



Sunningwell Primary School

Newsletter – January 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope that you all enjoyed the Christmas holidays and having a break with your children.

Thank you to all those who gave presents and made treats for teaching and office staff at the end of last term. Your thoughtfulness is much appreciated.

Christmas Fundraising

We raised £125.00 from the sale of refreshments at the Nativity performances and £515.00 from the sale of raffle tickets at Christmas. Many thanks for your support of our fundraising efforts.

Dates for this term

Friday 17th	Swimming lessons start for all KS2 children Each Friday until March 27th
Friday 31st	Whole School Trip to Music Festival at Sheldonian - afternoon
Friday 14th	Non School Uniform – British Heart Foundation (wear red)

Transport to and from School

There are many children who are not supervised walking (and often running) from vehicles to the school gate. The lane is currently very muddy and large tractors now use this lane at all times of the day. Please ensure children walk with parents/carers from cars to the school gate.

In addition we have been notified that there are children who are not wearing seat belts in cars when they arrive and leave school. **The wearing of seat belts is a legal requirement and it would be our duty to notify the Police if we see children travelling without wearing a seat belt.**

Fundraising and Events

The children have been asking when will the next school disco will be?!

We have not had a group of people who meet together to organise fundraising for over a year. We have organised some events at school but to organise a good range of events, including things like school discos, we really do need parents/grandparents and friends who are happy to meet and organise events.

If you can help and would be happy to meet up with others to organise some events, it would be appreciated. This is a vital part of the school organisation and we would like to hear from you. Please email the school office if you feel that you could dedicate some time to this.

Birthdays

If you wish to celebrate your child's birthday at school can we please ask that you donate a book for all the children in the class to read. The book does not need to be a new book. We are unable to accept sweets/chocolate/biscuits/cakes to share with children in class.

Environment and Healthy Eating

This year we are trying to find ways to be more environmentally friendly, healthier and to reduce our carbon footprint.

We will be reducing the amount of paper being used and will be using ParentMail for seeking parental permissions for sports/events/trips and after school club.

Later this year we will be holding an Eco week when we will look at ways to reuse/recycle/reduce to minimise our impact on the environment.

We will be holding sessions with the School Lunch Company during which children look at healthy eating, how food is produced. Children will also have healthy eating cookery lessons.

If you are holding a party and don't want to use single use plastics, you can borrow a set of reusable plastic plates/bowls/cups/serving bowls and jugs. The set is large enough to cater for 30 children. If you would like to borrow this please contact Helen Johnson (Ivo and Martha's Mum) on 07792416528. We would ask for a small donation for the PTA.

We are looking at furthering recycling at school. Currently we have crisp packet recycling but we may look at other items that could be brought to school for recycling schemes as we did with the batteries some time ago.

If any parents have experience or passion in reducing our impact on the environment, we would love to hear from you.

Classroom News

Class 1

Our topic for this term is "Journeys and Transport".

We will be reading stories and poems about different means of transport, taking imaginary journeys to different countries and capital cities and looking at how transport has changed over time.

We do welcome any parents or grandparents who might like to come in and talk to the children about a particular travel experience that they have found special and exciting.

If you would be interested in doing this, please let us know, so that we can arrange a visit.

If you have any photos of family holidays that you could send in for a class display, they would be much appreciated. Please talk to your child about family travel experiences and share any pictures or postcards you might have.

We value parents' comments and observations about their children, so please continue to send in your child's WOW moments.

Class 2

This term our topic is Earth, Sea and Fire! In science this term we are focussing on plants. Finding out what plants need to grow and labelling the different parts of a plant.

Our literacy text is *The Snail and the Whale*, by Julia Donaldson. We will be researching sea snails and writing information texts as well as some creative writing.

We are continuing to learn the recorder on Wednesday afternoons, please remember to bring your instrument and music in with you. PE kits are to be in school at all times.

Please continue to read with your children at home and record in reading records. Books will not be changed if your child has not read, and it has been recorded, at least 3 times a week. We will endeavour to listen to every child read at least once a week. Please ensure book bags are in school every day.

We are very happy to welcome Miss Haddock to Class 2 this term, who will be doing some teaching.

Class 3

We have had a lovely first week of our new term, we are already very excited about our new topic - tropical rainforests!

You should have received a sheet with information about what we will be learning, as well as ideas for things you can read and watch at home. As part of this topic, we are studying the 'The Great Kapok Tree' by Lynne Cherry in our literacy lessons.

We are also continuing our topic of multiplication and division, with particular focus on our times tables as we approach the year 4 times table test in the summer term.

Class 4

2020 has got off to a flying start! Our new literacy focus centres around the amazing book, 'The Viewer' by Gary Crew and Shaun Tan. Indeed, this week we responded to one of the illustrations and some wonderfully descriptive poetry was produced by the children.

In maths, we move on to the world of decimals, place value and percentages. Our science focus remains the same as we firm up our understanding of the *scientific method* and investigating materials.

Enhancing the Class 4 team until March is, Miss Katie Charles, a second-year student teacher; she has already settled in and engaged well with the children. Mrs. Goodenough and I remain your first point of contact for anything you may wish to discuss regarding your child; we are always here to help.

For our lovely Year 6s - it's an especially important watershed time in their lives as we move towards SATS in May and the end of their primary school experience. The team is committed to making sure that these last months are exciting, happy, memorable and full of learning opportunities for them.

Thank you for every support and together we will help your child reach their full potential.