



HUNTON & ARRATHORNE C P SCHOOL

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HEADTEACHER: Mrs J Grainger

Friday 14th October 2016



Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to our October update.

Clothing

As we are now well into October, please ensure your child has a coat at school – we try to get outside at playtime unless it is extremely wet and we may also have planned for learning to take place outside. As it gets colder a pair of gloves would be useful too. It would be helpful if your child had a spare pair of socks as part of their PE kit, particularly if they are wearing tights to school. Y2-Y6 need trainers for PE (not plimsoll-type shoes or their school shoes).



Harvest Festival



It was lovely to see so many families and friends at our recent harvest festival. Many thanks for the harvest gifts that you sent into school and many congratulations to the children for their super readings, recitals and singing.

DEEL Afternoon

Parents of Class 1 pupils are welcome to join their children to share their learning with a focus on Phonics on 18th October from 2-3 p.m.

Open Morning

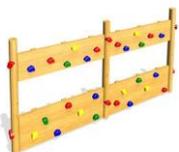
School will be open on the morning of 12th November from 10-11.15 for prospective new parents to come and meet staff and have a look at our learning environment. If you know of anyone who is currently looking at primary schools with a view to a September 2017 start (it will be here before you now it!) please share this date with them.

Playground Development

On Monday 17th October we are expecting Pentagon Play to develop our playground area. We have been fortunate enough to receive a £10,000 Lottery grant to cover the cost of a new safety surface in the playground, a new surface over the safety surface in the FS/Y1 area and new climbing equipment to replace and extend our current facilities.

The children have been spoken to about the work and are very excited to see what it will look like. They know that they need to take particular care next week and we are asking that they come straight into school at or after 8.50 a.m. If you have any younger children please make sure they do not cross into the area where the work is taking place. Please can Mrs Saunders's children go up to their gate via the big shed/main back door and not the usual way past the stage.

Parents of Y1 parents need not take them past their little gate – Mrs Heap or Ms Richards should be there to make sure they get safely into school.



Fire Safety Talk



The fire service are coming into school next week to help the children learn more about how to cope with fire emergencies at home so be prepared for when they come home and want to know more about your emergency fire safety plan!

Crucial Crew

This week our Y6 children visited Crucial Crew at RAF Leeming to learn more about how to cope with emergency situations and how to keep themselves safe. They also learned how to ask for help when necessary with new scenarios including domestic violence, the Samaritans and emergency first aid. They were extremely well-behaved and offered some very sensible suggestions in their discussion work. Grateful thanks to Mr Lawrenson for helping with transport.



Governors' Corner

Mr Lawrenson, our Chair of Governors, has shared his latest update on the matters that the governing body are currently addressing:

It only seems a short while since we were all looking forward to the Summer break but here we are nearly half way through the Autumn term. The Governing Body had its first meeting of the new academic year on 29th September and, for all governing bodies, the first meeting of the year is where we get ourselves organised for the year.

This year we were pleased to welcome two new parent governors, Paul Durban and Mrs Julie Morgan and we very much hope that they enjoy their time on the Governing Body and find it a fulfilling and worthwhile role. This brings me on to the role of parent governors. Funnily enough their role is not to represent the views of parents but to put a parent's perspective on the discussions in meetings. Otherwise their role is exactly the same as the rest of us.

We also said goodbye to another parent governor, Mrs Rachel Loadman whose term of office will end on 1st November. During her term of office Mrs Loadman played a full part in the work of the Governing Body and the school and the skills and expertise that she brought to meetings will be very much missed but we wish her well for the future with a huge thank you. The vacancy thus created will be advertised shortly after 1st November once the Governing Body has completed a skills audit to determine which skills it needs.

As said above, the first meeting is about getting organised and in this regard we have agreed a series of 7 Governing Body meetings throughout the year and at each one there will be a different focus and our next meeting in November will look at resources (staffing, finance, premises, health and safety etc). In addition we will be put through our paces by our School Improvement Adviser who has devised a training task designed to test our knowledge of various matters educational and I have no doubt that it will give us much food for thought.

Amongst the many matters that have to appear on the school website is an Annual Statement by the Governing Body. The purpose of the Statement is to provide information on what we have been doing over the last year and publish our individual attendance record for meetings. The Statement for 2015/16 was approved at the meeting and is on our website now.

Policies are a constant theme of the agenda and this meeting was no exception with 6 policies approved. No doubt there will be many more before next July! An important aspect of governor work is keeping up to date with an ever changing educational landscape and in line with many other governing bodies we are keeping an eye on what is happening with academies. So that we are fully informed we are gathering as much information as possible

on this subject and if, in the future, we have to debate the issue in relation to the school we can do so from a position of knowledge. The prime issue must be that whatever education delivery there is in the future the driving force must be to provide the very best education possible for the children attending our school. The Local Authority also organises Governor School Information Network meetings on a termly basis. We have adopted a practice that all governors should have the opportunity to attend at least one meeting a year and report back to the Governing Body. These meetings are essential in helping us to be informed and understand the many changes taking place in education and are very much welcomed.



David Lawrenson

Chair of the Governing Body

Joanne Grainger

(headteacher)

Dates for Diaries:

18.10.16	DEEL afternoon
19.10.16	School Photographer
19.10.16	Inter school football competition
20.10.16	Fire Safety talk
21.10.16	School closes for Half Term break
31.10.16	School reopens after half term break
2.11.16	Visit to Crakehall Church
2 + 3.11.16	Parents Evening No After School Clubs on these dates.
18.11.16	Children in Need
22.11.16	Y4 cluster art morning at Kell Bank CE Primary School
25.11.16	Visit from Bowes Museum