



# February 2018 Newsletter

6th February 2018

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## Upcoming Dates

Half Term 12th—16th Feb-  
ruary

Parents Meetings—week  
beginning 25th March

Mother Day Tea— week  
beg 5th March

Easter Holidays 30th  
March—13th April

Healthy Families Course—  
starts 26th February

## Mothers Day—Afternoon Tea

Although the mother's day meals are very popular we struggled last year to make sure the experience was smooth and enjoyable for everyone with so many wanting to attend. We would therefore like to suggest an afternoon tea for you during the week beginning 5th March. More information will follow shortly.

## Parents Meetings

These will take place during the week beginning 26th March where parents / carers are invited into school at 2.40pm to find out about supporting your child at home with our new accelerated reader as well as finding out how your child is progressing.

## School Holidays

We break up for the half term holiday on Friday 9th and return on Monday 19th February. The next half term is 6 weeks and our last day in school before Easter is Thursday 29th March.

## Safer Internet Day

This was on Tuesday 6th February. The E cadets in school held an assembly for the children about keeping safe on-line. We have asked the children to do some work in their learning logs at home to create a poster on keeping safe to share with adults at home and the rest of school.

If any family members would like any advice and support keeping children safe please ask in school.

## Please can you help

We need things for Foundation stage if you can help – nuts and bolts, fabric, buttons, shells, pebbles, marbles, corks, washers, spoons, key rings, keys, ribbon etc. Anything to help with creativity, they have an extensive list if anyone wants to look at their plea for help.

## Attendance

### January's attendance:

FS 2	93.6%
Yr 1	93.6%
Yr 2	93.2%
Yr 3	98.1% 😊
Yr 4	94.5%
Yr 5	91.5%
Yr 6	93.5%

Overall attendance for January is 94% which is under the Government Target.

Overall attendance for school since September is 95%

### Congratulations to Year 3

#### Gong to Year 5- keep trying to improve EVERYONE

This is always a difficult time of year as there are many virus's and illnesses going around families. Reminding children about handwashing is a help and something we are doing in school.

## Lateness

Can we remind all families that it is very disruptive for school staff and is very difficult for children to come into school late. They miss the register and therefore additional work has to be done by staff to ensure they are in class, are marked correctly in the register, are put down for a school meal if needed. The teachers have to find time to catch the children up with what they have missed as teaching starts at 9.00am sharp. Most children are also upset at walking into class late. We will be sending letters home to those families whose children have a pattern of coming in late after the register and may start requiring them to complete late slips giving reasons. If this continues to become an issue then a meeting will be required with school to plan how this can improve.

**5 minutes late each day = 3 days of school lost**

**10 minutes late each day = 6.5 days of school lost**

**15 minutes late each day = 10 days of school lost**

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## Gentle reminders

It is really helpful if you name all children's clothing including P.E kits. We still have some children without P.E. kits in school and we have very few spare kits.

Any children in KS2 interested in the Church Youth Choir please reply to Mrs Mackenzie as soon as possible.

## Safety and Wellbeing

Following a worryingly high number of situations where adults have been disrespectful, rude or aggressive towards staff and each other I am politely requesting everyone to think carefully about how they conduct themselves on the school premises **and** on the telephone.

Any further incidents will result in a direct warning from the County Solicitor and if deemed serious enough a letter stating individuals are unable to attend the school site for a stated amount of time.

It is with great regret and upset that I am writing this as we value our relationships with all in the school community. I must safeguard the staff and the children first and foremost and I know you will all agree that any disagreements are best sorted through calm dialogue. We all need to remember we are role models for our children and they take their guidance from us.

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## Reading in School

You will no doubt all be aware that we are enjoying great enthusiasm from the children to read for their own enjoyment through Accelerated Reading.

Recently we asked the children about this and we thought you might like to hear some of the responses:

- Everyone is reading, the teachers are talking about it more and we have more time to read.
- We have more books to choose from.
- We love the quizzes to help us understand the books we read.
- The teachers have gone crazy and push us to read more.
- It helps us in our writing, spellings and is stopping me playing on my phone at home.
- I can focus more and want to read a whole series.
- My writing has improved and I can pronounce bigger words and I can make sense of the words more.
- I am moving on to more difficult books

We looked at the reading data at the end of the Autumn Term and found that the children who read more at home had made significantly more progress in their reading quizzes to test their comprehension (understanding) of the text. This is what we need to work on as a school so thank you to all those helping us. It is a joy to see the children walking in with their reading books everyday!

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## Mozambique

Following a successful bid to the British Council we have secured funding for Mrs Mackenzie and Mrs McGeary to travel to Maputo, the capital of Mozambique during half term. We have a link school called Arco Iris (Rainbow School) that we will be working in. Communication with them is a challenge so we do not know much about the school but the children have been learning a little about Mozambique and have challenged us to find out a lot of information.

We have to work together on a project and they have chosen to look at improving the environment as they have an issue with litter and disposal of rubbish. It fits in well with all the interest we have on single use plastics and recycling. If anyone speaks Portuguese you could help us out with some phrases as that is their language and Mrs McGeary and I are struggling with it.

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## Healthy Families Course

Rachael will be sending a letter out about a course for families to learn about healthy eating with your child / children.

It is initially aimed at Year 1 and 2.

It starts on Monday 26th February and runs for 5 weeks in school (9.30—12.00)

Please complete the form and return it to school if you are interested.

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## Class News

Foundation Stage—they are looking forward to a visit from Histrionics to look at space and travel. They are making a huge rocket in class

Year 1— Auckland Castle outreach have been in school with their pop up palace to help with the topic of Kings and Queens.

Year 2— They welcomed a 'World War 2 soldier' into class looking at artefacts from that time.

Year 3—Have been learning about teeth with the school nurse and also had an 'Anglo Saxon' visitor to help with their History topic.

Year 4— They had a day with a visitor to learn about the Stone and Bronze Age.

Year 5— Have been learning about sustainable energy.

Year 6—They are loving learning about the Groovy Greeks as well as exploring fossils.

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**Maeve Mackenzie**

**Head Teacher**

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