



Summer Newsletter 6 09/06/2017

Dear Parents,

In class this week

Holly Class

In Holly class this week, the children have been continuing their discovery of all things pirate. They have been researching and writing profiles about famous pirates including Black Beard, Ann Bonny, Calico Jack and Mary Read. They imagined that they were very bad pirates marooned on a desert island and designed rafts that would float, allowing them to escape. In Numeracy, Reception class have been adding and taking away 1 and 2 from other numbers. Year 1 have been looking at fractions, including halves and quarters of shapes and numbers.

Oak Class

Oak class have been scaling up by doubling and measuring in centimetres and metres. They have also been dividing numbers using the number line and bus-stop methods. In Literacy, the children have been working on a 'Big Write', considering the important question 'Which are better – pirates or mermaids?' In Science, the children had a visit from Henry's daddy, Mr Grieve, and a colleague from Response Physiotherapy to talk about the body and bones. In RE, the children used role play to explore the Creation story.

Sycamore Class

Sycamore class had an interesting day on Tuesday, including travel on public transport (bus and train) to York. First they visited Dig!, where they took part in a battle tactics workshop. The children examined and held real weapons and acted out a Viking battle, using the battle techniques they had learned. Next they visited the Jorvik centre where they saw the remnants of a Viking house discovered by archaeologists. They then took a journey back in time to an ancient Viking settlement and explored the similarities and differences between ancient and modern lifestyles. Thanks to Mrs Garnett for organising such a wonderful experience.

General Election

Oak and Sycamore classes learned all about the general election this week and held their own election on polling day. They created four political parties and devised manifestos, rosettes and mascots. Both classes visited the local polling station at Waltham Village Hall and spoke to the polling officers. They saw someone arriving to vote and putting their voting paper in the ballot box. When they returned to school, the library became a polling station and each child voted for their favourite political party in a private cubicle then posted their voting paper in the official ballot box, as they had seen at the village hall. As in the real general election, the results were very close! The children will be using the results for learning in Maths and Literacy.

Class Structure 2017/18

As your child/ren may have told you, the structure for classes has been decided. Mr Jackson will be teaching Reception children next year; Mrs Saunders will be teaching Year 1/2;

Miss Scott (our new teacher) will teach Year 4; and Mrs Garnett will teach Year 5/6.

This four class structure has been approved by the DLAT CEO for the next academic year only and finances for the following year will be closely reviewed during the Spring term 2018 to determine the financial sustainability of maintaining four classes. Due to the complexity of split age groups and unusual numbers on roll, the four class structure was the preferred option for next year. I understand that our current Year 3 children may be disappointed not to have Mr Jackson as their full-time teacher again but he will still be working with them in different ways. He will also work closely with Miss Scott to ensure the children continue to make excellent progress. This is an exciting time for Waltham School and a great time to be part of such a promising future.

Holly class morning routine

Mrs Saunders and I are keen to encourage the children to leave parents at the school gate and bring their own things into class to get ready for the day. If it is hard for you to leave them at the gate, please compromise by letting them walk down the steps themselves whilst you watch them from the playground. They can wave at you from the door. The children are becoming increasingly independent and this would help. Clearly, if you need to speak to the teacher then of course you may go down to the classroom but please do try to let your children show you how grown up at school they can be. Thank you for your support.

Beaumanor Hall Trip

We are hoping to take Holly and Oak classes on a pirate-themed day of learning at Beaumanor Hall in July. Further details to follow, in due course.

Pupil Premium

Although children in Reception class, Year 1 and Year 2 are currently entitled to universal infant free school meals (UIFSM), **if you are on a low income**, then your child may be entitled to Pupil Premium funding. This is a sum of money given to the school to support your child's education (please see our website for further details). If you think you may be eligible, please contact Leicestershire County Council FSM team on 0116 305 6588 and you can speak in confidence about your circumstances. Every penny counts, so do make that call!

Money Owed to School

Next week, I will be phoning those of you who have forgotten to settle your account with the school office, e.g. dinner money owed; after school club money owed and swimming contributions not made.

Please save me from the uncomfortable situation of speaking to you about this matter by sending cash or cheques to the school office on Monday. Thank you in advance.

Help needed

We are seeking volunteers to help with preparations for the next school year, including labelling exercise books, cutting out resources and laminating. If you are able to help, please contact the school office. Thank you.

Lost Property

A red PE hoodie did not return home after the Kwik Cricket Tournament before half-term. Please check PE kits this weekend to see if your child has taken this (or anything else!) by mistake. Thank you.

Flute lessons

Flute teacher Kristi Newton will be visiting during Tuesday morning's assembly to promote her flute lessons in school. If your child is interested in flute lessons, please email her at kristi.newton@ntlworld.com

Collection

If you would like to contribute towards a retirement gift for Mrs Boylan, please send into the office in an envelope marked 'Mrs Quine – collection' (by the end of June please).

Thank you.

Wishing you all a happy and relaxing weekend.

Mrs J V Hopkins,
Executive Head teacher.

