, especially in Y2 and Y6, are preparing for the SATs and other assessments and I know you are all aware how important attendance and punctuality are.

Despite the doom and gloom in the press regarding school funding. We are delighted to once again be able to set a balanced budget and although our budget has been cut in real terms, we are able to protect our investment in teaching and learning by making efficiencies in other areas.

By the time the children return from the Easter Break, the play area in Key Stage 1 should be completely refurbished, we hope you will like the improvements.

As you will have read, our new Headteacher has been appointed and I am already working with Mrs Smith to provide a smooth transition when she takes over in September.

I am also delighted that Mrs Roddis has been appointed as Acting Deputy Headteacher. She will continue to be responsible for Special Needs but will also cover Mr Plowright's responsibilities.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sheila Haigh

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF GOVERNORS...

As you may be aware, the school was inspected by Ofsted on 8th February. We are delighted that Ofsted found that the school continues to be GOOD. The full text of the letter from the Inspector to Mrs Haigh is available via the link on the school website.

Among Ofsted's findings, they observed that:

"Children in Early Years are making secure progress. Interesting activities inspire children to talk about their work so they develop good language skills quickly... In particular boys have made rapid gains in their writing skills because of good teaching and support."

"The school is a harmonious community, with pupils from a range of diverse backgrounds getting on well together"

"Teachers plan tasks that capture pupils' interests. This leads to good behaviour, inquisitive pupils and good attitudes to learning".

"You have developed a very effective leadership team that is showing good capacity for further improvement... You and other leaders have identified key actions that need to be taken to strengthen outcomes and the quality of teaching".

"You have made sure that the additional government funding to support disadvantaged pupils and those who have special educational needs and/or disabilities is spent well..... As a result these pupils are learning well."

We are very proud of our school and we are pleased that Ofsted has recognised this in the latest inspection. However, we are not complacent and we will continue to focus on areas where we can do even better for our children.

New Head teacher – Mrs Amanda Smith

We are delighted to confirm that we have appointed a new head teacher to lead the school following Mrs Haigh's retirement in the summer. Amanda Smith joins us from Pathways Academy in the north of the city, where she is currently Vice Principal.

Governors are very excited about the new appointment and we are confident that Mrs Smith will provide excellent leadership for the school, building on the great legacy that Mrs Haigh will leave when she retires.

Andy Wynne
Chair of Governors

**Ballifield will close for the Easter break on
Friday 7th April at 3.15pm.**

We re-open to children on Monday 24th April.