

Dear Parents and Carers

In keeping with the format of recent newsletters, this is just a short update of recent news and to keep you informed of some of the main points of information that may be useful for you to know over the next few weeks:

Strike action

A big thank you to you all for your continuing patience across the two recent strike dates. I know as a parent that it must have been very inconvenient for many of you but thank you for your understanding. As things currently stand there is no further strike action planned for the remainder of this term.

Readathon

This year's readathon finished at the end of last month and, yet again, the children's efforts were incredible. Currently, over £8200 has been raised! These vital funds continue to help provide new books and educational resources that every child will benefit from. Well done to every child who read a little more during the readathon and thank you for every penny or pound raised.

Library room and year 1 classroom

The Parents' Association fundraising efforts have always been of amazing benefit to the school. Current fundraising is to pay for the new classroom facilities behind class D and the transformation of the former ICT suite to a multi-purpose area; it now contains an additional intervention classroom and library area. Thank you to the amazing PA for allowing us the opportunity to make these vital improvements- these areas are now looking fantastic and benefitting the children in their daily use.

Tennis success

Last week Miss Kelly took some future Wimbledon champions to play tennis at Market Road, representing the school. Oliver, Orlando, James, Mae and Blanche from years 3 and 4 successfully reached the finals which took place this week. They represented the school brilliantly and were a credit to their families and the school. I will update you on their progress in the next newsletter. Thank you to Miss Kelly and Miss Mullen for organising this opportunity.

Year 5 Swimmers

Our Year 5 group recently completed their two-week swimming programme at Highbury Leisure Centre. The staff who accompanied the children were so impressed with the children's enthusiasm and commitment. The swimming teachers were very complimentary about our children- well done to the children and thank you parents and carers for making sure all of the children had the correct equipment every day.

Mobile phones and online communication between children outside of school

Recently, staff have been spending a disproportionate time dealing with the fallout from online quarrels between older children. Many of the times when the school has to deal with the fallout from online communication are when children are provided with too much unsupervised time online. While we want all of our children to be able to deal with challenges with increasing independence, it is worth remembering that children should be willing to share with their adults and have nothing to hide online. Monitoring your child's online behaviour is beneficial to them, you, others and the wider school community. Thank you for your continuing support in this matter.

SATS and other national tests

In the summer term the Department for Education requires the school to complete statutory testing across four year groups; these will be taking place for year 6 and year 2 in the next couple of weeks.

Next week, the children in Year 6 will be sitting their Standard Assessment Tests at the same time as all other Year 6 children across the country. While we always stress that these tests are not all-important, we do try and support the children to do as well as they can. Ahead of sitting the tests, we ask that all children in Year 6 make a special effort to have a good breakfast every morning and to be in school on time through the week. We are proud of all of the children and emphasise to them that the tests should not be something they are worrying about but just a chance to show how far they have progressed with their learning.

Year 2 will be sitting their tests the following week (beginning 15th May). Their assessments are not strictly timed and are part of an overall teacher assessment rather than an externally marked one. As with year 6, children should not feel any pressure while completing the tests and we try to make them feel as informal as possible.

After the half term break, Year 1 children will complete the National Phonics check and Year 4 children will complete the National Times Tables check.

Coronation

As the country gears up for the celebration of King Charles' coronation on Saturday, the children will be having opportunities to mark the occasion in class on Friday. Organised within their phases, the children will be taking part in activities and learning about the historic events taking place over the weekend



Dates for Your Diary

Thursday 25th May- St Joan of Arc Day. Mass at 9:00am led by the House Captains. Non-uniform day (children to wear their house colours)

Friday 26th May- Inset day- school closed to children.