



Dear Parents,

School life continues to be very busy as we move swiftly into the second half of the academic year. We are looking forward to meeting you during the forthcoming parent consultation evenings when there will be the opportunity to discuss your child's development. Further information will be sent home in order for you to secure an appointment with your child's class teacher.

Life Education Bus

We aim for pupils to take a positive attitude towards health and make informed choices. All pupils in the school have had a fantastic opportunity to enjoy learning on the life Education bus to support curriculum work last week. Inside the bus was a life size model of a human body, a huge video screen, a starlit night sky ceiling and Harold, a giraffe who is working out how to live a happy and healthy life. The focus of learning were the effects and risks associated with drugs such as alcohol and tobacco and how to keep bodies and minds healthy. It was wonderful to see many pupils seeking Anita, the session leader, at break times/lunch times with further questions. "I learned about drugs and how medical drugs are useful but some drugs are bad for you. It was interesting." Ross *"I learned about making good choices and consequences"* Ellis, *"It was fun. We liked Harold the puppet. We learned about saying sorry so everyone can be friends and happy."* Flossie and Nel

'Innocent m'lud!'

Our mock trial team are hoping for this verdict when they act as the defence council in the case of 'R v Pip Harris and Sam Jones' on Friday 11th March at Ebley House. Miss Gulliford and the team have been working hard, establishing the facts, constructing their arguments and preparing questions for their 'opponents' from Randwick Primary, who are acting as the prosecution council. Our team have been well briefed and understand the roles and procedures involved in a real court of law. Serving Magistrates and police officers will be in attendance during the 'mock trial' to evaluate the children's contributions and to ensure all correct proceedings are adhered to. This valuable experience provides the children with a unique insight into the workings of our judicial system. We hope to gain the Stroud Schools Mock Trial shield again— we will await the court's decision!

Curriculum news: how we know pupils are making progress

I believe this is an exciting time in education and one that provides the school with the opportunity to devise a permanent assessment system for reading, writing and mathematics, that is rigorous, efficient and clear for all users. The teachers and I have been working hard on devising and implementing such an assessment system in line with the current curriculum that allows pupil progress and attainment to be tracked. The system uses the language of 'Working Below', 'Working Towards', 'Working At', 'Working at Greater Depth' in relation to the age related expectations to describe the attainment of pupils. We are now moderating work internally and externally with other schools to ensure accuracy. The system is in it's infancy but we are confident it will be robust enough to be used for a sustained period to ensure consistency over time. Most importantly it will offer the opportunity to celebrate what children know/can apply and ensure appropriate challenge is given to learners.

Governor of the month

Katrina Napthine, one of our Governor team, enjoyed a day exploring school life with us in February as part of our monitoring system. She focused on pupils targets and saw that pupils were able to discuss their learning and next steps to improve. She also spent time discussing financial choices as we budget for next year. The 'external' view was informative for us and enabled her to deepen her knowledge of the school and the provision we offer.

Easter Egg Raffle

A reminder that the Easter Egg Raffle extravaganza is soon! We welcome your donations to the school office where I promise to keep little (and big) hands away from the eggs until the draw date.

Forging friendships

Our Y6 pupils have seen their 'buddies' from Charles Dickens Primary, Southwark, London, last week. On arrival at Wick Court Farm our pupils worked together to plant trees, muck-out stables and herd sheep! They also had time to relax and play games together. Arthur drew the eye of the radio team and enjoyed being interviewed by them too! The trip strengthens our links with the Charles Dickens School and broadens the children's opportunity to develop a wide range of relationships.

Local Studies

Learning about the local area has been a focus for KS pupils this term. Our pupils enjoyed hearing from Mr Tom Low, an expert on the area, this week. He offered in depth knowledge of our locality which was appreciated by the children as it helped answer their questions. Many thanks to Mr Low for giving of his time generously to offer our pupils his understanding and further their learning.

Front Entrance

Our front entrance has now been refurbished. You can find school policies, leaflets signposting other agencies who can support children & families and information about local activities for pupils there. A huge thank you to Mr Dougan, Governor and digital art teacher, for his craftsmanship and continued commitment to our school through leading the project.

Dates for your diary

Some advance notice of key dates....

Term 4

March

- Tues 1st - Tom Low visit with KS2: Local Studies focus
- Thurs 3rd - Y6 pupils link with Charles Dickens, London pupils in Wick Court
- Fri 4th - Class 1 Assembly (C1 parents welcome)
- Mon 7th - Value for learning and life: Kindness
- Thur 10th - 6.30pm: Country Dancing Festival
- Fri 11th - am: Mock Trial Day
- 10am: Class 2 Assembly (C2 parents welcome)
- pm: Small School Football Tournament
- Mon 14th - Y4 pupils: 'In the Net' (Internet safety play/workshop) at Park Juniors
- Tues 15th - pm: Shakespeare with Maidenhill Secondary School students
- Wed 16th - Parent Evening
- Thurs 17th - Parent Evening
- Fri 18th - 10am: C3 Assembly (C3 parents welcome)
- am: Visit from students from Japan
- Wed 23rd - pm: PA led Easter Egg hunt in school
- Thurs 24th - PA led Crazy hair day (No permanent colour/cuts please!)
- PA led Easter Egg Draw after school
- Last day for pupils

Term break - Fri 25th March - Mon 11th April 2016.....

Term 5

April

- Mon 11th - Term 5 commences for pupils
- School Nurse hearing & vision checks with Rec pupils
- Thurs 14th - pm: Y5&6 pupils swimming lessons
- Thurs 21st - pm: Y5&6 pupils swimming lessons
- Thurs 28th - pm: Y5&6 pupils swimming lessons
- Fri 29th - Pie Corbett, Writing Specialist, to start project with Rec-Y2 pupils

May

- Mon 2nd - Bank Holiday
- Wed 4th - Playgroup pre-school smooth transition sessions start on site
- Thurs 5th - pm: Y5&6 pupils swimming lessons
- Mon 9th - KS 2 Assessment week (**Please ensure children are in school for this week**)
- Mon 9th - KS 1 Assessment weeks (**Please ensure children are in school for this week**)
- Thurs 12th - pm: Y5&6 pupils swimming lessons
- Thurs 19th - pm: Y5&6 pupils swimming lessons
- Wed 25th - Class & leavers Photographs (TBC)
- Thurs 26th - pm: Y5&6 pupils swimming lessons
- Fri 27th - 107th May Queen Celebration
- Last day for pupils

Thank you, as always, for your continued support,

Zoe Avastu



Aiming high.....together