



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

22nd January 2015

Dear parents,

I wish the weather would decide what it's going to do, I'm not sure whether soaking is better than freezing or not!

It seems to have been a really busy couple of weeks at school with each class starting on their new topic. We have also had the lighting bar fitted in the hall ready for our Christmas production – I have never been so prepared so early!

Paired Reading

As I am writing this newsletter, with the exception of Acorn Class, the children have all swapped classes for their weekly paired reading. The younger and older children are paired up to read to each other and talk about what they are reading. We trialled this during Friendship Week and it proved to be very popular with the children, this is what they said:

I found that quite fun actually. Anton

It was really fun and interesting reading with my partner. Emma F

I enjoyed it because it was a pleasure to help my partner. Ryan

I liked it because I got to help someone younger. Leah

I enjoyed teaching him because it was challenging. George

I thought it was a great learning experience because it is very good to talk about a book. Noah

I found it good because you're like a teacher. Saif

I liked it because Charli helped me with some words. Lillie

They were giving me really good tips. Zak

If I was stuck, she gave me some time to figure it out. Rhitika

When I was stuck on the words she helped me. Emma W

Years 3 and 4 Swimming

Can I remind you to make sure your child has a towel packed with their swimming kit, thank you.

Athletics

The final of the Sportshall Athletics competition will be held on Friday 26th of February, luckily just before our Year 6s set off for Yenworthy Lodge. More details to follow.

Head Lice

Our little unwelcome friends are breeding and spreading merrily across the school. They don't do any harm and are definitely not a sign of poor hygiene, but even so they are not welcome!

I discovered today that the itch comes, not from the biting but from an allergy to headlice, a significant portion of the population don't have the allergy and so don't notice they have head lice – amazing what you learn doing my job!

This may be helpful: <http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice/Pages/Treatment.aspx>

Website Updates

We have a new policy regarding our provision for more able and talented children which can be found at: <http://www.horspath.oxon.sch.uk/parents/policies/> and replaces our Gifted and Talented Policy.

We have also added a summary of the key development areas that we are working on this year which can be found at: <http://www.horspath.oxon.sch.uk/about-the-school/sdp/>

Maths Curriculum Evening

We have been teaching the new maths curriculum for some time now and like other subjects in the 2014 National Curriculum, the maths curriculum is more challenging. Some of the content has changed, children are expected to know more at an earlier age for example children in Year 1 (previously a Year 2 objective) now learn to count to and from 100, in 1's, 2's, 5's and 10s. Some content is new, Year 4's are now taught to add and subtract fractions.

Mrs Herring (Headteacher at Marsh Baldon School) and I have invited Nathan Crook, a leading maths consultant, to lead an informal meeting for all Horspath and Marsh Baldon parents to discuss the key aims of the Maths Curriculum. The session will be very practical which we hope will give you an insight into how your child learns and how you can support their learning.

The meeting will take place in **Marsh Baldon School hall** on Thursday 28th January 6.30-7.30pm.

Spring Term dates for your diary:

Friday 22 nd January	Music Assembly Rehearsal – <u>No</u> Family Assembly
Friday 29 th January	Music Assembly 2.30pm
Thursday 4 th February	Acorn Class Fairy Tales Open Morning 9am - 11am
Friday 5 th February	Family Assembly 2.45pm
Tuesday 9 th February	Yenworthy Meeting for Year 6 parents 3.15pm
Friday 12 th February	<u>No</u> Family Assembly
Half Term	15 th Feb – 19 th Feb
Wednesday 24 th February	Parents' Evening
Thursday 25 th February	Parents' Evening
Friday 26 th February	Family Assembly 2.45pm
29 th Feb – 4 th March	Sportshall Athletics Final
Friday 4 th March	Year 6 Yenworthy Residential
Friday 11 th March	Family Assembly 2.45pm
Friday 18 th March	Yenworthy Assembly for Year 6 parents
Tuesday 22 nd March	<u>No</u> Family Assembly
Wednesday 23 rd March	<u>No</u> Family Assembly
Thursday 24 th March	Year 6 IMPs Trip
Easter Holidays	Easter Service 2.30pm
Summer Term:	School Closes at 1.30pm
INSET	25 th March – 8 th April
School Reopens	Monday 11 th April
Key Stage 2 SATs Tests	Tuesday 12 th April
Key Stage 1 SATs Tests	9th May – 13th May
Half Term	23rd May – 27th May
School Closes	30 th May – 3 rd June
	Wednesday 20 th July

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

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Emma Coleman
Headteacher