

The FenHil News

'Respect, Honesty, Kindness and Collaboration'

February 2nd 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

More Frequent Newsletters!

Welcome to the new and improved, more frequent Newsletter! I am trialling a few names for it – any suggestions welcome. So far I have come up with The FenHil Focus, The Mayflower (after Fenstanton resident and pilgrim John Howland), The Capability (after Lancelot Brown) Please let me know your thoughts.

Tidy up Morning

We plan to hold another Tidy Up Morning on Saturday 24th March. This will be slightly later, running from 11am – 2pm. Bacon sandwiches and hot drinks will also be provided.



Big Schools' Birdwatch

I am excited to share with you, that our school has this week taken part in the RSPB 2018 Big Schools' Birdwatch. Perhaps some of you took part yourselves in Garden Birdwatch?

A group of 50 children from across all year groups came together, binoculars in hand, in the rain on Monday lunchtime for one hour. The children showed fantastic collaboration, enabling us to count 259 birds and over 8 different species.

The birds definitely outnumbered the squirrels, but unsurprisingly, fared worse on the food front!

Eagles class have now entered our data during Computing and we look forward to comparing results with other schools at the end of February when the submission date closes. Thank you to Mrs Flinders and Mrs Yeomans for organising this.

Dinosaur Visit

Last Friday the infants were visited by 'Portals to the Past'. The central area genuinely could have been mistaken for a Jurassic forest. Lots of fun was had by all and the children have astounded me with their knowledge of dinosaurs.

The PTA needs you!

If you would like to join our very active PTA in driving our school forward please get in touch with Becky or Bev. Alternatively let me know and I will pass you details on.

Bus travel

I continue to work closely with the transport department of the County Council to ensure that behaviour is monitored correctly. Poor behaviour will not be tolerated on the bus. I do hear about most incidents and will act accordingly if it is brought to my attention.



Football Team

I am so excited to reveal that we will be playing our first football match next Thursday! Mr Yeomans and Mrs Mckay are making sure that children are chosen fairly. We have a brand new kit that we got through the Premier League Primary Stars Regime. The match is a friendly against Harston and Newton Primary school (my old school) and we will need parent volunteers to help out getting the children to Harston. Please look out for a letter on Monday stating whether your child has been chosen and what you need to do next. We will choose 8 children from years 5 and 6 to play. Such a great opportunity for the children to represent their school.

Parent Forum

The next parent forum will be at **6pm next Tuesday 6th February**, please come along. This Forum will have an agenda, including 3 key points;

1. What we are doing well – feedback from parents
2. What we could do better – feedback from parents
3. Sharing of School Development Plan.

Staff News

It is my delight to reveal that Mrs Smith who works in Birch class is expecting her third child. Congratulations to her and her gorgeous family. Mrs Smith will be leaving to go on maternity leave in March. We are working on recruiting her leave cover.

With more joy I tell you that Mrs Woodgate has agreed to stay until the end of the year. She will remain in Year 5 until July. There will be a period that she is away visiting family in Japan during April & May but Mrs Carminati and Mrs Jones have agreed to cover her so the children will know everyone pitching in to ensure Swallows education is paramount.

Fruit Trees

Next week we will be receiving our free fruit trees, Mrs Sumner has organised this and will be getting the children to plant them in the grounds before half term. Please see below for information as to how we managed to get these trees.

'Orchards for Schools is a Heritage Lottery Funded project delivered by the East of England Apples and Orchards Project, a registered charity.

Orchards for Schools provides schools with their own heritage fruit orchard and the teaching materials to enable them to get the most from their fruit trees.'

OFSTED update

We continue to work towards getting a 'Good' judgement from Ofsted. This means that there will be changes in school that I am confident will drive up standards. I will endeavour to keep you up to date with these as and when they happen, this is something the weekly newsletter will help with.

Important Date!

Emerald Zone assembly is on Thursday 8th February 9.15 – 9.30am. Parents of Elm and Birch classes are very welcome. If you have younger children that are coming with you, they are welcome but please make sure they sit quietly on your laps.

This half term seems to have flown by! The staff are working tirelessly to support the children in their learning and give them plenty of fun opportunities to entice them into challenging themselves. Please continue to send your children's achievements in with them on a Friday, it is lovely to see what the children are up to and the range of amazing skills they all have! This term we have heard about dancing, music and sport successes. Also children who have been recognised for raising vast amounts of money for charity. What a wonderful bunch they are.

On a personal note I embark on my first 10k this weekend – wish me luck! This time last year I couldn't even run down the road. I will be running in Regents Park so if nothing else the scenery will be amazing!



Thank you, as always, for your amazing support, have an amazing weekend and keep me updated with any successes you have. We have a lot to celebrate!

Kind regards,

Claire Worth

Headteacher