



Forward March!

UN CONVENTION ARTICLE 17:

You have the right to get information that is important to your well-being, from radio, newspapers, books, computers and other sources. Adults should make sure that the information you are getting is not harmful, and help you find and understand the

*With God's help
we will
live kindly,
love each other,
learn and
laugh together!*

Spring Term 2017 Newsletter 1

Dear Parents & Carers,

I hope that you have all enjoyed the Christmas season and had a chance to have some quality family time and opportunities to relax throughout such a busy time of year.

The School is back in full swing and it feels as if the holidays were ages ago! It was fantastic to see so many smiley faces on the first day back and hear about all of the exciting things which the children have done over the holidays. The children all looked very smart on Tuesday and I asked them to thank you for sending them to school in their school uniform and black school shoes.

Thank you so very much for the generosity and kindness you showed the staff and I through the many gifts, cards and messages that we received at the end of term. I really was overwhelmed. Some presents I received directly from your children and others were left for me in my office were all very much appreciated. Thank you.

New school App

We have a new school app which went live at the end of last term. In case you missed the details, this app can be found in the App store and in Google play for android and iPhones. www.myschoolapp.co.uk



Look for this logo in the app stores and enable push notifications. You will only need to enter your details once and you will be up and running. It is FREE for you to download and is part of our commitment to communicate with parents, delivering the school's latest news, events, push notifications and much, much more.





Illness

Please ensure if your child has had sickness and/or diarrhoea that the 48-hour rule for children to stay at home is observed (children may return 48 hours after the last episode of vomiting and/or diarrhoea). This is to reduce cross infection, and ensure children are fully rested and recovered before returning to school.

Please continue to check the school website for information, newsletters, policies and other useful information.



How to support your child with their learning homework.

At the last **Parents Forum Meeting** we discussed the challenges of homework faced by children and parents.

Some of the discussion areas were;

- The amount of time it takes,
- The pressures of some of the topic homework. (optional) ,
- The importance of the focus on the key skills as a priority.
- Arguments caused by homework if children are tired or don't want to do it!
- The need to increase the time for homework as children progress through the school to prepare them for Secondary schools.
- Developing independence through homework.
- **No Homework at the weekends** to ensure quality family time and enable interests outside school to be developed.
- Time limit on the amount of homework for each day i.e. 5 mins spelling, 5 mins reading, 5 mins maths – increasing as children progress to year 5 & 6.
- Topic Grids to be optional if parents and children want to do extra homework linked to the topic.

We are in the process of discussing this further with the staff and after half term will let you know the new policy for homework and strategies that each class will follow. Thank you for your input into this interesting debate.

The school can continue to improve even further with your help so please encourage your son or daughter to read as much as possible. Our Library has lots of books, if you need help with choosing reading material suitable for your child please do ask your class teacher or Mrs Lee. Numbers are also important. Please take every opportunity to ask your children about Maths or encourage them to help you around the home – measuring for that room you are decorating, or ingredients for the delicious cake you are baking! It sounds obvious but it all helps!

Bronze Awards

Well done to all the children who are working towards their bronze badges. Our first bronze badge of 2017 goes to...



Year 5 Go Mummy Mad !

Year 5 are really enjoying their new topic on Egyptians and learning all about the processes of mummification. It was very important to Ancient Egyptian religious beliefs that the human body was preserved. A method of artificial preservation, called mummification was developed by the Ancient Egyptians. Mummification was a complicated and lengthy process which lasted up to 70 days as Year 5 learnt this week.

They all really enjoyed the practical experience as you can see from the pictures below!





Chichester Schools



Working Together

Year 6 and United Voices

Year 6 have been practising hard for their concert at the Chichester Festival Theatre on the 19th January. With a history of successful collaboration, the Chichester Locality of Schools is proud to present 'United Voices', a selection of contemporary, upbeat songs performed by our massed choir. Our theme is based on the values which we all aspire to, as citizens of our schools and as citizens of Chichester and the World beyond.

The schools have rehearsed individually and will come together for an evening of high quality choral performance, under the musical leadership of Emily Barden (Leader for Singing and Projects for West Sussex Music) in collaboration with Chichester Festival Theatre. The children took part in their first joint rehearsal this week and Mrs Lee and I were so impressed at this amazing 400 children strong choir.

Thank you for all the support from Year 6 parents and we look forward to seeing you at this wonderful event.



Finally..

If you would like to talk to me about anything, please do stop and chat or make an appointment if you would like more privacy or a longer length of time. I am here to help and support you all.

Thanks for taking the time to read this fortnight's newsletter. If you would like to discuss any items from the newsletter in more detail, please do not hesitate to come and see me, my door is always 'Open'.

Mrs Nicky Metcalfe

Head Teacher

