

Slindon Church of England Primary School

Newsletter Spring 2– February 2018



How wonderful to start the first few weeks of 2018 with such a wonderful feeling of pride. I have to start this half-term's newsletter by sharing with you my first experiences of seeing some of our children performing in the 'Dance House' festival at the Alexandra Theatre where, along with many other schools, we performed a wonderful dance routine. The children in Dance Club practiced and perfected their moves and truly shone on stage, in front of hundreds of spectators. What an evening it was- so enjoyable- I was bursting with pride. The smiles on all of our faces was unforgettable. Well done to Mrs Wells and the fabulous dancers!

Only a few weeks later, Mrs Tully and I joined proud parents watching some of our children stand on stage and recite poetry at the Chichester Festival for Music, Dance and Speech. I was overwhelmed with the confidence with which our children stood alone on a huge stage and recited their poems in front of the judges. I was in awe!

But pride is something I see every single day at Slindon Church of England Primary School. From the pride I share with the children who come to show me a piece of their work, to passing the glade where children are keen to show me the latest rendition of their music compilations. I'm proud of how hard the staff work and the relationships that we have in school; the kindness and compassion that everyone in our school shows for each other.

Lastly I'm proud to share with you what an exciting and fun-filled half term we have planned as we run up to Easter! There is so much happening, including events for Parents/Carers to get involved with, so keep an eye on the dates on pages 2 and 3 of this newsletter. These dates are all on the school website, just tap the 'calendar' tab for a quick reminder of important dates.

Lucy Cooper

(Proud Headteacher)

DATES TO REMEMBER THIS TERM...

WB 19.02.18- After school clubs begin (No Choir Club on 23.02.18)

There are no clubs during the last week of each half term

Friday 23rd February- Swimming starts for Reception to Year 5 until Friday 23rd March

Saturday 24th February – Grounds Working Party (see page 3).

Monday 26th February – Yr5 Children to OSVA for Humanities Enrichment morning (permission already given)

Monday 26th February 7pm– PFA meeting at The Stables, Fontwell– All Welcome!

Thursday 1st March– World Book Day– Dress up as your favourite book character!

Thursday 1st March– 100 Million Minutes Reading Challenge begins (see page 2).



100 Million Minutes Reading Challenge begins on World Book Day– Thursday 1st March. We will all come to school dressed as a character from a book and begin a fantastic challenge to read collectively for 100 million minutes over the next 8 days.

We want to embrace this wonderful opportunity to bury our noses in books and need you to help us to truly immerse ourselves in the experience. Therefore we are asking you to;

1. Send a photo in with your child reading either at home or an unusual place. We will build a montage of photos to be displayed in school. If you cannot print a photo easily, send it to office@slindonprimary.co.uk and we will print it off for you.
2. Sign up for 'Mystery Reader'

and come and read to your child's class for 10 minutes over the course of the challenge. Timeslots will be displayed on the whiteboard at the front of school from Thursday 1st March. Sign up!

3. When you read at home with your child, note down and send into school any amazing words or phrases that you notice. We will make a 'word wall' of words and phrases that we can steal (or as we say in class- 'magpie') and use in our writing.
4. Help your child to count and make a total of the amount of minutes you read at home at the end of each day. Miss Cooper will add these minutes to our whole school total.

Happy reading everyone!

'THE QUESTIONER'

This half term we are launching the 4th of our 'learners' who not only help us to develop behaviours for learning, but support the development of life skills. You will notice from our new look 'topic webs' (see page 4) that the learning in each class is now based around a question.

So to support the launch of 'the Questioner' we want the whole school community to get involved and ponder....

"Why do we need teachers when we have Google?"

GROUNDS WORKING PARTY



On Saturday 24th February we will be opening the grounds to any willing volunteers who are able to spend some time helping us to maintain our beautiful grounds. Unfortunately we are not able to have children in school to help us on this day due to the vehicles and tools that will be on site, but Miss Cooper is looking forward to bringing back Gardening Club in the summer term for the children.

We will be focussing on tidying up the Nature Garden at the front of the school and some maintenance of the perimeter areas, as well as the fruit cages and raised borders at the back of the school.

If you have a pair of Secateurs, some Wellies and are willing to give up an hour or two of your time, it would be greatly appreciated!

The kettle will be on from 9am until 2pm. See you then!



Some very exciting plans are coming together for a fantastic week of fitness at Slindon Church of England Primary School. We will be taking

part in Sports Relief for the whole week, starting on Monday 19th March.

The children will need to come to school ready for fun and fitness every day of Sports Relief week. Therefore they should come to school wearing trainers, jogging bottoms (or equivalent) and their PE shirts and usual school jumpers.



You may also want to put your trainers on and limber up before coming to school to drop your child/ children off, as our sports relief activities will begin

each day at 8.45am!

More details will be sent home as soon as they are finalised.



DATES TO REMEMBER THIS TERM...

Tuesday 6th March– Willow Weaving Day (Children will be re-weaving our Willow Dome throughout the day with Mark and Rebecca Ford)

Tuesday 6th March– KS1 SATs Parent/Carer Information Meeting (rearranged from last half-term)

Monday 12th & Wednesday 14th March– Parent/Carer Consultation Evenings (Separate letter coming soon).

Monday 19th to Friday 23rd March– Sports Relief Week (see page 3)

Tuesday 27th March– Whole School visit to Gaston Farm

Wednesday 28th March – Easter Service at St Mary's Slindon. All families welcome.

Thursday 29th March– Last day of school for children

30.03.18 Easter Holidays

Monday 16th April– Children return to school for Summer Term



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Don't forget to keep checking the school website. This half term, the teachers have uploaded their new look class '**topic webs**'. These have been designed to give parents/carers greater detail and information about what your child is learning in their class over the half term. This also enables you to see how you might be able to come in and support with the learning. Please speak to your child's teacher if you are interested in this.

You will also find updated SEN Information on the website and our revised Home Learning and Anti-bullying policy. The class pages have been updated and any newsletter such as this one are always found on the website.



If the weather turns colder as predicted and we are expected to have snow, please look at the school website and listen to Spirit fm to find out if the school is closed.

Attendance

Last term everybody suffered from the seasonal coughs, colds and flu and so our attendance is still significantly below national averages.

We don't want to spend our days writing you letters about how much time your child has been absent from school and how many times they are late. Instead, I'd rather we work together in raising our attendance.

I know that none of the children will want to miss any of the exciting events happening this term and I look forward to seeing our attendance levels rising over this half term.

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