



PARK WOOD SCHOOLS FEDERATION
HEADTEACHERS NEWSLETTER
SEPTEMBER 2016

A POSITIVE START

A big well done to all our children, for the way they have moved so well into their new year groups. Foundation Stage are settling well and all the teachers in that part of the school, including the Foundation Stage Leader, Miss Sage, have spoken very highly of the way the children have taken to school life. The children across the schools are getting used to new teachers, new learning and in some cases, new class mates, and the overwhelming majority have approached this with confidence and smiles on their faces.

WALLS AND BRIDGES

As I'm sure parents have noticed, we are joining the Infant and Junior School. Building work continued through the summer and the join is starting to take shape. When completed the school office will be in the centre of the school and the children and staff will be able to move between the Infant and Junior Schools. This will free up plenty of space that can then be used as extra learning zones and will benefit the children greatly. It is hugely important that we all feel part of one team and continue to build on a shared ethos in a shared space.

In addition, the Foundation Stage area has been opened up, so children can experience more choice in their free flow and focused learning activities.

MEDWAY TESTS

Well done to all the children in Year 6 who took the Medway Test in such a sensible way. Taking tests is never the nicest of experiences, but approaching it in such a calm manner is a credit to the pupils, their families and the staff involved. We are proud of all our pupils, whether they took the test or not, and we wish them all the best, regardless of the outcomes as we know they will succeed in all they do.

NAMES TO FACES

I thought it would be helpful to let parents know the Year Leaders who work across the school. It is often useful, if you have questions or unresolved situations with your child, to know who is responsible for managing each year group.

FOUNDATION STAGE – MISS SAGE
YEAR 3 – MISS LLOYD
YEAR 6 – MRS GETTING

YEAR 1 – MRS RANDALL
YEAR 4 – MISS GARTRELL

YEAR 2 – MISS SMEETON
YEAR 5 – MISS COOK

SOCIAL MEDIA

I have been asked by a number of parents over the past few months about social media sites being used to represent the school. Parents will be aware that there is an active PSA Facebook Page which is run by the PSA and is supported by the school. However, the school does not endorse any other social media pages, as the feeling of the School Governors and Leadership is that they often lead to misinformation and are not an appropriate platform to discuss school matters or offer an official right of reply. The school cannot control pages set up by parents or past pupils, but these pages are not endorsed by the school. The school will continue to text or email through 'Parentmail' with urgent or important issues, write letters and use the school website to contact parents. We are also very open about inviting parents in and would urge parents who have concerns to come and see us by making an appointment through the school office, rather than discussing school issues on Facebook or other social media sites.

REMINDER

Just a reminder that if children bring equipment in from home it should be named and we would suggest that anything valuable either financially or sentimentally should not be brought into school. Thanks for your support with this.

A CHANGE TO PPA

As I'm sure parents are aware, teachers get a limited, but regular amount of time within their timetable to work as a team on their planning, preparation and assessment (PPA). During this time the classes are, wherever possible, covered by fully qualified teachers. This year, to make the PPA experience an enhanced and even more enjoyable one for the children, they will be getting occasional specialist lessons in art, music and outdoor learning. Mrs Orridge, Mrs Kelk and Mrs Hardy will be running these lessons and they will provide a more in depth experience for the children as they will get an occasional day devoted to these areas. Outdoor learning is a real push for the school, as this alternative curriculum offers experiences that children do not get so many of in a world of technology, and allows them to explore nature and outdoor activities in a highly interactive way. Most schools cover PPA using cover supervision or supply teachers and we feel this gives our children excellent extra opportunities on top of the already high standard of PPA cover they receive from our highly qualified teaching staff.

CHARITIES AND EVENTS

As a school, we frequently get asked to support highly commendable charity events by parents or causes close to the hearts of children. We also recognise parents have limited budgets and it is not possible or fair to expect parents to support too many causes. As a school, we will continue fundraising for major events such as the Poppy Appeal, Children in Need, Comic Relief and Sport Relief, as and when those events happen. We will also show ongoing support, when making collections or holding tag days, for key charities which support children. These will be Save The Children, Great Ormond Street Hospital and the Evelina Children's Hospital.

DATA COLLECTION SHEETS

Every parent will be getting a data collection sheet, with details for them to complete, including some information which has previously not been asked for. I would ask all parents to return these to the school, completed, as soon as possible, as these lead to our October school census and next years funding.

THANK YOU

I am always delighted with the level of support we get from our parents. I feel this is the envy of many schools and long may it continue. I look forward to another positive year. Thank you to all our parents and families for this ongoing support.

I would also like to say a personal thank you to my staff and in particular Mrs Cairns and Mrs Park. I recently had a rather unpleasant operation on my sinuses, which required a few days recovery time and they held the fort admirably.

DIARY DATES INFANT AND JUNIOR SCHOOL

26 Sept	Foundation Stage children stay for lunch – finish at 1.00pm
29 Sept	Foundation Stage Curriculum Workshop for Parents 2.00 – 3.00pm
30 Sept	Foundation Stage Pupils Only – Class Photographs
3 Oct	Foundation Stage Pupils in all day – finish at 3.15pm
5 Oct	Harvest Festival for Children only
6 Oct	Architecture Workshop – Year 2
11 Oct	Phonics Meeting – Foundation Stage Parents 2.30 – 3.10pm
18 Oct	Individual Photographs – Infant School Phonic Sessions – Foundation Stage Parents 2.30 – 3.10pm
19 Oct	Year 1 – Super Hero Day – Year 1 Pupils to dress up as their Super Hero Individual Photographs – Junior School Phonic Sessions – Foundation Stage Parents 2.30 – 3.10pm Year 1 Parents invited to their children classes to see their work from 3.00pm onwards
20 Oct	PSA Halloween Disco for Junior Children only 5.00 – 7.00pm
21 Oct	Last day of Term
31 Oct	Term 2 – Children back to School Foundation Stage children stay all day – finish at 3.20pm

Mr A Moir
Headteacher

