6th February, 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to our February newsletter, in which you can find a number of important dates and events that you might want to note down. Remember that if you mislay your copy, you will be able to find an electronic version on the school website.

Christmas Performances

We would like to thank you all again for joining us for our Christmas Performances. The proceeds of

£805.86 from the sale of the tickets will be donated to a range of charities.

Writing Week, School Book Fair and World Book Day

These three events will be combined into an exciting literary week. The Writing Week will take place during the week beginning Monday 26th February, and the Book Fair will take place after school each evening from Friday 23rd February to Thursday 1st March inclusive. World Book Day will be celebrated on Thursday 1st March, and we will also hold our Celebration Event for parents after school on 1st March to coincide with both World Book Day and the last evening of the Book Fair. We look forward to seeing you in school during that period; Mrs Keen will be in touch shortly with further information.

Class/Group Photographs

Would you please note that class and group photographs (groups being, for example, music groups and sport teams) will be taken on Tuesday 17th April, 2018.

SATs

This year’s SATs for Y6 pupils take place during the week commencing Monday 14th May, 2018 through to Friday 18th May, 2018.

Y1 Phonics Screening (and re-tests for Y2 children who fell short in Y1)

The Y1 Phonics Screening Tests will take place during the week beginning Monday 11th June, 2018.

PD Days

Would you please note that the school will be closed on Friday 29th June, 2018 for a PD day.

Free School Meals

Could we please, once again, encourage any parents who think they may be eligible for Free School Meals to claim them as it generates a great deal of funding for the school. Please note that children are not identified in any way as being in receipt of Free School Meals. For further information please contact the school office.

**Important new arrangements for the Summer Half-Term Holiday, 2019**

***Please note that the following applies to NEXT academic year, not the current one.***

A significant factor in keeping our average attendance figures a little below where we would like them to be is that of **term-time holidays.** Many school sessions are being lost to absences due to children being taken out of school for family holidays, so next year we would like to put in measures to **help parents book cheaper holidays without their children missing school.**

Schools have to organise five PD days across the course of an academic year, and these are usually placed at different time points. However, next year, we intend to take all five of our PD days together in one week straight after the summer half term (Whit Week) holiday, meaning that there will be a break from school for a fortnight next year at that time. This will thus give parents the chance to book their holidays at more favourable rates without having to remove their child/children from school.

To summarise, this is what we intend to do:

Summer Half-Term Holiday (Whit Week) Mon 27th May – Fri 31st May, 2019

PD day week (school closed) Mon 3rd June – Fri 7th June, 2019

School re-opens Mon 10th June, 2019

We very much hope that you will take the opportunity to use this fortnight for holidays next year, and try your hardest to avoid school time; this way no children will lose any days of schooling to term-time vacations.

Aspirations Half-Term

Another exciting feature of the second half-term of the Spring Term (Mon 19th Feb to Thurs 29th March) is that we will be designating it an ‘aspirations’ half-term which will go by the title ‘Aspire 2 Be’. A range of visits and visitors have been organised with the intention of giving children a host of opportunities to find out about the possibilities that exist for them in the world of work when they are older. This is very much intended as a ‘seed-sowing’ initiative, as there is a good deal of evidence to suggest that ‘seeds sown’ or interests developed at primary school age often bear significant fruit once the children become adults.

Mr Bryson will be in contact with further information in the new half-term.

Dates

Mon 12th Feb – Fri 16th Feb, 2018 School closed for half-term holiday

Mon 19th Feb School re-opens

Fri 23rd Feb – Thurs 1st March Book Fair

Writing Week Mon 26th Feb – Fri 2nd March

Thurs 1st March World Book Day and Writing Week Celebration Event

Mon 26th March Parental Consultation Session (3.40-5.30pm)

Wed 28th March Parental Consultation Session (5.00-7.30pm)

Thursday 29th March, 2018 Last day of Spring Term

Fri 30th March – Fri 13th April, 2018 School closed for Easter Holiday

Mon 16th April, 2018 Children return for the start of Summer Term

Tues 17th April Class and Group Photos

Mon 7th May Bank Holiday – School closed

Mon 14th – Fri 18th May Y6 SATs week

May 2017 Y2 SATs & assessment period

Mon 28th May – Fri 1st June, 2018 Half Term Holiday – School closed

Mon 4th June, 2018 School re-opens

11th – 15th June Y1 Phonics screening test week

Fri 29th June PD Day – School closed

Tues 3rd July Summer Discos (R/KS1: 4.15-5.30pm KS2: 5.45-7.15pm)

Fri 6th July Y6 children leave Fens (secondary transition fortnight begins Mon 9th July)

Fri 20th July, 2018 Last day of term – School closes at 3.20pm

Yours sincerely,

Mr C.P. Cornforth

Headteacher