



PARK WOOD SCHOOLS FEDERATION
HEADTEACHERS NEWSLETTER
MAY 2018

A REMINDER –RED, WHITE AND BLUE

A quick reminder that children can wear red, white and blue to school on Friday 18th May, as a way of celebrating the Royal Wedding. We would ask that football shirts and hair dye are avoided, but all other hair decorations or accessories are fine. Face paint is also fine, provided it is applied at the start of the day. Let's make it a really colourful and fun day!

KEY STAGE 1 AND KEY STAGE 2 TESTING

A massive well done to all the children in both Year 2 and Year 6, who over the past three weeks have been completing their end of Key Stage tests. Although these things are never the greatest of experiences for our young people, they have approached them so sensibly, confidently and well, that we could not have asked anything more from them. As a school we are really proud to see that when the children need to show resilience and strength of character, they never fail to do this.

I would also like to thank the parents of our year 6 children who have been so supportive with the children's 10 4 10 homework.

ATTENDANCE

A **MASSIVE** thank you to our parents for encouraging such high levels of attendance from the children. Currently the schools have a combined attendance figure of 96.3% which is fantastic!

PSA

I should extend a really big thanks to the ongoing work of the PSA. I work very closely with Mr Chiverton, the Chair of the PSA and I would encourage any parent not signed up to 'Class List' to do so. It was very helpful in the snow and I intend to drag myself kicking and screaming in to the 21st Century and start using such social media applications more regularly to communicate. The Spring Balls were a great success and plans for the Summer Fair sound very exciting.

ACADEMY UPDATE

It has been brought to my attention that parents have not received an update on the situation regarding Park Wood joining a multi academy trust in the future. The school made an application to start this process, with a view to joining Rainham Mark Education Trust, earlier in the year. However, the timeframe for this process is not in the hands of the school, but of the regional schools commissioner and the Academy Trust, who decide the way the process works and the timings involved. As things stand, we have no updates, except to say that our intentions remain the same, but that the timeframe may now mean that the consultation happens in the next academic year, with a view to academising in 2019. Once I have clearer updates, I will continue to keep parents informed.

MID KENT COLLEGE

Over the past week or so, we have had crews filming in the school, from the media department at Mid Kent College. The children have been fantastic and we hope the resulting film will be a huge success. This work will be ongoing in the coming weeks.

FINAL 50TH CELEBRATIONS

We continue to build towards the 50th celebrations for the school. These events will include a drone flight to photograph the children from the air, the Summer Fair on a Saturday and a really special afternoon, involving some very special guests from the school's past, returning in July. Details of these events will come out to parents at the start of term 6.

PARKING AND THE START AND END OF THE SCHOOL DAY

Could I remind parents that younger children need to stay with them in the playground at the start and particularly the end of the school day. The children have also been reminded as this should be a calm time, when the children can all be monitored and kept safe. The children have lots of opportunities to play during the school day and could be taken to the park if they still need to burn off some energy.

Additionally, it would be fantastic if the small minority of parents who continue to park unsafely or block driveways and paths at the start and the end of the day, could regulate this and park somewhere which is safer. This includes during the school day where parents continue to park across the entrance gates or on the pavements by the gate. This is a hazard, especially if it comes to an ambulance or any emergency vehicle accessing the school grounds.

STAFF ABSENCE

It is always unfortunate when a member of staff is ill or requires any type of medical procedure which results in a lengthy absence. The school acknowledges that this can be unsettling for children and a concern for parents. However, wherever possible we try and provide as much consistency as possible in terms of the children and the teacher they have. Many schools would use teaching assistants in these circumstances but wherever possible we try to employ teachers. Short notice and the nature of illness or operations, means that supply teachers are often our best option. All supply teachers used come through local agencies and are qualified and appropriate for the age of the children being taught.

DIARY DATES INFANT AND JUNIOR SCHOOL

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| 24 May | Year 3 Production to Parents 6.00 – 7.00pm |
| 25 May | Last Day of Term 5 |
| 4 Jun | Staff Development Day – No Children at School |
| 5 Jun | Term 6 – Children back to School |
| 11 Jun | Razzamataz Starts 15.15 – 16.15pm |
| 12 Jun | PSA – Father Day Presents for both Schools |
| 13 Jun | History Day – Whole School |
| 14 Jun | 50 th Anniversary School Photoshoot |
| 19 Jun | Welcome Meeting for New Foundation Stage Parents 6.00pm |
| 20 Jun | Drop in sessions – School Nurse |
| 21 Jun | Foundation Stage Trip |
| 28 Jun | Sports Day – Whole School |

Mr A Moir
Headteacher

