



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

20th October 2016

Dear Parents,

Governor News

Academy Consultation

The formal consultation on the school's plan to convert to become an academy closed on October 3rd. The governors would like to thank everyone who took the time to respond. These responses were all positive, and raised some useful questions. The governing body will be meeting in mid-November to discuss the results of the consultation and we will respond in more detail after that meeting.

Parent Survey

Many thanks to everyone who took the time to complete the recent parent survey. A total of 33 responses were received, and these were overwhelmingly positive. A summary of the results can be found on the school website at <http://www.horspath.oxon.sch.uk/survey-results/>. After analysing the results, the governors felt that three statements in the survey were worthy of further discussion due to their relatively lower percentage of parental agreement:

This school deals effectively with bullying

Only 42% agreed with this statement, but the remaining 58% said "don't know". We believe that this is because most children have never experienced bullying at Horspath School, so parents have never had cause to find out how well it is dealt with.

I receive valuable information from the school about my child's progress

67% agreed with this statement, 15% disagreed and 18% didn't know. We attributed the "don't know" to new parents who have not yet received any progress reports. Staff and governors do acknowledge that progress reporting last year was something of a step backwards on the previous year due to the Department for Education making wholesale changes to primary school assessment. This made it difficult to report progress accurately last year. However, with a full year of assessment on the new system now in place, we expect a big improvement this year. It is anticipated that progress reports will be delivered to parents three times a year, at the end of each term. After the first report (before Christmas) we will also run another survey asking for feedback on these reports.

My child receives appropriate homework for their age

15% disagreed with this. Homework is, of course, always an emotive subject and the governors are aware that parental opinions on what constitutes "appropriate homework" vary considerably. We do fully support the school's position that a modest amount of homework helps the children's progress and their journey towards being independent learners. However, we also recognise that the Learning Log Policy on the website does not currently represent a full Homework Policy. Therefore, it will be updated to include a clear indication of homework expectations, including reading, spelling and times tables. A number of parents made specific comments about the nature of Learning Log tasks - we are grateful for these, and they will be taken into consideration during the update of this policy.

Harvest Festival

Thank you for all of your kind donations of groceries for the Emergency Food Bank, they were much appreciated. I hope you all enjoyed our Harvest Festival Service. There were some songs this year that I hadn't heard before, it makes a change from the Big Red Combine Harvester song that the children love and the staff have learned to dread!

There are some lovely photos and video on the school website:
<http://www.horspath.oxon.sch.uk/gallery/harvest-festival-2016/>

Pumpkin Competition

Congratulations to the winners of the pumpkin decorating competition are:

Acorn & Year 1 – Paige

Years 2 & 3 – Rose

Years 4, 5 & 6 – Euan

There were some fabulous entries this year so well done to everyone who took part. Please remember to collect the pumpkins at the end of the day, thank you. Do please join us for the cake sale after school today.

An Anglo Saxon morning

As part of our topic in Oak class this term the children enjoyed an Anglo-Saxon workshop. It gave children the opportunity to learn more about Anglo-Saxon life, they had the chance to try on some traditional clothing and take part in some typical Anglo - Saxon crafts. They all created thumb pots out of clay and decorated them using specific tools and moved on to weaving a colourful braid out of wool. They all thoroughly enjoyed the day were left with great enthusiasm to learn more!

Many thanks to the PTA for funding this exciting morning.

Miss Peet – Oak Class



Pine Class

We will be running Pine Class again for some of our Year 5 pupils each morning Monday to Thursday after half term. Parents of children in Year 5 will be sent an email later today.

Mathletics

Please remember to encourage your child to log in to the Mathletics Learning Platform to practise the skills and concepts taught in their Maths lessons. Younger children will probably need, and benefit from, your help with Mathletics until they become more familiar with the program.

Please remember:

- o All logins are at the front of reading diaries.
- o There are choices to simplify or choose greater challenge within each activity as needed.
- o If you're confused, click on the question mark for a guided example.
- o If you click on the questions and they will be read out
- o For those children/ parents new to Mathletics please see the parents Mathletics guide on the school website.

Every child in Beech, Lime, Oak and Willow has been allocated some activities to complete, after which they can choose their favourite activities and games.

Mrs Marshall

Pupil Progress Leader

Diary Dates

Thursday 20th October

Pumpkin Competition

Cake sale

Friday 21st October

School Closed for INSET

Half Term

24th- 28th October

Early Warning

Year 6 Yenworthy

7th-11th November

Friendship Week

14th – 18th November

School Closes

Friday 16th December

INSET

Tuesday 3rd January

School reopens

Wednesday 4th January

Half Term

13th Feb – 17th Feb

Easter Holidays

10th – 21st April

INSET

Monday 24th April

School Reopens

Tuesday 25th April

Half Term

29th May – 2nd June

School Closes

Friday 21st July

I hope you have a lovely half term break.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Emma Coleman