



Newsletter - February 2014

Oh for a warm, sunny and dry day!

An all-round sigh of relief is being breathed that we have reached the spring half term! Whilst the incessant rain and wind shows little sign of abating, at least the children can now travel to and from school in daylight and there are signs that spring is around the corner. Thank you to all parents for your co-operation last Friday when the floods set us a fresh challenge. We appreciate the efforts that everyone made to get children to school and equally appreciate why this was not possible for others to do safely.

I think everyone has been affected by the recent weather in one or more ways. We have certainly noticed that pupils cannot run off their excess energy but at the same time seem lethargic and have lost some of their usual bounce and enthusiasm. Our fingers are crossed for a half term holiday that enables everyone to have some quality rest and recuperation.

Thanks also go to everyone who has given so generously to the charity Mrs Shore-Nye would like to raise money for by having her head shaved. To date the total is almost at £300 and I know this will rise when the event takes place. Mrs Shore-Nye is overwhelmed by everyone's generosity, their support for her personally and all the good wishes she has received. Her treatment is continuing but is leaving her feeling exhausted however we are hopeful that we will be able to bring her into school soon after half term, both to see everyone and also so we can go ahead with her plan for the head shave. Like many of you, the staff and pupils have been affected by her amazing attitude and total positivity. She really is an example to us all.

To finish I have a couple of pleas to make. The first is around uniform; many of the girls have suddenly grown and their skirts are now exceptionally short. Could parents please buy their daughters a longer skirt that is more respectable and allows them to sit on the floor, move around etc. without verging on being indecent.

My second plea links to break time snacks. Whilst I encourage children to eat when at school I do have an issue with the litter that snacks is creating. Could you please encourage your child to always put litter in a bin or take it with them rather than leaving it for someone else to clear up for them. Together we can make them more responsible and more aware of what they leave behind!

Briefly to finish, I have spoken to all year 7 and 8 pupils about the need for them to eat regularly and sensibly. I have pointed out some of the dangers and long term damage they can do to the development of their internal body systems by not eating properly in the next few years. I was quite blunt with them! Hopefully they listened and have given more thought to the need for a healthy diet and also that cutting out meals is not sensible. The media do not do young people any favours in this respect!

Wishing you a drier half term,

Liz Hinton

Dates for your Diaries

Spring Term 2014

1 st Half Term	Mon 6 th Jan – Fri 14 th Feb
Half Term Break	Mon 17 th Feb – Fri 21 st Feb
2 nd Half Term	Mon 24 th Feb – Fri 4 th April
Easter Break	Mon 7 th April – Mon 21 st April
Term Ends	Friday 4 th April at 2.30pm

Summer Term 2014

1 st Half Term	Tues 22 nd April – Fri 23 rd May
May Day Holiday	Monday 5 th May
Half Term Break	Mon 26 th May – Fri 30 th May
2 nd Half Term	Mon 2 nd June – Fri 18 th July
School Year Ends	Friday 18 th July at 2.30pm

Autumn Term 2014 – NO INSET DAYS HAVE BEEN SET

1 st Half Term	Mon 1 st Sept – Fri 24 th Oct
Half Term Break	Mon 27 th Oct – Fri 31 st Nov
2 nd Half Term	Mon 3 rd Nov – Fri 19 th Dec
Christmas Break	Mon 22 nd Dec – Fri 2 nd Jan 2015

Free School Meals Applications

Herts County Council is working to promote free school meals and educational benefits to make

sure that as many eligible children and families as possible get the support they are entitled to.

Families are able to apply in any of the following ways:

Online: at www.hertsdirect.org/freeschoolmeals.

Smartphone: using the LookingLocal app available from app stores.

Digital TV: The Community Channel – press the red button

Wii/Xbox/PS3: at www.lookinglocal.gov.uk/hertsdirect

Phone: 0300 123 4084

We can help you if you do not have access to the internet.

DINNER MONEY

Spring Term 2014

Per Day - £2.15

Per Week - £10.75

1st Half Term - £64.50

2nd Half Term - £64.50

Whole Term - £129.00

If your child is going on one of the various school trips please deduct the appropriate amount

Cheques payable to

Ralph Sadleir School

Please put the child's name and 'dinner money' on the back of cheques.

Please note that meals should be paid for in advance and that any family debt over £30.00 can be referred to County for retrieval by their legal team.

Changes to meal patterns

A meal pattern has been set for your child.

Any changes to the pre defined patterns must be notified to the school office **before registration** otherwise you will be charged for the school meal.

Please contact the office if you have any queries.

Attendance

If your child is absent from school it is essential that you telephone the school before 8.45am.

If we do not hear from you, your child's absence may be marked as unauthorised.

Year 6 History trip to the Imperial War museum – Duxford – January 2014

On a wet and windy January day, a bus load of ‘evacuees’ went on a day trip to the Imperial War Museum in Duxford. They were there to experience first-hand about what living during World War two might have been like on the home front and to see some of the aircraft and weaponry used to defend the country.

We first went into our civil defence training where Agnes, the ARP Warden told us how to keep ourselves and our homes safe from Nazi attack. First we learned about the three types of bomb which might be dropped by the Nazi bombers, then, more importantly how to tape up our glass windows so they didn’t shatter in the event of a bomb attack. We also learned why blackout curtains were important and why we should put them up.



Some of our evacuees were trained as home guards, munitions workers, nurses and in various other useful war work. Some learned how to pick up incendiary bombs safely and how to use a stirrup pump to put out any flames. We also practised how to quickly and effectively put on our gas masks in the event of a gas attack and how we could collect scrap metal to help the war effort.

Here are some of D6s thoughts on the day:

Charlotte (D6)

My favourite part of the day was seeing Agnes in our war training. We tried on our gas masks and she showed us the rattle, we heard an air raid siren and we tried on different helmets. She got some people to demonstrate using a strip pump and showed us how to pick up a bomb. She told us there were three types of bombs used in WW2, HE bomb (highly explosive, incendiary bomb and a gas bomb).

Niahm (D6)

From my point of view, the best part was looking at the planes and tanks from World War Two. I really enjoyed the land war section because some of the tanks were huge – they really impressed me. One of the planes was called the Blackbird it is the fastest plane in the world.

Sophie (D6)

We were all told to dress like evacuees. Most girls had their hair in plaits, as well as wearing skirts and dresses. The boys wore flat caps with shorts and black socks.

Conor (D6)

We all dressed as evacuees from World War Two. We wore old clothes like the evacuees would have done, things like ties and waistcoats and smart flat caps

Heidi (D6)

I really enjoyed going inside Concorde. My Granddad designed Concorde planes as his job so I was really excited to see what his designs were turned into by looking at a real one. I might tell him that I went into one so hopefully he will show me some of his drawings and tell me all about them.

Oliver (D6)

My favourite part was going inside Concorde (a supersonic plane that flew faster than the speed of sound)...and looking at the cockpit and all the instruments and its super sleek design. ...It was brilliant.

Geography

Fantasy Geography

After Mr Nicol's great success with the Fantasy Football participation all students can now enter (the new) Fantasy Geography. Every week there are +3 Points up for grabs. Currently there are six children joint top of the leader board. Found outside N4, try it out each week....

Geographical IQ

Inspired by Top Gear and specific to Geography. *Do you know where places are around you?* Well Alfie W in Year 8 certainly does with a near unbeatable score of 155,439 points on his IQ. A special mention must go out to Aidan J in Year 5 with a score of 55,542 points, this great score shocked the whole class. Superb geographical knowledge Aidan!

Helping vulnerable residents to stay warm in their homes this winter

Do you know someone – maybe a parent or grandparent – who might struggle to stay warm in their home this winter?

Or perhaps you have very young children and are struggling to keep your home warm enough?

Keep Warm, Stay Well is a scheme that offers support to vulnerable residents who are struggling with the cold or with paying their fuel bills. Last year more than 10,000 were helped by the scheme.

Hertfordshire County Council is working with all 10 District Councils, the NHS and key voluntary organisations to help those at risk from cold-related illness, such as young children, older people and those with long term conditions.

A warm home in the colder months is crucial and can help prevent illnesses. Those with long term health conditions, such as severe asthma or a chest or heart complaint, face the additional risk of having a stroke or heart attack in the cold conditions.

To address this, at risk residents could be offered a range of free support that includes insulation and draught-proofing, emergency heaters and advice on making their home more energy efficient. There's also advice on paying bills, including entitlement to grants and benefits that could help.

If you know a friend, neighbour or family member who is at risk and may benefit from this scheme, please contact HertsHelp for information and advice on 0300 123 4044 or email: info@hertshelp.net

Ofsted Parent View

Parent View gives you the chance to tell Ofsted what you think about our school at any time of year. It is also a great tool to help us know which areas are working well and which can be developed further.

Parent Views asks for your opinion on 12 aspects of your child's school, from the quality of teaching, to dealing with bullying and poor behaviour. They use the information you provide when making decisions about which schools to inspect, and when. By sharing your views, you'll be helping our school improve. You will also be able to see what other parents have said about the school. Or, if you want to, view the results for any school in England. Access via the school website or

<http://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/login?destination=give-your-views>



Uniform

We are having a purge on uniform, particularly the length of skirts for girls. Some skirts are so short that it is impossible for the girls to sit in school and not display what they are wearing underneath. Wearing PE shorts under skirts is not an option. Skirts should be no more than 3 inches (7 cm) above the knee; in some cases they are substantially shorter than this. I am asking that parents either buy their daughter a skirt of the correct length, send them in in navy (non-fashion) trousers or contact the school to arrange for a suitable skirt to be loaned until one can be purchased.

Similarly many of the shoes being worn are unsuitable and do not give the feet sufficient support or protection. Irreparable damage is being done to the developing bone structure which will result in many of our pupils having problems with their feet in later life, possibly having to have painful operations. Likewise, trainers should not be worn for school. They are designed in a different way to shoes and for a different purpose and are not meant for all day wear. As with other items of uniform we are happy to provide pupils with suitable footwear until more appropriate shoes can be purchased by parents.

Pupils leaving school for appointments

Please be aware that the school will not release pupils from school during school hours unless collected by named Parent/Guardian. If you wish to collect your child from school during these hours please telephone the office or send an email. Thank you.

H.A.N.D. News is Hertfordshire County Council's free online newsletter with information about benefits, entertainment, activities, support groups, courses and much more for children and young people with additional needs. This newsletter is also for parents and carers of children and young people with additional needs. Feedback from parents', carers and other professionals is that they find this newsletter invaluable. Please read the newsletter at

<http://handnews.hertscc.gov.uk>

Thank you.

Dinner Money – Important notice

As from January 2014 we will be able to accept payments on +pay for termly and half termly dinner monies. Other payments can be sent to the school but we will no longer be able to accept cheques for less than £10.75.

Sports round up Spring 2014 v1

Our Year 7 Sports Hall Athletics teams travelled to the new sports hall at Freman College for the District competition.

After some very close races and fiercely contested field events, our girls' team finished a close 2nd place to a very strong Grenaway team. The boys also competed very well and managed a 3rd place finish. Excellent work from all the pupils who participated.

House Football and Netball leagues are underway for our KS3 pupils. Some excellent leadership is on show and some very good competition is being enjoyed despite the bad weather!

National Science Week is approaching 14th - 21st March

We will be doing lots of exciting activities in school.

We hope all parents are aware of the CAMBRIDGE SCIENCE FESTIVAL (commencing from 10th March - 23rd March) which is very interactive and has lots of events.

Look it up on the internet or download free festival app cam.ac.uk/csf/app.

It is well worth a visit for all age groups.



Safer Internet Day 11th November 2014

We have given all pupils leaflets suitable for their age group that gives them useful tips on how to stay safe on the internet. We have put these leaflets on our ICT eSafety webpage for you to view – www.ralphsadleir.herts.sch.uk/esafety

Please take a look at these and talk with your child to make sure they are aware of how to stay safe.

There are also useful sites for parents which you may wish to take a look at. Here they are for your information:

www.childnet.com

www.kidsmart.org.uk

www.saferinternet.org.uk

www.iwf.org.uk

www.parentport.org.uk

Ralph Sadleir Website

Our school website is updated daily with new information and interesting stories and events that happen in school.

Some new pages that you may not be aware of but are worth keeping a regular eye on are:

- Mr Spong's weekly blog (accessible from the homepage)
- Events in our Community (go to About Us/Our Local Community)
- News (accessible from the homepage)
- Yr 6 and Yr 8 Food Technology Ingredients (go to Curriculum/Design and Technology)

We would also love to hear what you think of our website or if you have any improvement suggestions. Please click on the Website Feedback button that sits on the right on every page and complete the form that appears on your screen.

Thank you.