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No: 8

School Newsletter

March 2017

Phew! What a term!

It seems a long time ago that we returned from the Christmas holidays with our school in the midst of the building programme. Now the end of the building work is in sight and our new school is emerging. The plans are that the internal works will be completed by the end of the holiday and that the builders will be on site for about another two weeks to complete the exterior work and all carry out all the snagging jobs. During this term, everyone in our community has really pulled together to make sure that our children have continued to have the best possible learning experiences and your encouragement and positive feedback through parents' evenings, responses to questionnaires and informal discussion at the gate has been massively appreciated – it has really kept us all going, and we thank you!

Highlights this term have included the STEM Science project that our children have been involved in, with the winners presenting at Southampton University, along with all the sporting events - I have been told that just over 100 of our children have represented the school in a school sports team so far this year (with the summer term activities still to come!). In addition, this term our choir performed a lovely concert at Kings Community Church and last week we hosted pupils from 4 local schools, along with 17 of our pupils, in an orchestra workshop and concert led by Hampshire Music Service with funding we secured through Hampshire Chairman's Year of Music.

This term we celebrated World Book Day with an exciting visit from Gareth Jones and Garry Parsons who kept us entertained all day and inspired us to write. A group of our children also attended a special 'book club' day with Chris Riddell at Thornden School who presented the groups with a personalised illustration – something that they were very proud to accept.

Next term sees the start of another very busy and exciting term and we are pleased to be offering a range of after school clubs as the building work comes to an end. You should have had a letter today to confirm your child's place at a club if you requested one and we are pleased that every child who requested a place in a club has been allocated one. It just remains for everyone at Freegrounds Junior to wish you a 'Happy Easter'.

On Tuesday, 29th March the choir sang to the Halo Club at Kings Community Church



The choir went to Kings Community Church to sing some of the songs we learnt at school. I enjoyed going to the KCC because I loved singing in front of all the lovely friendly people who loved listening to us sing. I am really grateful for the Cadburys cream eggs we were given. They were delicious and I loved the round of applause to say 'Thank you' at the end.

By Imogen, Larch Class



On Tuesday 28th March 2017 the huge lorry arrived to take away the scaffolding. It will take at least a week to remove the scaffolding from outside the classrooms.



We are now on the last phase of the building work. This exciting phase has seen a new staff area and a new meeting room. In the next few weeks we will also be having a new sign at the front of our school with our new logo.

The School Council are also looking at ideas about what they could be putting in a time capsule that the builders have provided for the school.

Parents will also see the removal of large areas of scaffolding enabling us to see the new cladding.

We should also see improved lighting around the school to improve visibility when it is dark.

The builders are currently three weeks ahead of schedule for internal works and will hopefully be totally finished by the end of May.

By Izzy Phillips
Cedar Class



School Day

A quick reminder that the school day begins at 8.55am and all pupils are expected to be in school at this time. The register officially closes 15 minutes after the start time. If your child is absent, you must contact the school as soon as possible on the morning of the first day of absence and on each subsequent day. Any unrecorded absences will be followed up by a phone call. This is because we have a duty to ensure your child's safety as well as their regular school attendance.

Fundraising



Red Nose Day

On Friday 24th March we helped raise money for Comic Relief.

We had a great day and raised £358.80 for a great cause.

Mother's Day Shopping

Mother's Day Shopping Event raised £94.00, thank you for all your support. This money will go towards the play trail.

School Disco

The School Disco raised £329.00 and we received a lovely message from the Andy Maxwell the DJ.

"I want to thank you for having me again and I hope it was another success with such fantastic party hungry children."

DJ Andy would like to thank Freegrounds Junior children and staff for their amazing attitudes and dance ability. "It is always a pleasure and I look forward to entertaining you next time" said DJ Andy www.aacentertainment.org.uk

School Uniform

At Freegrounds Junior School we believe in taking pride in all areas of school life including appearance. This includes the wearing of a school uniform as it encourages pride in the school, a feeling of belonging and smart appearance. School uniform should be selected from the following:

Winter

Black skirt or black tailored trousers

White polo shirt

Green school sweatshirt

Black 'school' shoes

Summer

As above and/or

Green and White check gingham dress

Black tailored shorts

PE Uniform

The school PE uniform is considered as important to uphold as the school uniform. It is recommended that PE uniform is kept in a PE drawstring bag at school to ensure pupils have it to hand at all times. The uniform should be taken home each half term for washing.

Indoors

Slip on Black Plimsolls

Black Shorts

White T-shirt or white polo top

Outdoors

Lace up Plimsolls/trainers

White sports socks

Black shorts

White T-shirt or white polo top

In cold weather children may bring a tracksuit or similar to wear.

Hair styles

We realise that parents are often pressurised into allowing their children to sport 'fashion hair cuts'. These are not allowed at Freegrounds Junior School, nor are closely shaven heads or dyed hair. Hair grips should be kept to a minimum, be safe and discrete. Long hair should be tied back.

Jewellery

No jewellery is allowed at school for safety reasons. Make up, nail varnish and fake tattoos are not allowed. Watches are allowed.



DIARY DATES

Wednesday, 5th April - Last Day of Term for children

Thursday, 6th April - Inset Day

Friday, 7th April - Inset Day

Thursday, 6th April - Sunday, 23rd April - Easter Holidays for children

Monday, 24th April - First Day of Term

Monday, 24th April - 3.30-4.30pm - Extra-Curricular Clubs after school clubs start.

Tuesday, 2nd May - 3.30-4.00pm - Travelling Book Fair in School

Wednesday, 3rd May - 3.30-4.00pm - Travelling Book Fair in School

Thursday, 4th May - Year 3 Trip to Butser Ancient Farm

Friday, 5th May - Year 5 - In School The Openbox Theatre Company - The Amazon Rainforest

Monday, 8th May - SATS WEEK

Friday, 12th May - Year 6 Trip to Paultons Park

The school website www.freegrounds-jun.hants.sch.uk
has a link to the calendar on the front page



Pippins out of school club

For all bookings and enquiries please call Michelle Brightwell on 07926433130
or email at m.brightwell@freegrounds-jun.hants.sch.uk

Registration and Booking forms are also available on the Freegrounds Junior School website
under the Pippins tab. www.freegrounds-jun.hants.sch.uk

Health & Safety

Please can we ask that young children are supervised by parents/carers on the playground at the end of the day whilst waiting for the children to come out of school?

Children should **not** be riding bicycles / scooters or playing in the trees and we do ask that they wait in the lower half of the playground.

School Lane

We have noticed an increasing amount of traffic coming along School Lane at the start and the end of the day and we are reminding parents that for the safety of our children this road should not be used for dropping off and picking up. We have notified our local P.C.S.O. team and requested that they patrol School Lane over the next few weeks.

There is a secure handle system on the school gates for the safety of our children. The school gates are locked between 8.40am until 9am and from 3.10pm until 3.40pm each day as children arrive and leave the school grounds. At all other times during the school day the gates must remain closed. Please do not use School Lane or enter through the gates by car before, during or after the school day.