



PARK WOOD SCHOOLS FEDERATION
HEADTEACHERS NEWSLETTER
JANUARY 2017

PARENT VIEW

Being a Headteacher, is often a very unbalanced experience. You tend to see a handful of parents who are perhaps concerned about something during the week and sometimes children, who for one reason or another, have made the wrong choices. However, recent lesson observations of every year group and class across the school, including observations with Governors, have shown that nearly every single child is engaged, enthusiastic and incredibly happy and willing to share their learning. I am so proud of what a fantastic group of children we have, all the way from Foundation Stage up to Year 6, how well they behave and how much they want to do well.

The best way for parents to show that they are happy with the school and with the way their children learn and represent the school, is by contributing to 'Parent view'. A short questionnaire website, which allows parents to share how they feel and also gives the school a clear idea of how we are doing. I am very proud of Park Wood, as I know the Staff, Governors and Children are, and we want the school to push on to Outstanding. A great response on Parent View, will help us show the world that we can do it.

The link for parent view is <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/> and also appears on the school website! I would really appreciate it. I know our families are very busy and parents often pushed for time, but a few minutes to spare and an email address is all you need. Many thanks in advance.

RECEPTION

As most parents will be aware, we are now working through the next stage of our join between the two schools, with a joint reception and office area for both schools being used. Although there are still a few things to 'fine tune' over the next few weeks, including an electronic signing in system for staff and a single telephone system for both schools, we are nearly there. Along with the lovely link between the schools, the office area has made a big difference, to a feeling of unity. The staff also share a staff room now and we have freed up four new learning areas for children as a result of the choices we have made. A reminder as well, that the school now has a single phone number and that number is 01634 234699, as well as a single website.

LOST PROPERTY

Lost property for both schools, is going to be moved to an area close to the reception. The lost property is regularly and carefully checked for names, by staff and by older students, and any named items are returned. However, this still leaves a number of items which do not have names in. As a school we will keep these items until the end of each term after which time, if they are not claimed, they will be recycled.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Could I remind parents of the importance of the children wearing the correct and appropriate school uniform. This includes school jumpers or cardigans and sensible school shoes, not trainers. I would also ask that haircuts are monitored. This is not simply down to jealousy! Some of the children, especially the boys are sporting rather extreme haircuts which border on hair art and some of the girls are wearing increasing numbers of accessories. On the days when the children have outdoor learning, they are encouraged to wear the appropriate clothing for outside activities and on Fridays, they may wear jeans or leggings and trainers, but they keep their school jumpers and they may wear their uniforms if parents prefer this.

THE ENTRANCE TO THE SCHOOL

It is really important that the gates to the school are kept clear at all times. There have been occasions when I have returned from meetings and found the entrance to the school all but blocked by cars, or cars left on the pavement outside the school. Those who have disabilities can of course access the school grounds on request, so there really is no need for any vehicle to be left in these places. These cars produce a hazard to those needing to access the school and specifically this would not allow access to emergency vehicles.

DAHL WEEK AND DICKENS AWARD

I would like to thank our Literacy team of teachers for all the hard work they put into the recent Roald Dahl focus week. The children responded really well and the work produced was excellent. Despite the snow, many children dressed up on the Friday, and throughout the week the children were keen to share their ideas.

Last year, the focus was on Charles Dickens and it was great to see a group of children and teachers travel to London to collect the Dickens Award in person last week. I'm sure you would join me in congratulating all those involved.

GOVERNORS DAY

I would like to thank our school Governors for the time they give regularly as volunteers who have a huge impact on the school. In particular for the very positive and rewarding Governors Day spent in school. The governors spent time in classes, talking to children and staff and planning for further school improvements. The time they give up is greatly appreciated and it's fantastic to have such a focused and enthusiastic group of people to work with.

ATHLETES AND MEDALS

Congratulations to the Park Wood athletes who managed to scoop Bronze in the recent Sports Hall Athletics event. Coming third in a field of more than 30 schools is a real achievement and the children should feel very proud of themselves.

DIARY DATES INFANT AND JUNIOR SCHOOL

7 February	Share a Shape with Parents Foundation Stage Only 9.15 – 10.15am
7 February	Year 4 Production to Parents 1.30pm Junior Hall
9 February	Year 4 Production to Parents 6.00pm Junior Hall
10 February	Last day of Term 3
20 February	Term 4 – Children back to School
21 February	Nurse - Foundation Stage Only
22 February	Nurse - Foundation Stage Only
	Parent Consultations – Foundation Stage 8.00-10.00am
	Parent Consultations – Foundation Stage 2.00-5.00pm
23 February	Nurse – Foundation Stage Only
24 February	History Day – Whole School
2 March	Nurse – Year 6 Only
8 March	Year 5 Trip
13 March	Parent Consultation all Week Year 1 – 6 (date to be confirmed)
17 March	PSA Cream Teas – Adults Only (letter to follow)
22 March	Theatre Workshop – Year 3
24 March	Red Nose Day
29 March	Year 5 Production to Parents 2.00pm
30 March	Year 5 Production to Parents 6.00pm
31 March	Last day of Term 4
14 April	Good Friday – School Closed
17 April	Easter Monday – School Closed
18 April	Children Back to School

Mr A Moir
Headteacher

