

PARSONS DOWN PARTNERSHIP OF SCHOOLS



Executive Headteacher: Mrs D Fox

NEWSLETTER

www.pdp.w-berks.sch.uk

14th September 2018

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of the Partnership,

Welcome to the first newsletter of this academic year. The past ten days have flown by. The children are working really hard and there is a very purposeful learning buzz across the Partnership. The new EYFS children are settling well and getting used to new routines and children in Years 1 to 6 are enjoying the challenge of a new year group and new learning. We've got an action packed term and please do take a moment to look at the dates for your diary section.

Inspiring Excellence

Learners of the Week

Congratulations to the following Learners of the Week:

Foundation Stage

Moon Class – All of Moon Class.

Stars Class – All of Stars Class.

Year 1

Fox Class – All of Fox Class.

Owl Class – All of Owl Class.

Year 2

Turtle Class – All of Turtle Class.

Penguin Class – All of Penguin Class.

Dolphin Class – All of Dolphin Class.

Year 3

Avon Class - Frankie H and Frank E.

Lambourn Class - Taylah H and Abubakar B.

Greenham Class - Ollie P and Amber D.

Year 4

Donnington Class – Tyler M and Danyl P.

Ashmore Class - Max D and Logan M.

Year 5

Ufton Class – All of Ufton Class.

Shaw Class - All of Shaw Class.

Years 5/6

Littlecote Class – Luca F and Alice W.

Year 6

Douai Class - Dylan B and Inez W.

Highclere Class - George K and Lexie H

Governors' Awards for Excellence

The Junior School Summer Term Governors' Awards for Excellence were presented last week. Well done to the following children who were nominated for the awards:

English – Izzy S, William M, Erica P*, George K.

Maths – Noah B, Louie C*, Grace M, Jamie M.

Science - Jacob C, Charlie J, Henry S*, Harrison P.
 The awards were presented to the children whose names are marked with an asterisk.
 Congratulations to you all!

Dates For The Diary	
Wednesday 19 th September	Year 2 local walk
Friday 21 st September	Year 3 trip 9.30-4.30
Monday 24 th September	EYFS open morning 8.50-9.30am.
Tuesday 25 th September	Harvest Festival (see Respect section for more info)
Thursday 27 th September	Macmillan Coffee Morning 8.40-10am (see below for details)
Tuesday 2 nd October	Fox class local trip
Wednesday 3 rd October	Owl class local trip
Friday 5 th October	Roald Dahl dress up day (see Pride section for details)
Monday 8 th October	EYFS First Class photo with Newbury Weekly News
Tuesday 9 th October	Individual photos (see separate letter for more information)
Wednesday 17 th October	Year 1 pet dress-up day and parents are invited from 9-10.30am.
Monday 22 nd – Monday 29 th October	Half Term Holiday
Thursday 20 th December	Last day of autumn term
Monday 7 th January	First day of spring term

Making A Difference Together

MacMillan Coffee Morning and Cake Sale

We will be running a Macmillan coffee morning and cake sale on Thursday 27th September from 8.40am until 10.00am. It will take place in the Community Room at the Junior School instead of the usual weekly coffee morning. You are invited to bring or donate cakes if you wish or you can pop in and have a coffee and cake with us and donate that way. Younger siblings are welcome to attend. We look forward to seeing you.

Challenge

Summer Reading Challenge

Well done to all of the children who took part in the Summer Reading Challenge. If your child completed the challenge and received a certificate, please do bring it into class so that we can photocopy it and put it on display in their school library. We will return the originals once we have made a copy.

Remember, there is still time to complete the challenge. Children have until 30th September to finish reading their 6 library books. Once they have finished the challenge, they will be presented with a medal and certificate. Good luck!

We will be holding special reading celebration assemblies in both schools on Friday 5th October to congratulate all of the children that have taken part, so it's not too late to get involved!

Miss Hargood and Mrs Togher

Phonics Summer Challenge

This summer we launched the first summer phonics challenge, designed to help children keep their phonics knowledge at the front of their minds during the break. A series of weekly videos appeared on our website and children who wanted to enter the competition were asked to bring in their photo. The deadline for entries is Wednesday

19th September and the winner will be announced during celebration assembly on Friday 21st of September. Good luck.

If you'd like to support your child by helping them to recall their sounds then please find a phase 3 sound mat attached with this newsletter. You might also spot some of our team wearing sound headbands - this is all designed to help prompt the children to recall the sounds letters make quickly. If you spot one then join in by thinking of words that contain that sound!

PDSA News

Welcome back to school and welcome to all new parents joining us for a new school year.

As usual we have lots of exciting things planned for this academic year including the school disco in October and the Christmas Fayre in December. Firstly though keep a look out for the Bag 2 School collection bags that will be coming home soon. These offer a great chance to empty out those summer wardrobes and make some space whilst helping the school make money at the same time!

The PDSA AGM will be held at the end of the month. Everyone is welcome to join us for any of our meetings, they are informal and very welcoming. A letter with more details will be coming home soon.

Any queries, questions or ideas can be emailed to the PDSA at pdsa@pdp.w-berks.sch.uk

Enjoyment

New Playground Markings

Have you noticed the new playground markings at both schools? This is part of our ongoing work to encourage the children to be active and play co-operatively at playtimes and lunchtimes and have been a great hit at both schools.

Year 6 Residential Trip

Last Sunday we waved goodbye to 61 of our Year 6 pupils as they embarked on their residential trip to Rhos y Gwaliau in North Wales. We hope that you have enjoyed our nightly updates on the blog. It certainly looks like they have had a wonderful time and that the weather has been relatively kind to them.

We are looking forward to welcoming them back this afternoon. They are aiming to set off at 10am and hope to be back by the end of the school day. We will let you know if they are significantly delayed.

Pride

Talents

We are very aware that many of the children are involved in outside clubs and we are very happy to share special achievements outside of school. This will be done weekly during our celebration assemblies on a Friday.

Assemblies across the Partnership will be celebrating talents during the week beginning Monday 1st October and we will be exploring the work of the very talented author, Roald Dahl. We are encouraging children to come into school on Friday 5th October dressed as their favourite character from one of his many books. There is a link below with a few ideas:

<https://www.roalddahl.com/charity/fundraising-and-events/dahlicious-dress-up-day/dressing-up-tips>

As part of our ongoing work to support children to develop a love of reading we will also be celebrating the children who have taken part in the

summer reading challenge during celebration assembly on that day.

School Uniform

The children have come back to school looking so smart and ready to learn. Thank you.

Respect

Assembly Themes

Over the past two weeks we have been talking with the children about the things they would like to get better at over the year. In Key Stage 1 the children are keen to get even better at handwriting, science, all sorts of sports and challenging themselves and in Key Stage 2 the children worked with Mrs Fox on Tuesday to write a mission statement with a focus on kindness. We look forward to updating you with how we get on.

Harvest Festival

We will be celebrating harvest with the children across the Partnership on Tuesday 25th September. This will be a celebration for the children only. If you would like to get involved we will once again be collecting for the West Berkshire Foodbank. The link below will take you to their website which gives information about the charity and the items that they are currently short of. Thank you for helping us support this local charity who give so much support in our community.

<https://westberks.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/>

Donations can be brought into school from Monday 24th until Thursday 27th September and we will be making a harvest display in both school halls.

Parking

Please do be respectful when parking in the morning and afternoon. We have already received reports of residents' drives being blocked by cars. Don't forget we do have the Park and Stride car park at the Nature Discovery Centre.

Safety

Dietary Safeguarding Referral Forms

The above forms have been issued to several children at the Junior School who have food allergies. If your child has brought one of these forms home please could you complete it and return it to school as soon as possible so that school lunches can be provided to your child. Thank you.

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Home Start West Berkshire

Home-Start West Berkshire, a local family support charity is currently recruiting in this area. They need volunteers who can encourage, listen and offer practical support to parents with young children. Volunteers become a trusted friend and mentor to the family, to help them move forward. Their next training course will start on 19th September 2018. It will run for 7 consecutive Wednesdays from 9.30 - 2.30pm, breaking for the half term holiday (Wednesday 24th October). If you are interested or would like to discuss this further please contact them on 01635 760310 or email office@home-startwb.org.uk

More information can be found on their website www.home-startwestberks.org.uk

Secondary School Open Evenings

We appreciate that we have only just come back to school but for Year 6 parents it will soon be the deadline to choose your child's secondary school. All of our local secondary schools will be offering Open Evenings over the next couple of weeks. Please see the attached letter and flyer for the details of the Park House and Kennet Open Evenings.

Under Data Protection Law and in line with our Records Management Policy, this document will be retained for the period of 2 years and thereafter disposed of securely.