



Husborne Crawley Lower School
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Finding Everyone's Full Potential

November 2016 Newsletter

Heads Update

I am sad to announce that Mrs Neve-Davis will be leaving our school family at the end of the Autumn term to start an exciting new career as a companion animal trainer and behaviourist. I am sure you will all join me in wishing Mrs Neve-Davis all the very best in her new venture. She has promised to come back and visit us; we have already planned a Spring Term assembly for the children. From January, Mrs Todhunter will teach the Numeracy and Literacy lessons every morning in Class 1. We have appointed Mrs Sally O'Connell, who will teach the 'topic' learning, in the afternoons. Mrs O'Connell is an experienced teacher with a love of drama. She has three grown up children. Mrs O'Connell loves animals, and has cats, a dog and 9 chickens; she also fosters kittens for Stray Cat Rescue. She is really looking forward to meeting all of you in January.

I would like to thank parents for attending the recent consultations; we have had some very positive feedback. Do get in touch with your child's teacher if you haven't managed to meet yet, they will be pleased to make you an afternoon appointment.

If you can spare a few minutes, we would welcome your views about our school. On the school's own website, under the 'Ofsted' tab, is a link to 'ParentView' – we would be really grateful if parents could complete the short survey. Thank you.

Do check the dates section overleaf – Christmas Play performances are coming up soon!

As always if anyone has any concerns please do catch me on the playground in the mornings, or make an appointment for a longer chat. Mrs Isaacs

Governing Body news

At the recent Full meeting, Mr Mark Pacey was voted in unanimously as Chair. Mrs Helen Mulberry was re-elected as vice-chair. We offer huge thanks to Mr Len Wisson who has worked tirelessly for us as chair of Governors for many years. We welcome Mr Emmerson (dad to Tilly and Beatrice) as a new parent Governor.

Could you become a Governor at our school?

Here is your chance to help us shape the future of our school, supporting and challenging us to do the very best we can for the children here. We now have one vacancy for a Parent Governor. Mrs Emma van Oorschot and Mrs Janet Mann (co-opted Governor) are standing down, we thank them for the help and advice they have given us during their terms of office. There is a link on the school website under 'Vacancies' which gives a lot of information about this challenging but very worthwhile job. If you would like an informal chat about what is involved, please speak to one of our current Parent Governors who would be pleased to explain more: Mark Pacey (Chair), Helen Mulberry (Vice-chair), Katie McDonagh; our Staff Governor Mrs Davies; myself, or one of our Community Governors; Mr Toby Barrett, Ms Kirsten Ash, Mr Maurice O'Connell or Mr Len Wisson who remains on the committee this year.

SAY 'NO' to Bullying week!

This week we will be thinking about what bullying is, what we can do to get help if we are being bullied and how important it is to talk to someone if we are worried or sad. Have a look at the website of the Anti-Bullying Alliance for more information: <http://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk>

SCHOOL WEBSITE

Do have a look at our website. It is updated weekly with news of upcoming events. All letters, PTFA news and monthly newsletters are here. Each class has their own page with timetables, class newsletter and curriculum information.

New policies are added as agreed by the Governing Body, as well as a lot of extra information about the curriculum, including the two – year rolling programme we run.



CHILDREN IN NEED

The School Council, with the help of children in Year 4, will be making posters, and baking and selling little cakes and unwanted toys on their stall on **Friday 18th November**, both at playtime and after school. Children, please bring your pocket money on Friday!

Values Education

We are looking at the values of "RESPONSIBILITY" and also "Respect and Tolerance" this half term. Please talk to your child about what these values mean to them both at home and in school. If you'd like to know about the Values Education programme you could visit the website: www.values-education.com

SILVER SCIENCE 'PSQM' AWARD!

We are very proud to have been awarded this prestigious award, which recognises the excellent teaching of Science in our school. Well done to Mrs Todhunter who put so much hard work into the application, and to our amazing children and teachers!

Christmas at Husborne Crawley!

Families are invited to attend the Christingle Service at St James; a magical candlelit service. School uniform is not required. We hold our own Carol Concert in the church, where parents and friends are invited to join us for some Christmas carols and songs; children tell the story of the Nativity. Parents are asked to **ONLY** bring very young children and babies to the Full Dress Rehearsal of our Christmas Play (where noise will not matter,) and **not** to the other performances. Thank you for your understanding. The play 'Tinsel and Teatowels' will be professionally recorded on Thursday 8th and DVDs available for parents to purchase.

PTFA (Parent Teacher Friends Association)

We continue to be indebted to this marvellous group of people for their fabulous support and fundraising. Do please try and support all the events that have been organised. We have a Christmas Bazaar planning meeting at school on Tuesday 22nd November at 9:00am, and would be grateful for your support. Watch out for the amazing 2017 calendar, orders are now being taken.

What we're learning this half term: We are all continuing with our topic "Long Long Ago".

Foundation Stage Having spent several weeks with the dinosaurs, we'll move forward to Stone Age times. We will share stories such as *Cave Baby*, *Woolly* and *The Wild Girl* and begin to write shared stories and make class books. We will be beginning to learn about digraphs (two letters which together make one sound e.g. ch) and will use the letters that we have already learnt in order to build words. In addition to role-playing cave dwellers, we will try out making cave paintings and learn about some of the animals that lived during this time. Later, we will be thinking and learning about the more recent past, the lives and experiences of grandparents and parents and changes in toys and technology that have taken place during the course of their lives. We will be learning about festivals of light, including Divali, Hannukah and Christmas. Please note that our P.E. sessions have changed to a Monday afternoon and will be led by Mr Cooper of The Future Games.

Class 1 We continue to learn all about dinosaurs, and the different periods in history in which certain dinosaurs lived. We'll find out about the life and work of Mary Anning, a famous palaeontologist, learning about the types of fossils she found and look at a collection of our own fossils. In Literacy we have already written dinosaur shape poems and calligrams. We will also be writing our own dinosaur fact books as well as reading a range of fiction stories such as "Dinosaurs Love Underpants", "Saturday Night at the Dinosaur Stomp" and "Stinkyosarus". In Maths we continue to work on addition and subtraction, telling the time, exploring shapes, sorting using tables and Venn and Carroll diagrams, and problem solving. In Science we're thinking about different animals including humans, how they grow and the senses they have.

Class 2 : Our main focus in Science is on soils, including the different types of soil, and planning our own soil experiments linked to drainage. We are excited about the visit of a 'real' scientist towards the end of term who will help us find out about Martian soils! In Literacy we are studying the features of non-fiction texts and writing our own newspaper report on the amazing discovery at Skara Brae. We are continuing with our coding work, writing our own simple programs. This work is available online for the children to show you – search for 'espresso coding' and log in as 'student4333'. In PE this half-term we are learning how to play hockey, and have started basketball skills with Bruce.

Dates for your diary:

November

14th 'Say NO to Bullying' week
14th Shoe Box collection
14th Full Governing Body Meeting 7pm
17th Sports Hall Athletics comp.
17th Fulbrook Open Evening
18th Children in Need stall.
20th Shoe Box service at St Mary's Church Woburn, 10am

21st 'Open Week' at Fulbrook
22nd 'New starters' Induction morning
22nd PTFA meeting 9am

November cont:

30th Flu vaccinations for Years 1,2 & 3

December

2nd Mufti Day – please wear home clothes and bring a filled jam jar for our stall today!
2nd Sports Ambassador training pm
2nd Christmas Bazaar 3:30 – 6:00pm (Exact times TBC)

Christingle Service, a Sunday in December at 3:30pm (Date TBC)

6th Full Dress Rehearsal of Play 2pm
7th Christmas Play 2pm
8th Christmas Play 2pm

December cont:

8th – 11th St Michael's Church Aspley Heath Christmas Tree festival
13th Whole school to Pantomime!
14th School Christmas Dinner
15th Carol concert at St James' 10:30am
16th Parents to Achievement Assembly.
Last day of term

January 3rd Inset day 'mindfulness training' with Aspley Guise Lower
4th Children return to School
Spring Term 2017: See website for more dates.