



Trotts Hill Primary School Newsletter

21st October 2016

www.trottshill.herts.sch.uk

School Secretary

We would like to welcome Mrs Gillian Thomas to the school team. I am sure many of you have met her this week or spoken to her on the phone. Mrs Thomas has previous experience of working in a busy Hertfordshire primary school and has made an excellent start with us. Final thanks to Mrs Amott and Mrs Desborough for running the office over the past few weeks. Mrs Amott returns to her normal duties as Mid-day supervisor after half-term.

Parent Consultations

Thank you for your attendance at the recent parent consultations. Attendance at these meetings is important as it motivates your child to learn and do well in school. If you were unable to attend, please contact your child's class teacher who will be happy to meet with you at an alternative time. Please be reminded the next opportunity to share your child's work is during the book showcase:

KS2: 29th November – 8.00am or 3.00pm
Rec/KS1: 1st December – 8.00am or 3.00pm

Attendance

Good attendance is 96% or above. The table below shows class attendance percentages for the last two weeks.

Classes	w/b 3/10	w/b 10/10
N	99.3	98.0
R	97.4	99.0
Y1	99.3	96.7
Y2	99.7	98.0
Y3	99.3	98.7
Y4	99.0	99.0
Y5	99.3	89.3
Y6	99.7	97.7

Reading Workshop

An advisor from Herts for Learning will be leading a parents workshop about reading on **Wednesday 2nd November from 6.30pm to 7.30pm.**

The workshop is aimed at primary age children from Nursery to Year 6. There will be practical advice as well as opportunities to ask questions. We encourage you to attend as reading is essential to your child's overall success at school.



Secondary School Applications

Please be aware that the deadline for applications for secondary school must be made by the closing date of Sunday 30th October 2016.

Admissions have recommended that applications are made by Friday 28th October as there will be limited support available for anyone having trouble applying at the weekend.

Applications can be made online at:

www.hertsdirect.org/admissions

Year 4 Museum Trip

Year 4 visited Stevenage museum to take part in an Ancient Egyptian workshop. They had a fantastic time dressing up in Egyptian costumes; writing their names using hieroglyphics; digging for artefacts and mummifying a body which included pulling the brain out of the nose!



Purple for Polio

Thank you for supporting 'End Polio Day' on Monday 17th October. We are grateful to Bob and Pamela Goodwin, who came to talk to the children in an assembly, organised by Mrs Shergill. The children learnt about the role of Stevenage Rotary in trying to raise money and awareness to end Polio by helping to vaccinate children across the world. We raised £213 on the day and generated awareness about the plight of some children across the world.

School Gate

The pedestrian gate, outside the nursery entrance, will be locked during the school day. The gate will be opened in the morning until 9.15am. It will be opened again between 11.55am and 12.05pm and finally at 2.55pm. The gate will also be opened for evening events including parent consultations.

We will no longer open the gate at other times during the school day as closing the gate has become increasingly difficult and it can easily be left open when a parent leaves the school grounds. Our safeguarding duties require the gate is locked so that children are safe at all times.

We apologise for the inconvenience and plan to make the gate electronic in the future.

Foundation Stage

Congratulations to the Foundation Stage team, led by Mrs Mandel, for achieving the 'Bronze' Quality Standard for provision in the Foundation Stage. The feedback from the Hertfordshire assessor was extremely positive and as a school we aim to complete the awards for Silver and Gold within the next cycle of assessment.

Sports News

Congratulations to all staff led by Mr Ward for achieving the 'Silver' Sainsbury's Sports Award. The award assesses the quality of provision across the school. Mr Ward has worked incredibly hard to increase participation rates and offer a wider range of sporting opportunities. He works closely with Mr Webb and Rising Stars and we value their contribution to school life as well.

We would also like to thank the many parents who help to drop and collect their children to and from different events. Without your support it would be impossible for the school to offer as many sporting opportunities to our children as we aim to.



Governor Report by Polly O'Brien

The Curriculum committee met for the first time this academic year. As always the governors are committed to working with the school to ensure that aims and objectives for the year are met with regards the curriculum. As a team we monitor the progress the school is making towards these objectives by meeting with subject leaders. A key focus this year is reading and we are proud so many of our children did well in the Summer Reading Challenge. As a committee, we feel very positive about the year ahead.

Chocoholics Sale

During the afternoon of Thursday 3rd November, the children from Reception to Year 6 will have the opportunity to purchase Christmas gifts from the Chocoholics sale. If your child would like to buy some gifts, please ensure that they bring their money to school on the day in a named envelope. We would suggest the children bring in a minimum of £1.00 with a maximum of £5.00 to spend. The sale will continue after school in our Group Room from 3.00pm to 4.00pm.

Nursery Lunch Club

We are very pleased to have appointed Mrs Miller to run the Nursery lunch club after half term. Mrs Miller is a school governor and has many years of experience working with young children. Mrs Miller is going to be a wonderful addition to the team.

Bags2School



Please remember that Bags2School will be collecting from our school again on **Tuesday 8th November**. Please bring your bag (or bags) to the group room by 9.00am on this day and help us have a really good collection.

Thank you for your continued support.

Discos

Children's discos will be held on **Friday 11th November**. Entrance is £1.50 per child, payable at the door and refreshments will also be on sale.

FS/KS1 5.30pm to 6.30pm
KS2 7.00pm to 8.00pm



All Nursery and Reception children must be accompanied by an adult.

Parenting Directory

Hertfordshire County Council Childhood Support Services have developed a directory that shows all the provision that is available to parents in one place. Some courses on offer include: parenting a child with additional needs, caring dads and parenting teens.

The parenting directory is available at:

www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/parentingsupport

Poppy Appeal 2016

Poppies will be on sale in school from Monday 31st October to Friday 5th November. If you would like to make a donation towards the appeal, please provide your child with a small amount of money so that they can buy a poppy when the School Council take them round to the classrooms.



Lest We Forget.

Thank you

Thank you for your support during this first half term. Children and staff are settled in their classes and are working on a variety of new topics and exciting projects.

We are a school that values our parents and we appreciate it when you come and talk to us about a problem or concern. We will always do our best to find a solution or way forward.

Have a lovely half term with your children and return them safely to school on:

Monday 31st October