



Friday 20th July 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our final newsletter of the year. Each one takes quite some time to compile (this week's being no exception) and I hope you find them informative and entertaining. However, if you have any suggestions as to how they could be improved then please let me know.

RIAT

Last Friday I had the pleasure of accompanying Owls class to the Royal International Air Tattoo. Despite it taking about 2 1/2 hours to actually get there, we had a great day and the children were very well behaved. Unfortunately we experienced the worst bit of weather in weeks and the 100 year commemorative fly-by had to be cancelled. However, as always the Red Arrows and some of the other fast jets were incredible!

Tewkesbury Medfest

There was another trip last Friday as Eagles spent the day at the Tewkesbury Medfest. It was a very hot day but great fun was had by all and all the children and adults looked fantastic in their medieval costumes.

Inter School NFL Tournament

On Wednesday Mr Major and Mrs Fowler travelled with thirteen of our children, along with a number of parents, up to West London for the National Finals of the Schools' American Football Tournament. It was a very long day as everyone had to be in school by 6:10 am and they didn't return until after 7:00 pm! It was well worth it though as everyone had a thoroughly enjoyable and memorable day - our little school managed to finish in 9th place overall, only losing to the eventual finalists. I'd like to say very well done to all the children who represented the school so well - your behaviour and attitude was impeccable and thank you for the tremendous parental support.

Nature in Art trip

What a busy week it's been for many of our pupils! Yesterday the whole school went to the Nature in Art Museum - quite a contrast to American Football but no less enjoyable for many. The visiting artist, Gary Hodges, (worth a quick google) is incredibly talented - the children were fascinated by his work and he offered them some helpful advice and inspiring ideas when we spoke to him. The children really enjoyed looking at the exhibits but actually having a go at producing their own wonderful art through weaving, batik or printing was fantastic!

Eagles Performance - Across the Universe

I thought our Y5 and 6 children performed really well yesterday evening and the second show is at 6:00pm today. They certainly rose to the occasion and their acting and singing skills were impressive. Mrs Holt, Mrs Jackson and Mr Major have put such a lot of effort into writing, producing and directing the performance - well done and thank you so much to everyone involved.

Goodbye Year 6!

We will obviously be saying goodbye to our Y6 children next Tuesday and we wish them all the very best of luck for the future - thank you, you've been a great Y6!

End of Year Awards Assembly - A REPEAT OF LAST WEEK'S MESSAGE

Our final assembly of the year is on the last day of term -Tuesday 24th July at 1:45 pm and the parents of our Year 6 children are invited to attend.

ParentPay

Please be reminded that all Early Birds, Night Owls, KS2 lunches should be paid in advance, and that all arrears must be cleared by the last day of term - many thanks.

Change for Life

The latest "Train Like A Jedi" information from the Change4Life team has recently been sent home. I know that nearly all our pupils are very active but I hope you found the information helpful.

Library Summer Reading Challenge

Our local libraries have numerous activities planned during the school summer holidays, including the popular Summer Reading Challenge. This year children have to read 6 books over the holidays and visit the library at least 3 times. For further information regarding their extensive programme of events just head to evenbrite.co.uk

Communication Using Class Dojo A REPEAT OF LAST WEEK'S MESSAGE

I know that some parents have found Class Dojo to be a very useful communication tool but unfortunately, from the beginning of next term, the class teachers will not be able to use Class Dojo to exchange messages with parents. There are various reasons as to why we've had to make this difficult decision, including the fact that we now have to operate under much more stringent data protection laws. In order to deal with any issues, the teachers will continue to make themselves available at the start and end of the school day and of course we'd be very happy to make an appointment with you in order to deal with more serious concerns.

Winchcombe Walk - Monday 23rd July

Please be reminded that we are meeting at 8:40 am at Winchcombe Secondary School with the aim of setting off on our walk by 9:15 am. It would be great if children could gain some sponsorship for this event, using the form that's already been sent out. Parents are welcome to join us and we will be back at school by the usual pick up time.

Winchcombe Show - Monday 27th August - A REPEAT OF LAST WEEK'S MESSAGE

Once again there is an Art competition - this year children 14 years and under are being asked to make a flag, no larger than 100 cm by 75 cm, on the theme of "The Seaside". There's no entry fee but cash prizes will be available; £5 for 1st place, £3 for 2nd and £2 for 3rd place - group entries are also welcome.

Gretton's Got Talent

The judges, Mrs Holt, Mrs Jones, Mr Major and Mr Bridges made a big effort to look the part and the children performed with great skill and enthusiasm - what a range of talents we had on show; comedy, music, karate, dancing, gymnastics, singing, memory challenges, hula hooping - even cake making! Entertainment was the real winner during the final of GGT last Monday afternoon but in the end the judges decided that Isla and Lauren were the worthy winners - their singing was absolutely amazing! Special mention must go to "Karate Kid" Josh Denne in 4th place, "The Guitar Girl" Lara in 3rd and "The M&M Comedy Duo" of Monty and Marley in 2nd but a huge well done and thank you to everyone who entered.

Goodbye Mrs Jones!

Although we won't officially say goodbye to Mrs Jones until next Tuesday, the children and staff wished her the best of luck in her new role during this morning's assembly and we thanked her for all her wonderful efforts over the years. We're very sorry to see Mrs Jones go - she's a fantastic teacher, teaching assistant and forest school leader and we will certainly miss her sense of fun and enthusiasm!

Au Revoir Mrs Jackson

Mrs Jackson starts her maternity leave next week and we all wish her the very best of luck with the birth of her second child - exciting times in the Jackson household and we look forward to receiving further news during the autumn term! While Mrs Jackson is away Mrs Holt will be teaching Eagles full time, as well as temporarily taking on the role of Special Educational Needs Coordinator.

Diary Dates

Fri 20th July (6:00 pm)

Mon 23rd July

Tue 24th July

Eagles end of year production (Rescheduled date)

Whole- school Winchcombe Walk.

Final assembly (1:45 pm) **parents of our Y6 children are welcome to attend.**

Last day of the academic year.

Mon 3rd September

Tue 4th September

INSET Day (school closed to children)

Start of Term 1 (2018 to 2019)

Thank you to FOGS

On behalf of all the children and staff I would like to say a huge thank you to the FOGs team for everything they've done for the school over the past academic year. We are grateful for all the events you've organised and for being so keen to use the funds that you raise to support the needs of the school.

Thank you from FOGS

Thank you so much to everyone who has supported our events this year - whether behind the scenes, a helping hand on the day, giving donations or by simply turning up and enjoying the fun!
This year FOGS has spent £3,985.78 on our children and made a £2,000 Playground Project donation - without your continued support all this could not be possible:

Classroom supplies £400

Coaches for Nature in Art whole school trip £320

Chess sets for Chess club £60

Forest School Kit £100.08

Additional reading books £134.92

Numicon maths resource £1,052.53

PA System £281.67

Life Education Bus £350

Dance coin belts £43.50

K'Nex Workshop £250

Year 4 eSafety play £100

Display bookcase £171.89

Globe £15.44

Maths resource £65

Leavers Hoodies £152.25

Wear Your PJ's to School Day match funding, for playground equipment: £88.75

Kingfishers playground equipment: £399.75

Playground Project Donation: £2,000

Well done and thank you to all the current Committee members, for their time and commitment:

Mr Woolston

Mrs Holt

Zoe Howell

Beth Wycherley

Abigail Holland

Laura Davis

Gemma Weatherly-Kaye

Mel Riley

Marta Dockar Drysdale

Kerry Schumacher

I hope you have a super summer and we're looking forward to another successful year of fundraising starting in September!

News from around the classes

Robins

Avast me hearties! The Lucky Lobster has set sail with a band of Robins aboard armed with a treasure map and telescopes in search of gold. Along the way they feared they were lost at sea and wrote letters in a bottle to get help. To keep them going they baked pirate cupcakes and sang sea shanties. They are hoping to reach Treasure Island by Tuesday!

Kingfishers

Kingfishers have enjoyed designing their playground in anticipation for the big build on Friday afternoon! We visited the school field for some inspiration and whilst there, enjoyed an afternoon of parachute games. The children were great listeners and lots of fun was had by all!

Owls

Owls finished their newspaper articles this week about James' arrival in New York on the peach. We have also been enjoying a shape sorting game to revise our knowledge of different polygons. Our trip to Nature in Art was enjoyed by all and we have been looking back and reflecting on some of the exciting activities we have taken part in this year. Special mention to Jamie, Jemimah, Ava, Josh, Matilda and William for reaching 200 nights in their reading records - a fantastic achievement!

Eagles

Eagles became eco-warriors on Wednesday. They learned that by 2020 the number of disposable plastic bottles sold will be 1 trillion per year, about half of which will be thrown away rather than recycled. They formed teams, each designing a logo and creating a mascot before filming documentaries about reducing, reusing and recycling plastic. The end results are very inspiring - we look forward to seeing what next year's new Eco Monitors will do!

Birthday Bulletin



Birthdays coming up.....

Archie Herbert, Bonny Howell, Will Parker, Erin Riley, Sarah Murphy, Charlotte Oliver, Matilda Finney, Caleb Hammond, Jack Tustin, Harry Carey, Belle Herbert and Will Tingle

Congratulations!

Remember a packed lunch will be needed on Monday but to help your child choose their meals next Tuesday, here's the menu;

TUESDAY 24.07.18
Chicken Enchilada with Jacket Wedges
OR
Macaroni Cheese
OR
Filled Baguette with Ham/Cheese/Tuna or Egg
Peas, Coleslaw
Peach Upside Down Cake/ Yogurt/Fruit Platter

This week's 'Golden Children' (20.07.18)

Robins

Dougie Steward for showing such generosity when offering to share his cupcake.

Kingfishers

Beth Denne for reading so regularly at home- she has read almost every day at home this year!

Owls

Josh Denne, Jemimah Richardson and Joseph Pringle for their consistently amazing attitude to practising their spellings on Spellodrome.

Eagles

Jack Tustin, Santino Lucar and Ollie Isherwood for their eco video.

Academic Standards including SATs Results

Standards in the key skills of reading, writing and maths are important to us but nowhere near as important as providing a genuinely broad and balanced curriculum, filled with hugely memorable and inspiring experiences, such as those described in our weekly newsletters - just think about the fantastic events the children have experienced recently and this is all down to the dedication of our brilliant staff.

However, OFSTED judge us primarily on the standards our children achieve in the key skills at certain stages of their school career and of course we want to prepare our pupils well for the next stage of their education. I'm not the sort of Headteacher to bombard you with statistics as to how well our pupils have done compared to other schools but we have done very well! The standards achieved by our YR children are once again very high and all our Y1 children passed the Phonics Screening Check - fantastic! Our KS1 (Y2) SATs results are very pleasing given the progress that many children have made and our KS2 (Y6) scores were the highest for quite some time. For example, 100% of the cohort achieved or exceeded the expected standard in all of the tests - Reading Comprehension, Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling and Maths. In my 12 years as a Headteacher, this is the first time I have known a cohort to achieve this - awesome!

And Finally

I would like to end by thanking all the parents who have been very supportive and appreciative of our efforts throughout my first year as Head of this great little school; it's a manically busy place all the time and everyone works really hard, over long hours for the benefit of your children - who are usually delightful to work with. I know we don't get everything right, we're only human and mistakes will be made along the way - sorry about that but together we can continue to make Gretton Primary School a wonderful place for your children to play and learn.

Best wishes to all members of the school community and I hope that when it finally arrives, you have a great summer holiday.

Mr R Woolston
Headteacher