

Puddletown CE VC First School

'Inspiring learners to be the best they can be'

Newsletter No. 10

22nd March 2019

Dear Parent,

Goodness me time really does fly, we are now only 2 weeks away to the end of the Spring term, amazing!

Reports

I trust that you have all had a chance to read your child's school report. I am very grateful to the staff for their work on these, they add around 30 - 40 additional work hours to teacher's workload in addition to the regular planning and marking duties. This is one reason why I am very keen to review what we do so I hope that many of you will be able to join me at the meeting on 14th May so I can share some thoughts with you.

Open afternoons

I am sure that all of you who have attended the recent open afternoons will have enjoyed taking part in your child's learning, thank you so much for joining us, they are a real highlight for the children. If you have any thoughts on the inputs I am providing at the start either regarding their usefulness or future themes I would love to hear them.

Y4 Concert

Our Y4 children took part in the DASP Y4 concert at Thomas Hardy this week and they were magnificent! It was a real treat for all those present to see how the children really did SHINE! As always I am in awe of the way Miss England gets the children to perform to such a high standard.

The start of the day

Please be aware that the start of the day is a very busy time for the teaching staff and they do not have the opportunity for a meaningful discussion with parents at this time as they are preparing the learning for the day. Therefore, can I ask that if you do need the teachers to be aware of something that you either tell me on the gate or pass on a message to the office. Class teachers will then contact you at a convenient time in the day if needed. Thank you for your help in this.

Breakfast club

Please ensure that your child is booked into breakfast club before dropping them off. This week we have had situations where children without a confirmed booking have been dropped off at the start of the day meaning that we have gone over our maximum numbers. Clearly this causes difficulties for the staff running the provision.

Grounds Day

If anyone has any spare time this Saturday to help work on our ground we would love to see you. We are very lucky at Puddletown First School to have such fantastic facilities for our children and we are looking to maximise them in all the ways we can.

This year we will be constructing a 'Walk and Talk'

sensory area thanks to a joint bid by the governors and FOPS. We have purchased 6 'off road' go karts to use on a race course we are building using tyres sourced by the Waldron family. We are also planning to build a stone Gothic folly with the funds raised by FOPS. This is not part of our Saturday work!

We have been able recently to build upon our library stock to help promote reading. Thank you to Mrs Murphy for all her work in this.

Clearly all of this does cost money but thanks to the work of staff and governors who have made prudent and careful financial decisions we are still able to make these investments in your children's education. Especially when supported by our fabulous FOPS team.

However looking forward I, like all school leaders, am very concerned about the current state of funding in education which does not appear to be sustainable in the long term. Despite this please be assured that I, the staff and the governors will always make all our decisions with the children and the school at their heart.

There, a whole newsletter without a mention of parking! Oops.

Diary Dates

23 Mar – Grounds Morning 9.30-12.30

25 Mar – Book Fair Week

26 & 28 Mar – Parents Evening times

02 Apr – Year 2 trip to Kingston Maurward

1-3 Apr – Year 4 at Hooke Court

03 Apr – Year 3 Open Afternoon

04 Apr – Easter Service at Church 2pm

05 Apr – Year 4 'Hooke' open afternoon

05 Apr – Break up

23 Apr – Return to School – Summer Term

01 May – School Nurse drop in session

01 May – FoPS Meeting 7-8.30pm

13 May – Year 4 trip to Nothe Fort

21 May – New Class R Parent Meeting 7pm

22 May – FoPs Movie Night

23&24 May – Life Education Van

24 May Break Up

03 Jun – Inset Day

04 Jun – Pupils return to school

4/11/18/25 Jun – Puddleducks Sessions

05 Jun – School Nurse Drop in sessions

First Aid Training

In school today all the children have had the opportunity to learn some valuable first aid skills with Whitehorse Training as well as visiting the ambulance. Thanks to Lily Adams ex Puddletown pupil for her fundraising efforts which has allowed the school to organise this First Aid training event.

