



Dear Parents/ Guardians,

Thank you to parents and family members who attended the recent book afternoon and Year 2 and Year 6 SATs meetings. You will have seen some of the innovations in the teaching of English that have been used this year. Amongst other things your child should now be familiar with 'Rainbow Sentences' and you may have noticed the writing windows in classrooms.

Over this academic year we have had multiple visits from Leicestershire's School Effectiveness Officer, a National Leader in Education and a Specialist Leader in Education. We are pleased to say all of these visits confirm the school's drive to continually improve and its effectiveness in teaching.

During our last visit the hard work of staff to raise standards of teaching and learning was noted. It was also noted that the children took pride in their work and wanted to talk about what they were doing; they were taking an active part in their learning. The children were keen to make choices to challenge their learning and spoke enthusiastically about their school life.

In maths all learners were observed to have the opportunity to access the mastery elements (this is the using and application

Mon 20/Tues 21/ Wed 22 March	Year 3/ 4	Ironbridge
Tues 21 March	Year 6	Warning Zone trip
Wed 29 March	Year 6	Galleries of Justice trip
Thurs 30/ Fri 31 March	Year 1/ 2	Beaumanor
Tues 4 April	Whole School	Egg Rolling
Tues 4/ Wed 5 April	Whole School	Parents' Evening
Fri 7 April	Whole School	Break up for Easter
Mon 24 April	Whole School	School opens for the Summer Term
Tuesday 25 April	Years 1 and 2	Warwick Castle trip
Wed 26 April	Whole School	Class photographs
Mon 1 May	Whole School	May Day Bank Holiday
Wk beg 8 May	Year 6	SATs week

of maths). The progress that the children had made was evident in English books in all year groups.

We hope you will come and see the evidence for yourself in the upcoming Parents' Evening on April 4th and 5th.

Mrs J Scallon, Mrs S Fossey and
Mr P Blount (Co-Chairs of Governors)

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Science Week

Mrs Wagg organised a fantastic science week for the children.

On Monday Severn Trent Water explained about drainage and waste water in assembly and then in classes 5 and 6 took part in workshops learning about water in more detail.

On Tuesday 14th March, we had a whole school science experiment day! Each class visited every teacher in their key stage, to take part science experiments. The children were able to experience three different experiments throughout the day, including making bath bombs, lemonade, bubble experiment and crisp tasting to mention a few.

On Wednesday we had some parent visitors who ran workshops with the children. The workshops included one about robotics, dry ice and bubbles, chemical reactions in bath bombs and DNA extraction!

To finish the week off, on Friday the children took part in 'The School Food Showdown' which is a little bit like 'Ready, Steady, Cook'. The Red Chilli team competed against the Green Peas team to produce a balanced healthy meal in just 15 minutes. The children also learnt about healthy eating and why it is so important. Then Friday afternoon was the school challenge session, where the children worked in their house groups to design and build a bridge out of 50 straws and tape only. The bridges were then tested to see how much weight they could hold using 2p coins.

Thank you to Mrs Wagg for organising the week, Dr Gordon and Dr Hando for their time to come in and run workshops for the children.

Sainsbury's vouchers

We are saving the Sainsbury's vouchers for sports and cooking equipment. If you have any please put them in the box in the reception area or send them into school with your child. Thank you.

Red Nose Day—Friday 24th March 2017

We will be supporting Red Nose Day this year. We have been selling red noses in school. We hope you will take part in our crazy hair and hat day and non-uniform on Red Nose Day.

Lamp of Learning Competition

We will be announcing the competition winner on Thursday. Thank you to everyone that took part—the Lamps look lovely in the main entrance hall.

Questionnaire Feedback

Thank you to those parents who took their time to fill in a questionnaire about the school. We were disappointed with the number of responses that were received.

Parents appreciated:

- * The buddy system and the way all children mix together and interact
- * Community/ family atmosphere
- * Values
- * The good variety of school clubs on offer
- * We are open to children's individuality
- * The range of school trips available for children to go on
- * Activity days.

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We have read all of the questionnaire responses and created an action plan based upon these:

Progress:

There are a number of planned events for you to come and see your child's individual progress; such as book afternoons, Parents' Evenings and open mornings. In the past we have produced interim reports; however we believe that by looking at your child's work you will gain a greater understanding of your child's progress and attainment.

Behaviour

We are currently introducing a new Anti-Bullying Policy as part of our work for the Anti-Bullying Award. This is available on the school website .

We are introducing more structured games at lunchtimes which we hope our older children will lead.

We have appointed a new midday supervisor who will be starting with us before Easter.

Mrs Jephson has spoken with Class 1 and they have changed their playtime regime, for two days the children will be playing with their buddies on the larger playground and for three days per week they will be playing in their own outdoor area. Once the children are on the field this will be reassessed.

There will be a member of staff on the playground at 8:45am in the mornings; until this time children are their parents' responsibility.

If you have any concerns regarding behaviour please see your child's class teacher.

Class size

The school budget is set depending upon the number of children we have in school. As such we have to have at least one year group split as we are still a small school. With the changes in the curriculum over the past two years all children have to be taught at their own level and as stated in our prospectus children are split by their age.

Homework:

We have recently changed the way that homework is assigned in Classes 4 and 5. Children decide upon a task from a selection given, this choice is discussed with the children and prompts are given if necessary to allow the child to make maximum benefit from a task. This is a more project based homework approach designed to develop children's independent learning skills; previously children received the same homework and we believe this change is more beneficial as it more meaningful for the individuals involved.

Volunteering

We always welcome volunteers—whether for regular reading times, accompanying children on trips, coming into school to help on theme days or providing workshops—such as during science week. If you have any time that you could offer us please see your child's class teacher.

Communication

We have a number of ways in which we communicate events and news to parents. This regular fortnightly newsletter has upcoming dates on and news and events. Class pages have information about your child's classes learning and events—we will endeavour to update these frequently. Mrs Whatton has been busy adding dates to the calendar section of the website, as this had not been updated in the absence of office staff. Please use all of the above to find information; should something not be clear please ask at the office.

Clubs

We currently have a number of clubs running after school and are looking to widen the range available to include art/ craft based clubs. Rev. Elizabeth has kindly been running choir this term for KS2 children . Mrs Wagg will be running a netball club after Easter. At lunchtimes we have a range of clubs run by Year 6 children—such as Nature Club and Road Safety Club. Year 6 are also setting up a school newspaper.