

NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that this newsletter finds you well, and you are enjoying the sunshine that we are experiencing today. It is lovely to look out of my window and see the children enjoying the new equipment, P.E lessons and playing together in the sun.

Drop in session to look at books

Due to the Year 4 sleep over on Thursday 24th, we have had to change the dates for Year 3, 4 and 5. Please see below for the new dates.

Important Information and Events for Next Week - 21st March 2022	
Monday	3:15 – 4pm Years 1, 5 & 6 Drop in session to look at books
Tuesday	3:15 – 4pm Years 2, 3 & 4 Drop in session to look at books
Wednesday	Year 5 Swimming
Thursday	Year 4 Sleep over return to school for 5pm
Friday	Year 4 Sleep over children can be collected from 1.30pm including their siblings
	Years 5 & 6 Girls Football League Game - 3pm to 5pm

Year 1 Victory Trip

Unfortunately, next week's Year 1 trips to the Dockyard to visit HMS Victory have had to be moved to the week beginning 4th April. We are waiting to hear from the Dockyard to confirm the new dates for us to attend. I know that all the children are really excited about going and we are determined to make this trip happen.

Year 4 Sleep over

Just a reminder that the Year 4 sleep over is still planned for Thursday 24th March. If your child has misplaced their itinerary, please ask Miss Eddy or their class teacher for a copy of it. I hope that no one forgets to pack their teddy, as no one is sharing mine!

Lost Property

With the nicer weather starting to come in (apart from Wednesday this week!!!) we have acquired quite a collection of lost property items this week that we are unable to return to their rightful owner as these items are not labelled. In addition to this, some children have taken home the wrong jumper,

cardigan or shorts after changing for P.E. Please could you therefore have a look at what school clothing you have at home and also ensure that all items are labelled. This can be as simple as writing the initial and surname on the label in pen.

COVID Cases

It has been a luxury for a week or so not to have to write about COVID, unfortunately this week we have seen a surge in positive cases which is mirroring the picture being seen both in Portsmouth and nationally. As a result of this, we have had to send quite a few children home who have been unwell or started coughing and have since tested positive. At present we are still able to operate normally, however staffing levels as a result of staff illness is getting to critical levels as today we were 20 short across all areas of the school.

To curb the spread, we have reintroduced staff wearing face coverings and classes will be in bubbles during school time next week in the hope that this reduces the infection rates across year groups. This means year groups will be eating in classes next week to avoid mixing.

This is certainly not what I want to do but without these restrictions, we risk the virus spreading further and further illness leading to class or year group closures due to staffing levels.

Cost of living and School Uniform

All of you will be acutely aware that recently the cost of living has increased whether that is food or fuel prices. Yesterday the interest rates increased for the fourth time this year and in April the cost of living will increase even further with new energy costs, national insurance increases and council tax rate rises all coming into force.

As a school we are constantly looking for best value, whether that is for equipment, resources or outcome-based intervention strategies. We feel it is important that with the cost of living putting ever increasing demands on personal finances we need to support you with ensuring that access to our school does not cause undue financial pressure.

One of the things that the governors and I have been looking at and agreed this week was on some changes to the cost to you on schooling and we have agreed that the school will now fund one essential curriculum trip per year per child.

In addition to changing our footwear policy, we have looked at our uniform policy and wish to amend the shirt / polo shirt logo requirement. We will still keep the current pale blue logoed one, but in order to support going forwards, will give you the option to replace this with a plain white polo shirt or white shirt when your child grows out of their current one. Please note that we are not saying you cannot wear the blue ones, this is to give the option, as and when you need to replace, to change to white as these are often more widely available and in some retail outlets cheaper than blue alternatives. Penny Ann and Hargreaves will continue to supply our logoed clothing and will also start to have white logoed polo shirts available if you would prefer these.

Golden Child

I am delighted to share the names of this week's Golden Children, they are:

Year Group	Class	Golden Child
R	Bright	Bella
	Donaldson	Olive
	Potter	Lexi
1	Banksy	Lexie
	Goldsworthy	Adam
	Riley	Samuel
2	Asher-Smith	Koa
	Farah	Elijah
	Simmonds	Oscar
3	Adele	Gabriel
	Elton	

	Sheeran	Anna
4	Brunel	Zethea
	Callaghan	Teddy
	Dickens	Amelia
5	Dyson	Farrah
	Gilbert	Poppy
	Newton	Maisie
6	Attenborough	Leon
	Churchill	Kya
	Pankhurst	Lennox
	Shakespeare	Ruby

KS1 children have all been recognised as someone who uses their initiative to grow in their learning. KS2 children have all been recognised as someone who has shown personal growth and working towards their goals.

House Points

	Alliance	Mary-Rose	Victory	Warrior
House Points collected this week	326	280	302	282
Running Termly Total	9,323	5,897	7,956	6,510

I hope that you all have a restful weekend, keep safe and enjoy the sunshine that is forecast for the weekend.

Matt Johnson
Headteacher