



Horspath Church of England Primary School
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Headteacher: Mrs. Emma Coleman
Chair of Governors: Mrs. Munaza Dogar

1st July 2016

Dear parents,

I hope everyone is looking forward to Family Challenge (10.30am) and the fete tomorrow (12.30pm) - fingers crossed for some sunshine!

You will have seen the email from the school governors this week about the decision to start the process of conversion to an academy and to join the River Learning Trust. It is a big step for us, but a very exciting one, and I am certain that it is the best thing to do for all the children in our school. There is a long process to go through, including a formal consultation period for you to express your views, but I am very pleased that we have taken the first steps.

The NUT is proposing strike action for teachers on Tuesday 5th of July. Horspath School will not be affected and all of the classes will be open as usual.

Family Challenge and School Fete

The Family Challenge will be held this Saturday 2nd July from 10.30am to 12pm. The actual activity is being kept a secret until the morning, but we **urgently** need: newspapers kitchen roll/wrapping paper tubes cardboard boxes wool/string.

It is always a fantastic morning and I hope to see you there and at the fete afterwards.

Michelle Bailey

Enterprise Week

The children have been busy decorating and making some items to sell at the fete tomorrow. They have calculated the cost price, selling price and potential profit for the PTA – so please come and spend generously or the careful calculating will have been in vain! There are wind chimes, jewellery, key rings, fridge magnets and a range of photo frames on offer.

For the past week we have been making jewellery and wind chimes. We have been working really hard and it has been so much fun, we would like lots of people to buy our products. Leah in Willow Class

Cycling Proficiency



Many congratulations to our Year 5 cyclists who all passed their test! Thank you to all of our parent helpers (Fabrice Haute, Richard Hughes, Anne Rawlings, Carolyn Barrett, Steph Porritt, Lucy Darnell and Louise Kenworthy) without whom we couldn't run this annual event and, of course, to our hard working and endlessly patient cycling trainers Lee Russell-King and Becky Webb.

Music Assembly

I hope everyone enjoyed our lovely music assembly last week. I was really pleased to see the children demonstrating their talents on a range of instruments, along with some lovely singing, Oak Class playing their Ukeles and rounding off with the school band.

There are some highlights on the school website: <http://www.horspath.oxon.sch.uk/gallery/music-assembly-june-2016/>

Classes for 2016-17

Your child will be bringing home a letter today telling them which class they will be in next year. The children will spend the day with their new class next Friday. If you would like an explanation of how we work out the classes please see <http://www.horspath.oxon.sch.uk/classes/structure/>

Governor News

Parent Governor Vacancies

In September the school governing body will have two vacancies for parent governors. It is our intention to hold elections for these posts at the beginning of term, with the aim of having the new governors in place by the first governing body meeting on 20th September.

Modern school governance has gone beyond the "well-meaning volunteer"; governors do not need to be experts in the field of education, but do need to be interested in the life of the school, the welfare of all, and are required to make an active contribution to ensure that the children achieve the very best they can. Individuals can make significant contributions by putting their professional expertise to good use. We would particularly welcome nominations from people with experience in HR or premises management, but we do not want to deter anyone who has different skills to offer.

If you would like to know more about the role, the National Governors' Association website has a good introduction at <http://www.nga.org.uk/Be-a-Governor/Be-a-Governor.aspx>. You are also welcome to contact Munaza Dogar, Chair of Governors for an informal discussion about applying prior to nominations opening in September.

Play Equipment

The governors understand that there has been a lot of discussion amongst parents about the recent email on the subject of use of the adventure playground and amphitheatre out of school hours. In a local authority maintained school such as Horspath, the head teacher is obliged to follow the health and safety guidance from Oxfordshire County Council. In a recent risk assessment of the play equipment, the local authority explicitly instructed Mrs Coleman that the school cannot allow children to use the equipment "at their own risk" outside school hours, because we are not allowed to delegate our health and responsibilities in this way. We recognise that some parents may find this frustrating, but this was not an arbitrary decision made by the school – it was a requirement of the school's legal responsibilities.

Summer Term dates for your diary:

Family Assembly 2.45pm

Family Challenge and School Fete

Academy meetings

Year 6 Transfer Days

Whole School Move up day

No Family Assembly

Sports Day

Alternative Sports Day

Friday 1st July

Saturday 2nd July

Tues 5th July 9am, 3.15pm & 6pm

7th-8th July

Friday 8th July

Friday 8th July

Tuesday 12th July (am)

Thursday 14th July

Leavers' Service
Area Sports (Years 4,5 & 6)

Friday 15th July (pm)
Friday 15th July (evening)

School Closes

Wednesday 20th July 1.30pm

The term dates for 2016/17 are on the school website.

I hope you have a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Emma Coleman
Headteacher