



Sunningwell Primary School

Newsletter – February 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

Dates for this term

Friday 15 th March	Red Nose Fundraising Day – Wear Red
	Spinney and Gardening Afternoon
Saturday 16 th March	All Hands DIY Morning
Tuesday, 19 th , 20 th , 21 st	Parents Evenings
Monday 25 th	Reception and Year 6 National Weights and Height checks
Thursday 28 th	End of term service – St Leonards' Church 1.30pm all welcome

A Big Thank you – PTA

We hope you enjoyed the recent Reading Café that was organised by the PTA. It was good to see so many parents/carers in school for this event. The total raised was £166.00 from the sale of refreshments.

'Skip-a-thon' – the children had a fabulous time doing the 'Skip-a-thon' last week. Thank you for all who have handed in their sponsor money, if you have not already done so, please do this by Friday 1st March.

Volunteers Needed

On Friday 15th March we would like to re-open the Spinney dig and possibly do some gardening around the school site. We will have had contractors to do much of the clearing in the Spinney, so we hope that the evening will involve further excavation of the Tudor cottage. If you would like to get involved, please complete the online form. There will be hot drinks and biscuits for volunteers. <https://forms.office.com/e/Mzk3SpPQeh>

On Saturday morning 16th we will be having an **All-hands DIY morning** from 9.30am – 12.00pm and we really need your help.

We would like to do some painting (the library and fences), sorting and skip-filling (dismantling old furniture and carrying it to the skip), gardening (weeding, digging and planting around the school) and path-laying by the sheds (levelling ground, laying membrane, paving slabs and shingle). If you can help, please complete this form. <https://forms.office.com/e/6k59QUtv1s>

There will be drinks, biscuits and bacon rolls available for helpers.

Wanted - If you have any of the following items in good condition, we are in need of:

Class 1

- Rug(2m/ 1.50m or slightly bigger)
- outdoor furniture items for an outdoor drama/arts and crafts/ reading area (a couple of chairs, armchairs, small table)
- a clothes rail for dressing up costumes
- coat hangers
- dressing up costumes
- items for an outdoor mud kitchen (measuring jugs, measuring spoons, kitchen utensils, some pots and pans)
- a medium size outdoor mat
- a shed with any outdoor storage units (not very big)

Class 2

- coat hangers
- dressing up costumes
- a sturdy shop front
- water and sand play related items
- spare stationery

Class 3

- Rug and bean bags/cushions for reading corner
- Wellington boots stand for outside

Class 4

- rug (240cm x 130cm max) and some cushions.

If you have any items, please email the school office or speak with teachers directly.

REMINDERS

Drop and Go – mornings

Please use the 'drop and go' system in the mornings whenever possible if your child is in Year 1 and above. The traffic on the lane is sometimes at a standstill due to parents parking up and coming into school with their children. This means some children arrive at school late as other parents are waiting to access the lane.

Club Bookings

Please remember that clubs need to be booked 48 hours before the club starts on Arbor. For Monday Breakfast Club, the deadline is midday on the previous Friday.

If you require a club booking after the online booking closes, the costs are £10.50 per session for After School Club and £11.00 for Breakfast Club. Please email the school office for these bookings.

Attendance

Our school has prided itself on attendance levels which are well above the national average, and we are very keen that this is maintained. Learning activities commence in every class at **8.40am** and children should be at the classroom door ready to begin the day at this time.

Holidays during term time cannot be authorised and may incur a penalty charge.

Communication with school - messages

If you have any messages for school, please do email rather than telephone, unless it urgent.

We do understand that some parents find having to email a frustration, but there is not always someone available to take phone calls and we do need to have most communications in written form for record keeping.

We require all absence reporting via email and we do also pass messages from parents to teachers via email.

If you need to notify us of a change of details for collecting your child from school, please email the school before midday. This allows us to get messages to teachers and minimises disruption to learning in the classroom.

Voluntary contribution

Historically in our school, each class used to ask for a small voluntary contribution each year for the purchase of consumables such as cooking ingredients, award treats etc. Over the past few years this type of expenditure has often been borne by staff members and as you will appreciate, this cumulative cost is quite a lot for our staff.

We are very mindful that everyone is experiencing increases in cost-of-living expenses. If you feel you are able, therefore, may we suggest a donation of £5 per child that will go towards sundry expenses this year. This can be paid on Arbor, School Shop under Voluntary Contribution.

Uniform Standards

We have high expectations of standards of uniform in the school. This enables children to feel part of the school and ready to learn. We expect that children are sent to school in clothing, footwear, hair and jewellery that meet these standards. We are aware of the cost of school uniform. Uniform items, however, do not have to bear the school logo and can be purchased from a variety of outlets, furthermore, we do have a pre-loved uniform supply with donations going to our PTA.

Details of school uniform are available on the school website.

Free School Meals

If you would like to know if you may be eligible for Free School Meals, please do check out the link to the County Council website <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/schools/school/school-meals>. We do also have links with the Abingdon Food Bank and are able to refer families who are in need. For further details on Free School Meals or help from the Abingdon Food Bank, please email Mrs Givinchi in the School Office.

Wraparound Care – Military Families

You may be eligible for help with wraparound care costs if you are a serving military family. For details, please open this link, <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/childcare-for-service-children#wraparound-childcare>

Lost Property

We have lots of requests to help find lost property. We often have a pile of unnamed and unclaimed clothing – so can we please ask you to name everything as this does help to get property back to the rightful owner. We do not have anywhere to keep lost property so unless it is claimed within a week, it does go to Preloved PTA stock.

Should any school uniform arrive at home that is not yours, please return it to your child's class.

