

Monday 15th January 2018

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you all had a good break with your families. It did seem rather strange to be half-way through the first week and to have already had Christmas, didn't it?

Pantomime and Party

Thank you very much for the food that you sent in for the party. There was more than enough to go round and it seemed to be much more appreciated than when we used to have it just a couple of hours after their school lunch.

It was lovely to spend the morning at the Georgian Theatre watching 'the Wizard of Oz' and the children were particularly impressed by Toto the dog.

Reading

Many congratulations to Katie, Cicely and Annabel who were each a lucky winner of a £10 book token at the end of last term. Every time your child's reading record shows they read five times in a week and were checked by an adult then their name goes into the end of term draw.



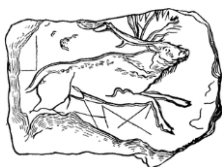
This Term

Class 1



The theme for Class 1 is 'London's Burning' and the children will be learning about the Fire of London. They will be looking at materials in science and construction in DT linked to this theme. In PE they will be improving their throwing and catching skills. In PSHE they will be learning about a healthy lifestyle and in RE they will be learning about 'Belonging' in relation to Islam. In English their learning will come from 'Iggy Peck Architect', 'The Three Little Pigs' and 'Scarecrow's Wedding'.

Class 2



Class 2's History study will be 'Stone Age to Iron Age'. Their art work this will involve a study of Mondrian and in music they will be looking at pitch and diction in relation to singing. In RE they are finding out about 'Religion and the individual'. In Computing their learning will progress from spreadsheets to other modes of data handling. In DT they have a focus on nutrition in cookery and their French theme is 'Les Monstres'. In PE they will be developing their gymnastics skills and also their dance skills. In PSHE they will be learning about healthy lifestyles. They will be investigating 'States of Matter' in science and, in English, they will be learning about oral story-telling skills. In maths, their topics will be time and addition and subtraction.

Class 3

Class 3's history, RE, PE, music and DT themes are the same as Class 2. In art, they will be studying Andy Warhol. In Computing they will begin by learning more about databases with Mr Metcalfe who will be teaching computing to Y5/6 for the rest of this school year. In French the theme is 'Le carnaval des



animaux' where they will be listening to a piece of music by a French composer, learning new animal names and reading information texts. In science their theme is 'Light' and in PE they will be developing their gymnastics skills. In English they will complete their studies of 'Beyond the Deepwoods' by Paul Stewart and then move onto 'The Land of Unbelieve' by Norman Messenger. In maths they will be learning about positional geometry, statistics and division.

The Wensleydale Tournament of Song is taking place at the end of March and we will be entering in the speech music competitions.

E-Safety Meeting

As you are probably aware, E-Safety continues to be an area of increasing concern as we try to keep our children safe, even while they are in school and inside their own homes.

To that end, we have arranged e-safety training for staff delivered by Clare Barrowman, Health and Wellbeing Adviser from the local authority, and have also arranged a session for parents on the same day. To enable the optimum number of parents to attend, following a questionnaire sent out earlier last term, we have organised the session for parents to run from 6.00-7.00 p.m. on **Tuesday 27th February**. If your child spends any time at home on the internet, I strongly recommend you attend the session if you are able.

To enable us to prepare for the session, please could you return the form below if you are interested in attending that meeting.

Please return forms by Friday 19th January.

Maths

A reminder that on Monday 5th February at 2.30 p.m. at school, there will be a session for all parents/carers who want to find out more about how they can support their child at home and also about current assessment expectations. If you are unable to attend, there will be a handout that will be available from the meeting.



Governors Corner

Firstly, may I wish you all A Very Happy New Year. As the saying goes, time does really seem to fly, and here we are already at the start of the Spring 2018 term. Last term the Secretary of State for Education was Justine Greening who had been in office for only a short time. The recent Cabinet re-shuffle led to her resignation and we have yet another Secretary of State for Education, Damien Hinds. From the outside it does seem to be a bit of a merry-go-round but we will just have to wait to see what line the new Secretary of State will take.

Since the last Edition of Governors Corner, I am delighted to note that a number of parents have moved forward with the establishment of a PTA and I wish them well in this venture and we look forward to working closely with them for the benefit of pupils at the school both present and future.

Our first Governing Board meeting of the term will be held on 15th January and, on this occasion, we will welcome Mrs Lis Marsden - our School Improvement Adviser - who will put us through our paces with a rigorous question and answer session designed to test our knowledge and bring us well up to speed in case OFSTED come knocking at the door. We are grateful to Mrs Marsden for sparing her valuable time, not just to attend meetings, but also for all her work for the benefit of the School. The Governing Board will also welcome our Eco Club who will share with us what they have been doing and what they hope to do in the future. This is particularly relevant with the high profile the environment is taking in the National Press and I am sure that governors will learn a lot from the Club.

At the last meeting we were pleased to have two new governors present namely Mrs E. Armstrong (Parent governor) and Mrs L. Wyatt (Co-opted governor). I am sure that they will enjoy their time on the Governing Board. This also gave us the opportunity to fill all the roles that link members of the Board to various areas of school life. This is important because

governors visit the school termly to look at and ask questions about the areas they are linked to. Reports are then prepared of the visits and submitted to and considered by the Board. This is one way in which we both learn about and keep up to date with what is happening in the school.

I have previously mentioned that being a governor is not just a question of turning up for the odd meeting. There is much more that goes on including training which is an important element of keeping up to date in what seems an ever changing world. Our new governors will be finding this out through our induction process, reading papers for meetings, undertaking safeguarding and 'Prevent' training and attending training for new governors. This all takes time and effort. In addition, governors attend other courses, for example, the Vice-Chair attends the Swaledale Alliance information and discussion meetings of Chairs where there is the opportunity to share experiences, knowledge and expertise with the Chairs of other governing boards from the area. Together with one of my colleagues I will be attending the Governor School Information Network meeting to be held later in the month in Northallerton. This is run by the Local Authority and again provides an opportunity to 'network' with other governors and be kept up to date on the latest ideas, regulations and discuss particular areas of Education. Obviously, to be effective, the Governing Body must be knowledgeable, know the school, be prepared to ask the awkward questions and most importantly work together with a sense of shared purpose and, certainly, our Governing Board is lucky in having a team that happily shares the work so that no one governor has to do it all.

It looks like the Spring term is going to be busy and I hope that the above has given a flavour of what we will be doing.

David Lawrenson
Chair of the Governing Board

Yours sincerely,

Joanne Grainger
(Headteacher)

Diary Dates:

15 Jan 2018	PTA meeting at 2.30 p.m. at School
1 Feb	Eco Club visit to Harlow Carr
5 Feb	Maths meeting at 2.30 p.m. at School
6 Feb	DEEL afternoon for Class 1 2-3 p.m.
9 Feb	Break up for half term
19 Feb	School reopens
27 Feb	Internet Safety Meeting for parents 6-7 p.m.
1 Mar	World Book Day
14 + 15 Mar	Parents' Evenings
23 Mar	Wensleydale Tournament of Song at Tennants, Leyburn
27 Mar	Presentation to parents in Village Hall of songs from the Tournament

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E Safety – 27th February 2018

I intend to attend the session on E-Safety on Tuesday 27th February.

Signed parent/carer of



We're working towards Artsmark Awarded by Arts Council England

