



Horspath Church of England Primary School
Blenheim Road, Horspath, OXFORD OX33 1RY
Tel/Fax 01865 872702

email: office.3161@horspath.oxon.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs. Emma Coleman

Chair of Governors: Mrs. Munaza Dogar

27th May 2016

Dear parents,

It's been a really busy half term, with an even busier half term to come! Do keep a close eye on the diary dates below for family assemblies, cake sales, fetes and sports days etc.

Attendance

We now have a page on our school website giving information about attendance - www.horspath.oxon.sch.uk/attendance. We have set a school target of at least 95% attendance for all pupils, to put this into context there are 190 days in a school year or 380 sessions (morning and afternoon). A child with attendance of 95% will have missed 19 sessions or 9 ½ days over the year. Most of our English and Maths topics are a week long so a child missing 9 ½ days could miss two complete topics which may only be taught once during the year. Clearly not all absences are avoidable, we are all ill from time to time, but please try to book doctor and dentist appointments outside school hours wherever possible and match your holiday dates with ours. Every day counts!

Computing and Digital Leaders

We have just had 30 Chromebooks delivered and our network is being upgraded over half term. These two things combined should make a big difference to our Computing lessons in the near future! Application forms have also gone out this week for Digital Leaders. These are children in current years 3, 4 and 5 who are confident computer users with the skills to help others. There will be a selection process and we hope to recruit ten Digital Leaders to begin with. Forms should be returned to Mrs Westhead by Tuesday 7th June.

Mrs Westhead

Cycling

Once our Year 5s have passed their cycling proficiency test we do allow them to cycle home unaccompanied, with your written consent. Only Year 5s who have passed their cycling test or Year 6s are allowed to make their way home on their own; all other pupils need to be collected from the school playground so that they can walk or ride home with you.

Beech Class

As part of our Plant unit in science the children tasted lots of edible bulbs - raw/cooked onion, spring onion, raw garlic, pickled onions and garlic bread.

I didn't like any of the onions but I did like the garlic bread. Rose

I enjoyed the cooked onion, it was crunchy. I also liked the garlic bread. Frances

I liked all of them. We tried spring onion, pickled onion, raw onion, cooked onion, raw garlic and garlic bread. It was yummy! Milo

Mrs Kidd

I'm glad I didn't get too close to you after all that onion and garlic Milo!

Road safety advice on website

We have been sent a useful information booklet about helping your child to understand road safety which you might like to look at -

<http://www.horspath.oxon.sch.uk/parents/how-to-help-your-child-with/>

On this subject, can I ask you to be extra vigilant if you drive near the school in the weeks following half term while our Year 5 are be learning their road cycling skills.

Lime Class monster poems

What ate all your cornflakes for tea?

The monster that comes from your house.

What messes up your bed in glee?

The monster that comes from your house.

Jess

What is blacker than the blackest black?

The dark monster of doom.

What hides in the shadows and jumps out and says, "Boo!"

The dark monster of doom.

Isla

I hope that's all the "dark monster of doom" does Isla!

Queen's 90th Birthday

The children have requested a party to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday. Weather permitting, we will have a street (well, playground!) party in the afternoon on Friday 10th June. Our school band will be playing for us as we treat ourselves to some ice cream, cake and squash with our regal crowns on our heads! (Could you please provide an alternative snack on the day if your child has an allergy or food intolerance to any of these items. Thank you)

This will be followed by the PTA's royal themed cake sale.

Summer Term dates for your diary:

Friday 27 th May	<u>No</u> Family Assembly
Half Term	30 th May – 3 rd June
Year 5 Cycle Training	6 th – 20 th June (<i>Volunteer helpers still required!</i>)
Class photos	Friday 10 th June
Queen's Birthday Party	Friday 10 th June
PTA's Royal cake sale	Friday 10 th June
No Family Assembly	Friday 10 th June
Music Assembly Rehearsal –	No Family Assembly Friday 17 th June
Music Assembly	Friday 24 th June <u>2.30pm</u>
Year 6 Toplink Festival	Thursday 30 th June (am)
Family Assembly 2.45pm	Friday 1 st July
Family Challenge and School Fete	Saturday 2 nd July
Enterprise Week	4 th -8 th July
Year 6 Transfer Days	7 th -8 th July
Whole School Move up day	Friday 8 th July
No Family Assembly	Friday 8 th July
Sports Day	Tuesday 12 th July
Alternative Sports Day	Thursday 14 th July
Leavers' Service	Friday 15 th July (pm)
Area Sports (Years 4,5 & 6)	Friday 15 th July (evening)
School Closes	Wednesday 20 th July 1.30pm

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

I hope you have a lovely bank holiday weekend and I will see you all again in June!

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Emma Coleman
Headteacher