

KS1 & KS2 Testing

The KS1 & 2 test periods have now finished. This has been a particularly stressful time for the children and the staff who have worked so hard to ensure the children were well prepared. Thank you to all the parents and carers who ensured their children were in school throughout the test period and for the support you have given the children and staff. Year 6 can now look forward to their trip to Chessington World of Adventures on 6th June.

Year 1 Phonics Tests

The Year 1 phonics tests will be taking place in the first two weeks after half term. The children are being well prepared in advance of these tests. I would appreciate it if any unnecessary absences would be kept to a minimum during this period.

Mrs Rich

Sadly, Mrs Rich our Attendance and Finance Officer will be leaving on Friday 24th May after nearly 10 years loyal and committed service. Having moved near to Sittingbourne a year ago, the journey on the M2 & A2 each day has proved impossible to sustain, so Mrs Rich has gained a similar position in a more local school. I would like to thank her for all her hard work during her time with us and wish her all the best for the future. Mrs J Phillips will be taking up this position following half term.

Mrs Reilly

Unfortunately, Mrs Reilly has been absent with a health condition since Easter. In her absence, if you have any questions relating to SEN provision, please forward it to me and I will ensure it is directed to the most appropriate member of staff.

Immersion Room

The immersion room has been named 'The Imagination Station' and has been operational for several weeks, receiving rave reviews from the children and teachers alike. We look forward to opening the room to parents at an open day in the near future. Details to follow.

Promotional Films

On Tuesday we are being joined by Pinpoint Media to create two films of the life of the school. These will be a key feature on our website. Thank you to all parents/carers who have returned the permission slip to allow their child to be filmed as part of this project.

PGL

Our next outdoor adventurous weekend has been booked for PGL Windmill Hill in March 2020 for our current Year 5 children when they reach Year 6. I am really pleased that 69 children have signed up to experience this outstanding opportunity.

Netball

It has been great to see our netball team improve and develop greater confidence which has been reflected in a recent 8-0 victory against The Brent and 2-0 victory against Fleetdown and we took part in the district netball tournament on Friday 17th May. My thanks to Mrs Hefferman and Mrs Lamb in coaching the players and organising the fixtures.

Applicants for Foundation Stage 2019-20

We received 183 applications for our 90 Foundation Stage places for September 2019. Due to our expansion from 70 - 90 places, this means we are able to offer more places to children in our local community.

Athletics

We held our first KS2 house athletics competition at the end of April. This was ably assisted by our Sports Leaders and provides further evidence for our submission to achieve Sportsmark. We now look forward to participating in the District Athletics Competition on Wednesday.

House Captains

Our new house captains have settled very nicely into their new roles and are carrying out a number of duties around the school to assist their peers and staff. My thanks to Mrs Hefferman for doing such a great job in organising them all.

Roof replacement

As previously reported we have been successful in making a bid to the conditions improvement fund and have received a grant of £350,000 to replace the roofing on the KS1 hall, KS1 canteen, Foundation stage canteen, KS2 hall and the complete top level of the KS2 building. Work will commence at half term and should complete in time for the start of the 2019-20 academic year.

PTA Inflatables

We are very much looking forward to the PTA Inflatables days on Friday. We have a new company providing the inflatables which should ensure some exciting additions to the usual favourites. All details have been sent out by the PTA in previous communications. My thanks to Emily Gaston and the other members who do so much behind the scenes to ensure these events are successful. At the moment we are looking to raise additional funds to increase the number of iPads we have available in each class to support both teaching and learning.

Developments in Foundation Stage

As you are aware we had the canopy and roadway replaced in Foundation Stage earlier in the year. Miss Skipp and her team are now working hard to develop an exciting and stimulating range of learning zones in the outdoor area. This will help to maximise learning in both the indoor and outdoor environment. Miss Skipp will shortly be writing to parents to request donations of some everyday disposable items that will be required to stock these zones.

Forest School

Foundation Stage have been visiting Forest School at Braeburn Park, Crayford where they have developed a range of teamwork and communication skills through an outdoor learning programme. Over the summer the area at the back of the KS2 building from the reading circle to the end of the environmental area will be developed into our own Forest School to create the same learning opportunities for all our children. I am very grateful to Mr Ketley for agreeing to train as our Forest School Leader.

London's Burning - Year 1

Year 1 had a very exciting day on Thursday 9th May. First of all they had a professional storyteller acting out the story of the 'Great Fire of London' followed by a re-enactment of the event on the playground when our Fire Safety Officer set light to a model street built of cardboard box houses created by the children. This brought the whole experience to life leading to some excellent writing.

European Elections

The KS2 hall will, once again, be used as a polling station. This is for the European Elections on Thursday 23rd May. Once again, all our safeguarding procedures will come into effect to ensure the general public cannot mix with the children.

Adult access to school

May I remind you that the only access point to the school for parents should be via the main office. Please do not knock on side doors and ask children to answer them, the children are not being rude, they have been instructed not to open the doors.

Staff v pupils Rounders

The staff are very much looking forward to inflicting another defeat on the children in our annual staff v pupils rounds match after school on Thursday 23rd May. All spectators welcome.