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Headteacher: Mrs. Emma Coleman

Chair of Governors: Mrs. Munaza Dogar

19<sup>th</sup> July 2017

Dear parents,

This will be the last newsletter from me before the summer so this is a good time to wish you a happy summer holiday and to thank you for all of the support you have given your children and the school over the year.

### **Area Sports**

Congratulations to all of the children in Key Stage 2 who took part in Area Sports last week. I am very pleased to say that we came a very close second overall. Well done everyone!

If you attended the event there are photos available to purchase:

Website: [www.mrcphoto.co.uk](http://www.mrcphoto.co.uk)

Click on the "Area Sports 2017" icon

Enter password: [gmac57pb](#)

Quicklink: <https://www.everybodysmile.biz/cgi-bin/public.cgi?Id=274704>



### **Music assembly**

There is a lovely video from the music assembly last week on our website at <http://horspath.oxon.sch.uk/gallery/music-assembly-july-2017/>. I have just written a piece for the River Learning Trust newsletter which includes all of the musical celebrations we have had over the last few weeks. Singing (if the school's rendition of 'Let it Go' last week is anything to go by!) and playing musical instruments has become a real strength of the school and owes much to the legacy of Mrs Cooke, who is leaving our school this week, but the regular music assemblies will continue!

### **Fete**

You will have seen the email from the PTA following the school fete but just a word of thanks from me on behalf of the school for such a lovely day and such a staggering amount raised.

### **Family Challenge 2017**

Thank you to all the families who took part in this year's challenge of building flying machines. There were some very creative designs including planes, drones and a dragon! Congratulations to the Porritt and Brand families on winning the challenge.



### **Sports Day**

I have just sneaked in from Sports Day to finish the newsletter. It was lovely to see so many of you there. I am always impressed at how much the older pupils look after the younger ones during sports day. I also love to see the effort and determination from the children who know they won't win in the running races but do their best anyway. We were so lucky with the weather as well: not too hot and not at all wet!

### **Photos and Videos**

Just a reminder that our policy is that videos and photos should only be shared on social media if they show only your child. The governors have always asserted that every parent has a right to refuse permission for photos of their child at school to be published online. Staff and parents alike need to respect this, but the difference is that parents cannot know which children the school holds consent for, and which it does not. It is important for you to know that we do have children in the school whose parents have not given consent.

We do put lots of videos and photos into the gallery on our school website and into the newsletter, these have been checked against our safeguarding policy and you are welcome to share the link to them on social media. You can find the policy at

<http://horspath.oxon.sch.uk/parents/policies/>

### **Steve Drywood Annual Maths Challenge**

Every year the year 5 and 6 children are invited to take part in a maths challenge in memory of Steve Drywood. This year the challenge involved discovering who had won the long jump event and then investigating Pascal's Triangle. Congratulations to these children who took part: Max, Jessie, Rosie, Connor, Vicky, Charli, Dylan, Hari, Seb, Jack, Kieran, Ivo, Euan, Alfie, James, Jamie, Frankie, Mila, Ruby, Evelyn, Lucy, Amy, Ellie, Grace and Rayaana.

I was very impressed with the standard of entries, as was my son Lewis, a maths graduate, who judged the competition. Congratulations to Evelyn who was judged to be the overall winner and to Rayaana, Grace, Ellie, Amy and Lucy who were runners up.

Mrs Bailey

Deputy Headteacher

### **Cycling Proficiency**

Unfortunately, Mrs. Webb and I are unable to continue cycle training next year. We are looking for volunteers to take over. Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue service will fully train you during September. It is a great thing to do. The children really enjoy it and it's lovely to see them progress and gain confidence. If you are interested, please let me know and I can pass your details onto Wendy Jennings at OFRS.

Mrs Russell-King

### **Governor News**

At the end of this term Janet Crooks will be standing down as a governor after nearly six years in the role; her contribution deserves special mention. With school finances under pressure like never before, it's impossible to overstate just how important Janet's work as a finance link governor and chair of the resources committee has been. The fact that Horspath School's finances are relatively healthy in comparison with many other schools around the country is not because we receive more money than they do (if anything, we receive less); it is because of good financial management in school and detailed financial oversight from Janet. Janet's attention to detail has also been invaluable to the achievements and standards committee, spending many hours studying data to ensure the school is held to account for the progress of every single pupil. The introduction of the new Pupil Tracker system was, in part, driven by Janet's advocacy of the need to be able to see a child's progress across their entire school career.

Over the last few years, the role of a school governor has changed. It is no longer enough to be well-meaning volunteer; it requires professionalism, expertise and dedication. Janet has consistently brought all three of these and has been a major factor in transforming the governing body into the professional, effective team that it is now.

As a school governor with strategic oversight of the school and little involvement in day-to-day operations, it's not uncommon sometimes to ask yourself "have I made a difference?" Janet should leave us with no doubts at all in this regard - her contributions have benefited every single child who has been at the school in the last six years, and the impact of her work will continue to be felt for many years to come.

Nominations for the parent governor vacancy need to be made by the 15th of September.

Munaza Dogar  
Chair of Governors

### **Curriculum**

We are planning to broaden the scope of our curriculum next year to include more trips and visits to engage and enthuse the children. We will be asking for the PTA to support us with funding this so your continued support for PTA events will be vital next year. We have also arranged for specialist art lessons as well as yoga and mindfulness lessons. We will move these lessons from class to class over the year as part of the cover for the teacher's planning time.

### **School Meals**

As from September the price of school meals will increase to £2.30 per meal for pupils in Years 3 to 6.

### **School Uniform**

The link to the school uniform information is: <http://horspath.oxon.sch.uk/parents/uniform/>  
School shoes need to be black leather or synthetic leather. They do need to be waterproof, including the upper surface, so the hybrid trainer/school shoe with the fabric side and top are not suitable. If you haven't taught your child to do up laces yet then please go for the Velcro options. Children are welcome to wear boots or wellies to and from school in winter but they do need black school shoes for the school day. Acorn class has a selection of wellies for outdoor play.

Please check your child's shoes regularly, the "I've got to wear my trainers because my school shoes don't fit/are broken/lost" excuse has a very short time limit!

### **Summer Term dates for your diary:**

Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> July	2.30pm Year 6 Leavers' Service
School Closes	Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> July <b>1.30pm</b>

Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> September	School re-opens
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**2017-18 Term dates can be found at: <http://horspath.oxon.sch.uk/news/term-dates/>**

Have a wonderful summer and I look forward to seeing you again in September.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Emma Coleman  
Headteacher