



## **PARK WOOD SCHOOLS FEDERATION**

### **HEADTEACHERS NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY/MARCH 2017**

#### **YEAR 6 ASSESSMENT INFORMATION**

In May, Year 6 have their end of Key Stage 2 assessments. With the exception of writing, which is teacher assessed, the assessments are based on test scores. The way these tests are scored and the information this produces can seem a little complicated. Therefore, full guidance for parents, is now available on the school website. It is an 11 page document, but is very user friendly and helpful.

Year 2 do take tests, however these are looked at in school, along with the children's books and help to form a sensible and accurate teacher assessment.

#### **WELCOME BACK MRS MCCORMACK**

We are really pleased to welcome back Mrs McCormack, as a full time teacher at the school, at the end of March. Mrs McCormack will take up the role of class teacher in Giraffe Class at the start of term 5.

#### **PARENT CONSULTATIONS**

I am sure that parents will find the consultation meetings with class teachers, which are taking place at the current time, helpful. The school uses a very detailed assessment system and the areas the children are doing well at, as well as those which they find challenging, are going to form a key part of the conversations. However, your children feeling happy, safe and confident in school is also hugely important and we welcome feedback. We would also appreciate parents taking the time to let us know how we are doing, via 'parentview' <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/> there is also a link on the school website.

#### **ANY DONATIONS WELCOME**

As part of our ongoing focus on outdoor learning this year, Mrs Hardy has asked that any parents or wider family members who would be willing to donate plants, bulbs or flowers, to please do so, as they are always welcome. Mrs Hardy can be contacted through the school office, either by phone or email.

#### **MATHS! NO PROBLEM...**

As parents are already aware, Park Wood has adopted the Singapore approach to Maths, as a way of helping the children to gain a mastery of many areas of the Maths curriculum. Not only is this approach the one recommended nationally, but it has a proven track record, globally, of achieving long term success and deeper learning. As skills build throughout the year, we are now seeing the significant impact this is having, not just in Maths, but in the way children approach problems in general, as these skills are transferable. By approaching Maths in this way, Park Wood has embraced a far more relevant and contemporary approach which fits in more fully with the new curriculum and with the expectations of many secondary schools. The children's work, the marking and the dialogue between staff and children is a real step forward.

### **HISTORY DAY**

I would like to thank Mr Davis and Miss Lloyd for planning the very enjoyable and informative history day. The children were very motivated and a great deal of history was covered in a short space of time as children moved around the school. Personally, I was delighted to dust off my teaching skills, and work with Year 6, even if it meant the delights of discussing Victorian sewer systems and disease. All across the school, different points of history were looked at as key snapshots in time and these moments were brought to life by the keen interest of the children.

### **HEALTHY EATING**

Park Wood have obtained the gold award for sport and we pride ourselves on educating the children about a number of aspects of physical and personal wellbeing. Being healthy is a key part of this. Mrs Moir is something of a hero in my house, in terms of her lightning quick preparation of up to six lunch boxes at any one time, so I appreciate how rushed it can be in the mornings. I would however ask for parents support in looking at the balance of the diet provided to children in lunch boxes. A treat is fine. But if it's only treats, this might not fuel the children through the afternoon. A good balance and some healthy brain food is what we are after. Fruit and vegetables is always good. I also appreciate that parents want to know their children have eaten well, so it is our job at school to keep working with the children on knowing what is healthy and making sensible choices, as this is about working together. I have no intention of becoming the food police or creating mini Jamie Olivers' to hunt down turkey twizzlers.

### **YEAR 1 PERFORMANCE**

Year 1 will be stepping up for their yearly production on 21<sup>st</sup> March and 22<sup>nd</sup> March. Productions are always exciting and I'm sure that it will be fantastic.

### **HERE COMES THE SUN... WE HOPE**

As there appear to be dangerous signs of spring springing, I thought I would ask parents to keep on the side of caution and recognise that we aren't out of the woods yet. I would ask that children continue to bring warm clothing as the weather remains variable.

### **DIARY DATES INFANT AND JUNIOR SCHOOL**

8 March	Year 5 Trip
13 March	Parent Consultations – Year 5
14 March	Parent Consultations – Year 3
15 March	Parent Consultations – Year 2
16 March	Parent Consultations – Year 1
17 March	PSA Cream Teas for Parents 2.00 – 3.00pm
21 March	Year 1 Production 9.30am – Infant Hall
22 March	Theatre Workshop – Year 3 Year 1 Production 2.15pm – Infant Hall
24 March	Red Nose Day
28 March	Maths Afternoon – Owlets
29 March	Maths Afternoon – Cygnets
30 March	Maths Afternoon – Gosling
31 March	Last day of Term 4
14 April	Good Friday – School Closed
17 April	Easter Monday – School Closed
18 April	Term 5 - Children Back to School

**Mr A Moir**  
**Headteacher**

