

Hassell Newsletter

Spring Term (1) 2015

Dear Parents and Carers,

It doesn't seem possible that Christmas is long gone and the children are settled into their classes once again, working hard on their new topics. Thank you to those families who have sent in information to help with the new topics; it has been very much appreciated. If you have any queries about this term's topics, please do not hesitate to pop in

Culture Week

This half term we will be having Culture Week (Week beginning 9th Feb). During this week we collapse the usual timetables and concentrate on a whole school project. This year the children will be learning about life and culture in America. During the week the children will experience lots of different activities such as dancing, art work, food tasting, cookery and story telling. If you would like to help out during this week, we would be delighted to see you in school. Please have a word with your child's class teacher. **To celebrate at the end of the week we will be having an own clothes day.** The theme is American e.g red, white and blue colours, stars and stripes, cowboys, baseball players, cheerleaders....whatever the children choose. Please do not think that you need to buy a separate costume, feel free to adapt anything you already have at home. We ask that the children who would like to wear their own clothes bring a donation of £1.00 which will help to cover some of the costs of the external visitors into school.



Valentine's



Disco



The PTFA have arranged a very popular Valentine's Disco for the children on Friday 6th February. Please watch out for the flyer next week which gives details about tickets and timings.



Catering Update



As you are aware, we have had to change the procedures for dinner choices: the children in KS2 now need to choose whether to have dinners or sandwiches for the week, rather than choosing daily.

We have had to make this decision due to the high quantity of time it has been taking the admin staff to complete the dinner orders and chase up outstanding debts. Unfortunately, a large number of parents are still handing dinner money in late in the week, forgetting to pay outstanding monies or putting money into the post box without names or days of meals on the envelope. I realise that our decision penalises the parents who pay regularly and on time and I apologise for this. Unfortunately, we cannot afford to keep financing the additional hours that the office staff have had to spend chasing up outstanding debts, finding out who payments are from and the delay it causes for banking when monies are not paid on time. Thank you for your support in this matter.

Important Dates:

January

- 16th - Year 1 trip to Shugborough
- 19th - Year 6 'Riot workshop' at school
- 27th - Reception classes to Stafford Castle
- 31st - Stoke football event at Britannia Stadium

February

- 9th - 13th Culture Week - America theme
- 13th Bags to school
- 13th Dress up day for Culture week (bright colours theme)

16th - 20th Half Term

- 23rd Children return back to school

March

- 2nd—Parents evening and book fair
- 6th World Book Day - Pyjama theme
- 9th - 13th Year 5 & 6 at Laches Wood
- 18th - Escape Drama production for KS2 (esafety)
- 25th and 26th - Year 1 play for parents

Head lice

We have had a number of children who have had head lice over the past few weeks. Please can you take extra time to check your child's hair so that we can try and eliminate the problem. If you would like any help or advice, please let me know. Thank you.

Play Ground Equipment

At the beginning and end of the day we have been experiencing problems with some of the children getting equipment out (balls, trikes, scooters etc) which is used for lesson time and playtimes. If your child goes to get anything out that they shouldn't be laying with, please can you help us by asking them to put it back, ready



As we approach the season of cold weather, we will endeavour to keep school running as normal. **Please ensure that your children have warm coats and appropriate footwear with them each day.** If we do get any snow and you wish to check if school is still open, please go to the website

<http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/education/schoolsandcolleges/emergencyclosures/>

We will also send a confirmation text to notify parents if we are open or closed. Please do not phone the school office unless it is an emergency as it ties up the phone lines for people who may need additional help. We will only close in severe weather where it becomes a danger for pupils and staff to travel.