



Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope your week has gone well. I couldn't let the week end without my newsletter.

This week the school underwent a review of the teaching, learning and standards across the school by two independent consultants. Many positives were shared, such as they saw engaging lessons, lots of practical problem solving maths and science activities. In the Nursery and Reception classes they saw children engaging in a variety of outdoor learning, asking questions and building their vocabulary development. They also saw some inspiring drama on the amphitheatre by our Year 5 children, who have been exploring the powerful classical poem "The Highwayman by Alfred Noyes". Finally, in Year 1 they saw effective phonics and reading teaching. They were also pleased that Internet Safety was being taught in a simple and memorable way.

School Council and Eco Committee were also interviewed about aspects of school life. The children spoke about feeling safe and how they enjoyed their learning. They also shared stories of the activities they have carried out whilst in post.

With all Reviews there are areas to work upon. Having discussed them with the school team, I would like to share a couple of points.

Firstly, presentation of work is key and children must be encouraged to take pride in their work and pay attention to the school handwriting policy. The consultants found that it was necessary for more pupils to take greater care in their handwriting. They looked at many books and concluded that children's written work was sometimes poorly presented, even though they knew what the expectations were.

Secondly, the consultants commented that they would like to see pupils writing for longer sustained periods of time. They want to see pupils increasing their competence and confidence in writing by re-drafting and editing their own work, so that they are constantly improving their writing.

**HOW CAN YOU HELP AT HOME?** A way forward is simply by working in partnership with us.

Please speak to your child about the importance of presentation skills. During the holiday, request that they spend 10 – 15 minutes each day carrying out a handwriting exercise. They can write or copy anything that they wish. The important thing is to follow the School Policy for Handwriting. **This is located on our website.**



In addition to this, ensure that your child begins to write at least three times a week. They can write about anything that they are passionate about. Keeping a Journal, writing creative passages will help them to become better writers and thinkers.

## SCHOOL COUNCIL and ECO COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

### FEBRUARY THOUGHT

Earth and sky, woods and fields, lakes and rivers, the mountain and the sea, are excellent schoolmasters, and teach some of us more than we can ever learn from books. ~John Lubbock

On Wednesday 8th February a group of fantastic helpers from the committees planted a range of bulbs in pots. This will be displayed around our Temple for everybody to enjoy.

The children had fun as well as learning about how to plant bulbs accurately. Well done children for demonstrating respect towards living things and working splendidly in teams.







## **SAINSBURY'S ACTIVE KIDS VOUCHERS**

We are now collecting the Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers again, which are being issued up until July. Any vouchers should be posted into the orange post box found in the Library.

It would be great to get even more resources for our school.

It's back! We are delighted to invite all children to participate in this amazing national art competition.

Once again, Royal Mail is running this prestigious competition for primary school pupils to design stamps for Christmas 2017. This follows the hugely popular Christmas 2013 competition, where 240,000 entries were received.

The competition theme is '**What does the Christmas season mean to you?**' and so the children can design an image that best describes what the festive period means to them.



Two lucky winners will see their designs made into one of the 1st or 2nd Class Christmas stamps for 2017.

This is a prize that will be a huge honour for the winners. The winning designs will be approved by Her Majesty the Queen and used on millions of Christmas cards during the festive season. It is also a fun and engaging art activity for children.

**Dylan Vekaria launched the competition during an assembly. You will receive an entry form today**

**FOURTH PLINTH COMPETITION** Every year, a new art installation by a well - known British artist features on top of the fourth empty plinth in Trafalgar square, London. The competition is also open to schools in the Greater London area. Winners receive prizes from art suppliers Cass Arts and may have their work exhibited in City Hall for up to six weeks. You can take a look at the competition here:

**<https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/arts-and-culture/art-and-design/fourth-plinth-schools-awards-2017-now-open>**

The Fourth Plinth Schools Awards is growing every year and inspiring more and more primary and secondary school children in London to create art and think about what it can say about our city.

I shall be sending you a separate letter about the competition, since we shall be participating in it.

Good Luck to all the entrants!

Wishing you a relaxing half term holiday ahead.

Yours sincerely,

Bindu Rai

Principal

**DIARY DATES : SPRING TERM - dates may change, so please check the website regularly and your email messages**

09/01/17	Big Schools Bird Watch commences during this month. ECO Committee will explain the importance of this initiative.	
13/02/17- 19 /02/17 <b>HALF TERM</b>		
22/02/17	Prospective Reception Parents tour of school afternoon	
22/02/17	Parent Gym session 3 - 8.15am	
22/02/17	Emma Moore launches The Fourth Plinth Competition	
24/02/17	KAPS Football Team Match at The Hive	
24/02/17	Siva Ratri on 25/2/17	
27/02/17	Art week supported by Emma Moore	
01/03/17	Parent Gym session 4 - 8.15am	
02/03/17	World Book Day	
03/03/17	Keep Britain Tidy day	
08/03/17	Gaura Purima Abishek celebrations	
08/03/17	Parents Consultation 1 evening	
09/03/17	Parents Consultation 2 evening	
13/03/17	Holi Arrival of Spring	
15/03/17	National Poetry Recital Assembly celebration Competition EYFS, KS 1	
15/03/17	Parent Gym 5 - 8.15am	
17/03/17	St Patrick's Day ( story of the Patron Saint of Ireland)	
22/03/17	National Poetry Recital Assembly celebration Competition KS2	
22/03/17	Parent Gym session 6 - 8.15am	
24/03/17	Red Nose Day Mufti Day – details to follow	
30/03/17	Easter Class assembly Year 3	
31/03/17	FOKAS EVENT – details to follow watch this space	 
31/03/17	Break up for Easter Holiday	
18/04/17	Pupils return	