8th February, 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to our February newsletter, which contains some important information, along with a number of 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, and for so many good wishes and positive comments about them. The proceeds of £1,137.56 from the sale of the show tickets and raffle tickets will this year be used to benefit the children of the school.

Donations to Charities

The school has participated in a number of charity events so far this year, the outcomes of which are as follows:

* Macmillan Cancer Support cake sale proceeds: £311.49
* Children in Need: £502.19
* Hartlepool Food Bank: 309.6kg weight in food, which equates to 737 meals.
* Poppy Appeal in aid of The Royal British Legion: we have not yet been notified of the amount (the money is collected in sealed containers).
* Christmas Jumper Day in aid of NSPCC: £174.47

Many thanks for all your contributions.

Writing Week, World Book Day and School Book Fair

Writing Week will take place from Monday 4th March until Friday 8th March. The after-school Celebration Event for parents and our ‘World Book Day’ celebration will both take place on Friday 8th March. The School Book Fair, which was very well attended last year, will begin after school on Thursday 28th February and will take place each school evening until its final night on Wed 6th March.

Uniform

Tesco uniform embroidery service will cease to operate from 15th February 2019. School uniform will now be supplied by School Trends with immediate effect. Uniform can only be ordered online using the following link <https://www.schooltrends.co.uk/uniform/FensPrimarySchoolTS252LY>.

The ordering can be done on a mobile phone, tablet, laptop or PC; size charts are available so please refer to these and measure your child before ordering. Delivery is £2.99 to your home address.

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 Thursday 25th April, 2019.

Online Safety

As Safer Internet Day has occurred this week (5th Feb), we will take this opportunity to remind parents of the importance of monitoring carefully the online activities of your children, and to support them with the steps they need to take to ensure their own safety when using the internet.

SATs

This year’s SATs for Y6 pupils take place during the week commencing Monday 13th May, 2019.

Y1 Phonics Screening (and re-tests for Y2 children)

The Y1 Phonics Screening Tests will take place during the week beginning Monday 10th June, 2019.

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.

Playground Developments

The KS2 playground is currently undergoing some developments to improve the range of activities available to children during playtimes and lunchtimes, and are being funded using our Sports Premium grant. This fund can only be spent on developments relating to the encouragement of physical activity in children.

**Arrangements for the Summer Half-Term Holiday, 2020**

***Please note that our arrangements for the Summer half-term holiday (Whit) will be the same next year (2020) as they are for this (2019). We will once again put in a week of PD Days after the usual Whit Week, so the holiday will look like this:***

Summer Half-Term Holiday (Whit Week) Mon 25th May – Fri 29th May, 2020

PD day week (school closed) Mon 1st June – Fri 5th June, 2020

School re-opens Mon 8th June, 2020

Once again, we very much hope that parents/carers will take the opportunity to use this fortnight for holidays next year, and try their hardest to avoid school time; this way no children will lose any days of schooling to term-time vacations.

School App (for those who have not yet downloaded it)

**‘OurSchoolsApp’** is a personalised app for our school and allows us to keep parents and carers updated with school information, news, calendar events and contact information.

If you have a smartphone (Android or iPhone), you can download OurSchoolsApp from Google Play Android or the Apple Store for FREE. Access is also available on a tablet and iPad by following the same download process. When we update OurSchoolsApp with new information or news about the school, a push message notification will automatically be sent to your device to inform you of this update. You can then view the notification which will then take you directly to our app.

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| Instructions for download: 1. Using your device (iPad, iPhone, smart pad, tablet or android phone), visit the relevant marketplace for your product (Apple Store or Google Play). 2. Search for **‘OurSchoolsApp’** and download the app. 3. Once downloaded, use the search bar within the app and enter the postcode or the name of the school. 4. Press the search button. 5. Once you see the school name displayed, just touch the screen on the school name. 6. Confirm your choice by pressing ‘OK’. 7. You will now be presented with the correct app for your chosen school which contains news, information, calendar events, contacts and any other relevant details.  |

If you do not have a smartphone you can still view the app and the information online at <https://www.ourschoolsapp.com/m/#/add-school>

The link below will take you to a short video explaining how the app works.

Parent video:

<https://vimeo.com/139708103>

Medical Appointments

Whilst we understand it may not always be possible, where you can, please try to avoid making medical appointments during school time; there has been a notable increase in children being picked up early from school in recent weeks, meaning the loss of a good deal of learning time. If we can make as many appointments as possible for times outside the school day, that would be very much appreciated. Many thanks.

Parking

We have once again received complaints from local residents about parents parking across private drives, which results in them being unable either to leave or enter their property.  We would respectfully request that parents give consideration to local residents when parking.  Again, many thanks for your cooperation on this matter.

Facebook

We now have a school Facebook page which can be found by visiting [www.facebook.com/fensprimaryschool](http://www.facebook.com/fensprimaryschool). Please visit the page to keep up to date with events and activities going on within school.
As the page is updated by our classroom teachers we will not be able to reply to individual comments. If you have a query, please continue to contact school directly.

Forthcoming Dates

Mon 18th Feb – Fri 22nd Feb, 2019 School closed for half-term holiday

Mon 25th Feb School re-opens

Thurs 28th Feb – Wed 6th March Book Fair

Writing Week Mon 4th March – Fri 8th March

Fri 8th March World Book Day and Writing Week Celebration Event

Mon 25th March Parental Consultation Session (3.40-5.30pm)

Wed 27th March Parental Consultation Session (5.00-7.30pm)

Mon 1st – Friday 5th April Science Week

Fri 5th April Science Week Celebration Event (3.30pm)

Friday 5th April, 2019 Last day of Spring Term

Mon 8th April – Mon 22nd April, 2019 School closed for Easter Holiday (Mon 22nd is a bank holiday)

Tues 23rd April, 2019 Children return for the start of Summer Term

Thurs 25th April Class and Group Photos

Mon 6th May Bank Holiday – school closed

Mon 13th – Fri 17th May Y6 SATs week

May 2019 Y2 SATs & assessment period

Mon 27th May – Fri 7th June, 2019 Half Term Holiday – School closed (fortnight in total)

Mon 10th June, 2019 School re-opens

Mon 10th – Fri 14th June Y1 Phonics screening test week

Tues 2nd July Summer Discos (R/KS1: 4.15-5.30pm KS2: 5.45-7.15pm)

Thurs 4th July Y6 Leavers’ Assembly for parents

Fri 5th July Y6 Leavers’ Assembly for the school

Mon 8th – Friday 19th July Y6 secondary school transition fortnight (except English Martyrs – one week of transition starting on Mon 8th July)

Tues 23rd July, 2019 Last day of Summer Term – school closes at 3.20pm

Yours sincerely,

Mr C.P. Cornforth

Headteacher