



NEWSLETTER

January 2016

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year and welcome back to a shorter but key term in the school year when children are encouraged to challenge themselves to achieve new heights in their learning and Year 6 get to grips with what the new style SATs have in store for them in May. Last night we held an information evening for Year 6 parents to ensure that parents and children are as prepared as possible for the new tests that are set to be even more challenging than in previous years. Unfortunately the number of parents at this meeting was small so if you were unable to make it, please look on the website where the presentation slides will be available to view.

This term we are continuing our work on Growth Mindset, encouraging the children to embrace challenge, keep going and overcome obstacles. Last week we introduced the children to our new 'Learning Powers' helping children to consider what Growth Mindset looks like in their learning and what will help them be successful and achieve their goals. Our Learning Powers are: **Concentration, resilience, responsibility, curiosity, risk taking, creativity, co-operation and enjoyment.** Please use these at home with your child when completing homework or when faced with other challenges in their everyday lives. We also ask that you try to model this yourselves by avoiding language such as '*clever*', '*useless*' or '*can't*' and replacing it with '*confident*', '*worked hard*' or '*can't do it YET!*'

We are also now using random groupings in class so children are not sitting in ability groups but instead work with a range of different children over the term. This is having a wonderful effect on the children who, instead of seeing themselves as being part of a particular ability group, consider where they are in their learning at any particular time. In lessons, they then choose the level of challenge they feel suits them best. As a result they are developing independence in their learning and making judgements about their understanding and next steps – an amazing step forward!

At the end of last term the school had a monitoring visit from the Local Authority to evaluate the progress we have made since the Ofsted inspection in March. I am pleased to inform you that the report was extremely positive and the local authority recognise that we continue to make improvements and are not willing to 'sit back' on our good judgement! The report states that the quality of teaching has strengthened further with teaching being typically good with some outstanding practice; the new assessment systems are being secured and the school focuses on the right aspects of improvement. I would like to add that the whole staff team are extremely committed and have their sights set firmly on a future judgement of outstanding and the children are an enormous credit to you showing great enthusiasm and determination in their learning. What more can we ask for?

Mrs C Martinez
Headteacher

May Place House Donation

The school received a letter from May Place House thanking everyone for the kind donations of cakes given after the Christmas Fayre. Thank you to everyone who bought and baked cakes for the event.

FFLS Christmas Fayre

A total of £1800 was raised. Thank you to everyone who supported this event.



Fundraising for Sebastian's Action Trust

I am pleased to announce that the Year 6 children raised a total of **£113.72** at their cake sale after school on the last day of term. We are looking forward to hearing what they have in store next – well done!

DIARY DATES



			Other Notable Dates
JAN		MARCH	
20 th	Year 3 visit to Butser Ancient Farm	2 nd	Parent Drop in with Mrs Docherty 8.40am – 9.40am
22 nd	Second Hand Uniform Shop 3.40pm-4pm	3 rd	World Book Day
		15 th	Parents Evening 4pm – 6pm
FEB		16 th	Parents Evening 5.30pm – 8pm
1 st	Year 6 visit QMC - Science trip	18 th	Sports Relief Day – Further information to follow
2 nd	Year 6 visit QMC - Science trip	19 th	FFLS Easter Egg Hunt
3 rd	Parent Drop in with Mrs Docherty 8.40am – 9.40am	19 th	Basingstoke Music Festival - Choir
5 th	FFLS Disco	21 st	Year 3 Topic Outcome
12 th	INSET Day	23 rd	Year 6 Topic Outcome
15 th –19 th	Half term	23 rd	School Choir Concert at Christchurch 6pm
23 rd - 1 st March	Travelling Books	24 th	Last day of term
27 th	FFLS – Ice Hockey	25 th – 8 th April	Easter Holiday
		11 th April	INSET Day
		12 th April	First day of term