

PARK WOOD SCHOOLS FEDERATION
HEADTEACHERS NEWSLETTER - WINTER 2016



A BRILLIANT MOMENT

We are pleased to say that after several months of work, and fifty years as separate schools, the Infant and Junior buildings are now joined and children and staff have started to access our wonderful looking link area in order to travel from one building to the other. Once the reception and office area near the join are completed we will have an official 'grand opening' in the New Year.

As two schools we have now come a long way together and I am really pleased and proud to be part of the leadership team that has made this happen. Seeing the first Infant children travelling over for assembly was a lovely thing.

I would like to thank all members of our community for their patience and support during the building process and throughout the ongoing work on our roof. The short term disruption will lead to a far better building for the Federation, one which is fully waterproof for many years and which has far more areas to be used by the children.

TWO MORE GREAT REASONS TO BE CHEERFUL...

I would like to congratulate all the staff and children at the school who have helped to achieve two fantastic awards for the school. Firstly, The Howard Partnership came in to school this week to present our sports team and the school with the 'Gold' mark for sport. We are one of only a handful of schools to achieve this across the region and the first Primary age school to achieve this in Medway. We are all very pleased with the outcome.

We have also achieved, as a school, the Primary Dickens award for the work we completed during our Dickens project, including excellent presentations and examples of writing from Foundation Stage all the way up to Year 6. This is a fantastic achievement and our work is to be shared with the English Association, which is excellent recognition. I would like to thank the English team and all the children and staff for their contributions in achieving this.

CHILDREN IN NEED

Thanks to the generosity of our families, Park Wood raised a fantastic £700 for Children in Need. A brilliant effort and one which I know will help a very worthy cause.

DOLPHINS CAN SING (AS WELL AS SWIM)

It was lovely to see so many parents attend the recent Dolphin Class concert of Christmas songs. I also very much enjoyed joining in with the 'Twelve Days of Christmas', but was not in the same league as our excellent Year 3s. This followed on from the Year 3 Alien exhibition which was also very well attended by parents.

WRITING COMPETITION

Thank you for the families of the children who entered the recent Headteacher writing competition. The standard was very high. The entries will be judged over the next week and the 'Park Wood Writer of the Year' and runners up will be announced later in the term. Having completed a recent review of the writing in school, we have some very talented young writers and I have been most impressed by the dialogue between teachers and children about the content and ideas in their written work.

WRAPPING UP WARM

I would like to remind parents about keeping the children wrapped up warm and in suitable clothing and footwear at all times, during this cold winter. This is particularly true for the days when the children have outdoor learning lessons.

PLEASE ADD NAMES!

We have been experiencing a huge amount of lost property this term. Most of the items which are not claimed cannot be returned to children as they do not have names in them. It is extraordinary that so many children are able to travel home without noticing some of the missing garments and equally impressive that so many seem to be able to identify their own belongings by smell, but PLEASE could you name all your childrens clothes, so that if they are lost they can be returned or claimed with ease.

A REMINDER

It is really important that parents monitor their own children at the end of the day, both within and outside the playground. The children should not be using play equipment at this time or running on the grass area between the schools, but should be standing with their parents. Likewise, I would urge consideration and safety when it comes to the pavements and roads around the school. The evenings are now dark and often cold, and a swift but safe exit at the end of the school day is best advised at this time of year.

INCLUSION AS PART OF OUR SCHOOL ETHOS

Park Wood is an inclusive school. As a school we take our responsibility to all our children very seriously. Over a number of years we have tried to provide the best possible care for children facing a variety of challenges and who find different things difficult, whilst at the same time acknowledging that Park Wood is also a main stream school that strives for high standards and good progress.

The children who are in our school are all equally respected by staff and our aim is to put all we can in place in order to give all children the fairest opportunity to achieve in life. This means supporting children academically, emotionally and socially. It means supporting them with learning, behaviour and all the unique aspects of their own needs which they have as individuals and we feel every child is an individual. This is a difficult task, but one we try extremely hard to achieve. I would like to thank the pupils, staff and parents in helping us to achieve this ongoing aim. Where we respect and accept that different people have different needs and find different things difficult, we are able to then work together to achieve what we have, in terms of many children who would otherwise not be in school for many reasons, staying and thriving in education and leaving Park Wood ready to continue to succeed into secondary school and adult hood, whilst at the same time keeping high standards as well as a creative approach.

GOVERNOR UPDATE

We have been busy since the start of a new school year with lots of visits in school as well as two new members, Andy Rogers and Emma Butler, joining the Governing Body. Spending time in Park Wood, whether it be supporting, monitoring, attending performances and/or meetings, only serves to reinforce the knowledge of what a good school we are a part of. In particular, great Behaviour for Learning is consistently evident across the site and we are very grateful for the continual positive support from parents, staff, families and the wider community of our school activities, learning and environment that helps makes this happen. With the current physical joining of our buildings we look forward to more positive ways that we can, all, go forward as an even stronger community asset. As governors we continue to be immensely proud to be involved with, and represent, Park Wood Schools Federation.

Suzanne Emson, Vice Chair of PWSF Governing Body

NEW FACES

It was great to be able to do tours of the school for our new parents wanting to take up places in next year's Foundation Stage. We had really positive discussions with groups of parents and families interested in their children coming to Park Wood. As ever, the children in the classrooms were the key selling point and their keen learning and positive behaviour was clear across the site.

CHRISTMAS APPROACHES!

I look forward to seeing many parents at the Christmas Fayre straight after school on December 16th. We will, of course, be hoping for cold and crisp, but fine, weather, for the event, after last year's downpour. I can't promise this and would urge parents not to hold me responsible if it rains! The most important thing is that the children will get to share and sell their enterprise goodies and as was the case last year, the brass band will play on! The last day of term is Wednesday December 21st, when the children finish at 2pm. I wish all our families a very enjoyable winter season and for those who celebrate it, a very merry Christmas.

PARKWOOD PRE-SCHOOL INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

NEW! JANUARY 2017 Breakfast club for Pre-school children only 8am-9.15am
Holiday Club for 3-5year olds 2017 February, April, May, July/August, October.
Children in year 1 are able to access the holiday club up until the age of 6 years.
For more information pop into the Pre-school or call 01634 231425 or email
parkwoodpreschool@btconnect.com

DIARY DATES INFANT AND JUNIOR SCHOOL

12 Dec	Enterprise Week	19 Dec	'Playing with Numbers' F.S. Parents invited in 2.30pm
13 Dec	Foundation Stage Nativity	20 Dec	'Playing with Numbers' F.S. Parents invited in 2.30pm
14 Dec	Foundation Stage Nativity	21 Dec	Last day of Term 2
16 Dec	Christmas Jumper Day		Everyone can wear their Christmas Jumpers... Again!
	Supporting 'Save the Children'		Children finish at 2.00pm
	Christmas Fayre after school	5 Jan	Term 3 - Children back to School

Mr A Moir
Headteacher

