

Distribution: Family list

24th February 2016

Dear Parents,

Assessment Evening

The parents who came to the Assessment Evening said that they found it informative and helpful. For those who were unable to attend, the presentation is on the Parents' Zone of the updated school website, along with details of the National Curriculum expectations for each year group and other useful resources to help you support your children. From September, teachers are having to assess and track pupils' attainment and progress without using the old national curriculum levels, which is very different from previous practice. The required standards are also significantly higher than before and many pupils will struggle to meet new national expectations for their year group. There is also widespread concern within the profession about KS2 SATs, not least because the exemplar test material has only just been released and the pupils being tested in May will only have had two years of the revised curriculum instead of four, so inevitably there will be gaps in knowledge. Our school has been selected to trial the new KS1 reading test and this will take place in April, with many pupils in Y2 still only 6 years old.

Parents' Evenings 8th, 10th, 14th and 15th March (please note the change of date for C4 on 14th March)

The dates for Parents' Evenings are as follows: Tuesday 8th March for Classes R, 1, 2 and Class 4 (Y5 & Y6), Thursday 10th March for Class 3 (Y3 & Y4), Monday 14th March for Class 4 (Y5 & Y6) and Tuesday 15th March for Classes R, 1, 2 and Class 3 (Y3 & Y4). Please fill in the attached interview request form to request appointments with your child's teachers. Parents may email their response forms to the school office if this would help, but do make sure you have filled in the children's names first. Appointments will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis and we ask that you give more than one preference. All interviews will take place in the school hall and on this occasion, teachers would like to see parents without children, although of course the children may want to show parents their work in the classrooms beforehand.

Parents should kindly ensure that they make appropriate arrangements for the supervision of younger siblings, as teachers need to be able to give their full attention to discussing the pupils presently in their classes. I shall be available throughout each session to talk to parents. As usual on whole-school Parents' Evenings, Governors will also be available in the ICT Suite on 8th and 15th March to discuss any matter of concern with you.

E-Safety Policy

As part of the on-going review and development of school policies, we have recently been reviewing the school's E-Safety Policy. One aspect of this concerns the widespread use of social media, and its potential to have a very negative impact on staff and pupils; indeed, we had quite a serious case of some cyber-bullying of children earlier in the year.

Occasionally, there are misunderstandings and disagreements between parents and staff and mistakes are made. When this happens, I would urge you to come in and talk with us face to face, rather than posting derogatory comments on social media sites. Negative comments on such sites about any member of the school community, whether child, parent, member of staff or governor are not in the best interests of anyone; they do not help build a strong supportive school community and are frankly inappropriate, not least, because they are in the public domain. For everyone's safety and well-being therefore, please may I encourage parents who have concerns about any aspect of school life to approach us directly to discuss those concerns? Both the school and Local Authority have official complaints procedures that can be followed if the matter is not resolved to your satisfaction. Governors will also be looking to amend the Home-School Agreement to reflect this issue.

Website

We are very grateful to Mrs Edwards, one of our parent governors, for taking on responsibility for the School Website and keeping it up-to-date. If there is anything you would like to be included on it, please let her know, either directly or through the office email. All the school newsletters are posted and a range of other information. In addition, if anyone has good photos of school events, we would love to put them on too.

Car Park

There are problems with parking at drop-off and pick-up times. Please remember not to park on Chinnor Road near the entrance/exit to Church Lane, as this is the only place the school bus can pull into in the morning and it means a blind spot for those trying to exit into Chinnor Road. There have been several 'near-misses' including a local resident who was extremely frightened by it. Please continue to park along Chinnor Road if all the school car park places are taken, but leave the recommended 10-metre gap at the Church Road junction. No one should park in Church Lane itself from the school to the main road, as this blocks access for other vehicles, especially the emergency services.

Adventure Trail

No children are allowed on the Adventure Trail after school for safety reasons, since there is no member of staff available to supervise it. Please could you remind your children of this and be especially aware of where your pre-school children are at all times at the end of the school day, since they might easily slip off the big wooden beams and have an accident.

BRSA

The BRSA have been extremely generous again this financial year and made a massive contribution of £25,000 at the end of the summer term 2015. This has enabled us to fund necessary Maths/Science/ICT resources and licences, new interactive whiteboards in four classrooms, additional class furniture where needed, staging, Early Years resources and finally many new books for guided reading, the reading scheme and the school libraries. The school is extremely well-equipped and the pupils very fortunate; we continue to be incredibly grateful to the BRSA for such support.

The next two BRSA events are the Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday March 19th from 11 a.m. until 12.30 p.m. and the Mothers' Day Sale next Friday March 4th from 2.30 p.m. I hope many of you will be able to attend these popular events.

Tennis & Hockey After-School Clubs – Summer Term 2016

The government gives schools specific grant funding for increasing PE and Sports provision. Presently we are investigating the possibility of tennis coaching to KS2 pupils on a Monday after school from 3 until 4 p.m. and a hockey club on Thursdays also from 3 until 4 p.m. Both clubs would be run by professional sportsmen, with experience of competing at a high level themselves and coaching young people to a high standard. Class 3 will receive hockey coaching as part of their Thursday afternoon PE lessons in the summer term, so we thought we would offer the hockey club to pupils in Y5 and Y6 in the first instance. Please fill in the attached slip if you would like your child to be considered for these after-school sessions and we will see what the demand is.

Clubs

Please note that due to Parents' Evenings there will be no Country Dancing Club on Tuesday 8th and 15th March and no Drama Club on Thursday 10th March.

Yours sincerely,

R T Rochefort
Headteacher

Spring Term Parents Evenings 2016

Please indicate which time suits you best, using the spaces marked () and return to the school office.

Tuesday 8th March
Classes R, 1, 2 & 4 (Y5 & Y6)

3.05 p.m. – 5.00 p.m. ()
5.00 p.m. – 7.30 p.m. ()

Thursday 10th March
Class 3 (Y3 & Y4)

3.05 p.m. – 5.00 p.m. ()
5.00 p.m. – 7.30 p.m. ()

Monday 14th March
Class 4 (Y5 & Y6)

3.05 p.m. – 5.00 p.m. ()
5.00 p.m. – 7.00 p.m. ()

Tuesday 15th March
Classes R, 1, 2 & 3 (Y3 & Y4)

3.05 p.m. – 5.00 p.m. ()
5.00 p.m. – 7.00 p.m. ()

.....child
.....child
.....child

.....class
.....class
.....class

.....Parent /Guardian

After-School Hockey / Tennis Clubs - Summer Term 2016

If places are available, I should like my child/ren
to do:

- Hockey Club on Thursday from 3 – 4 p.m.
- Tennis Coaching Monday from 3 – 4 p.m.

Please indicate your choices.

Signed: