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Grindleford Primary School Newsletter

10th July 2017

Summer Term 5

Special Events and Dates:

Wednesday 12th July—

- Cello demonstration, 10am

Thursday 13th July—

- Whole School Sports Afternoon
- PTA Tea Party during sports

Friday 14th July—

- Y6 Leaver's Meal Out and fun afternoon

Monday 17th July—

- KS2 Performance—afternoon and evening shows

Tuesday 18th July—

- KS2 Performance—evening show

Wednesday 19th July—

- ECO Bee Day

Thursday 20th July—

- Whole School summer trip out, 7.30am depart, 6-6.30pm return

Friday 21st July—

- Leaver's Assembly
- Sports Afternoon



The end of term is approaching rapidly and I am sure you will agree with me that this year has flown by at a remarkable pace. I cannot believe that it is almost the summer holidays.

Thank You!

To everyone who has helped out throughout the year, from physically coming in to school, to Gallop baking and helping various events run smoothly.



It has been an immense year for thinking about others who are less fortunate than ourselves, which has led to activities being created that we wouldn't otherwise have done e.g. The Auction Of Promises, tournaments within school and Swimming at the ARC being just a few examples. The amount of learning that the children get out of organising these events is massive and goes towards developing the whole individual in a broad and balanced way, not just through academia. I am hoping to announce our grand total for The Thomas Theyer Foundation as soon as the sponsored swimming money comes in and we have counted the loose change jar. Keep an eye on the website for the FINAL total!

Massive Congratulations!

I have been particularly impressed with the children within Year 5, who have become Change4Life Champions and started our Sports Crew. As a year group they have shaped the way that our physical activities will be in the future and I

am very proud of their hard work and attitude.

A massive congratulations to all the children who have turned out over the year to represent our school in sporting teams. We are gaining a huge reputation within the valley for showing great sportsmanship as well as great talent, bringing home some good results!

Huge congratulations must go to our School Council who have worked their socks off over the past year, trying to listen to all our pupil views and persuade me to do something about them! (They have been incredibly persuasive as well!) The recent Auction of Promises just goes to show how well they worked as a team and a council unit.

Congratulations to the ECO committee as well. They have worked really hard monitoring our resource usage and trying to get people to be even more environmentally friendly than they already are. I am looking forward to their ECO day on

Wednesday 19th July, where they are going to highlight the plight of Bees and try to think of ways that we can help them e.g. what we should be planting.



I am also going to hop on their day and show the children a film detailing the damage that plastic waste is doing to our oceans and seas. It is quite a hard hitting film and I am very hopeful that as a younger generation the children will continue to do their bit with properly recycling plastic to try to put an end to us destroying our planet.



2017/2018 Academic Year Dates

INSET DAYS

- Monday 4th September 2017
- Tuesday 5th September 2017
- Tuesday 2nd January 2018
- Monday 9th April 2018—TBC
- Friday 22nd June 2018—TBC

Autumn 1

- 4 September 2017—20 October 2017

Autumn 2

- 30 October 2017—19 December 2017

Spring 3

- 2 January 2018—16 February 2018

Spring 4

- 26 February 2018—23 March 2018

Summer 5

- 9 April 2018—25 May 2018

Summer 6

- 4 June 2018—20 July 2018

Bank Holidays

- 25 and 26 December 2017
- 1 January 2018
- 30 March 2018 (Good Friday)
- 2 April 2018 (Easter Monday)
- 7 May 2018
- 28 May 2018 (Spring Bank Holiday)
- 27 August 2018 (Summer Bank Holiday)

Thank you to the PTA



A big thank you must go to our very committed PTA again for all their hard work across the year and especially to everyone who comes out of the woodwork to make tray bakes, set out tables, get up ridiculous early to marshal car parking and register people and so on. This event is vital to the school and raises a lot of money which pays for the little extras which make our school so fab, e.g. whole school trips out, visiting speakers and so on.

How do we fit it all in?!

Just thinking back we have had the pleasure of listening to various different people this year on a wide range of topics: Gareth Wilson joined Class 1 to talk about how he got into garden design, began to win awards at RHS shows and has since won at Chatsworth RHS; Ben Heason talked to us about his amazing climbing endeavours; we had a whole school day learning about Indian Dance and traditions; Class 1 had a full afternoon of different music making; Lizzy Hawker told us of her immense run across Nepal; we had a fencing taster session; Class 2 and 3 had a very interesting and valuable talk about Dementia and also another talk where they learnt about what Young Carers do; Caroline McFarlane came in to teach Class 2 and 3 how to draw portraits properly and we also had a brilliant talk from Ali Singleton about the RNLI and general water safety. Phew! This is all on top of our normal visits into school by Ruth Cook to teach PE sessions and our various class trips out to back up our topic work!

We have also had some very awesome assemblies this year created by the children themselves, which have been both educational and interesting. I am hoping for more of the same next year and perhaps some more parent ones too?

Reading Challenge

Last year we did a reading challenge which resulted in the children earning 'virtual' money and buying their own books, which in reality the PTA paid for.

The PTA had very kindly offered to fund this again for us. So the challenge for the children is to read 10 books over the summer holidays and fully complete 10 book reviews. Each book review will be worth £1 and therefore a maximum of £10 can be raised. We will then allow the children to pick their own books in the Autumn term, with the 'money' they have earned.

Medical Issues

In school we have adopted Derbyshire County Council's 'Administration of Medicine' Policy. Within this policy it talks about having Individual Medical Plans for any child who may need one. We already have plans in place for if your child suffers from Asthma or allergies, but these other plans can cover anything that parents may wish us to know about and which may affect your child's learning e.g. toileting issues, eczema and so on. If you would like to bring any illness to our attention, please just pop into the office or write us a note/email. Thank you.

Summer Term 2 – Continued

After-School Clubs

Monday:

- *Maths Club* - Places limited to 8 pupils from Class 3 only. The aim is to do lots of maths investigations etc and will be led by one of our Governors, Mrs Nettell. From 3.20 to 4.15pm. Please see Mrs Ibbotson to sign up. To begin on Monday 11th September 2017.
- *Minecraft Club* - Places open to all ages, but only 20 places available due to hardware. From 3.20 to 4.15pm. Please see Mrs Ibbotson to sign up. To begin on Monday 11th September 2017.

Tuesday:

- *RuggerEds Club* - Unlimited places are available if interested. From 3.20 to 4.15pm. Please see Mrs Ibbotson to sign up or secure your place again. To begin on Tuesday 12th September 2017. The club will hopefully run all year.

Wednesday:

- *Running Club* - For people who are prepared to work on **long distance running** only. If your child does not want to do sustained running or is not capable of sustained running, this club is **not** for them. Please respect these restrictions as this club has been building up from November 2014 and it is not fair on the other children who have worked so hard.

From 3.20 to 4.15pm. To begin Wednesday 13th September 2017 and hopefully run all year.

- *Construction Club* - Unlimited places are available if interested. From 3.20 to 4.15pm. Please see Mrs Ibbotson to sign up. To begin on Wednesday 13th September 2017. The club will hopefully run all year.

Thursday:

- *Young Voices Club* - Unlimited places are available if interested from Year 4, 5 and 6, due to the lateness of the final concert in Sheffield. This is for people who enjoy singing and dancing, are willing to learn a lot of song words and are available to take part in an evening concert in Sheffield which goes on until about 9pm. From 3.20 to 4.15pm. Please see Mrs Ibbotson to sign up or secure your place again. To begin on Thursday 14th September 2017. To run until the concert has been in December/January time—it is weather dependent.
- *Artist Club* - Unlimited places are available if interested. From 3.20 to 4.15pm. Please see Mrs Ibbotson to sign up. To begin on Thursday 14th September 2017.

*Any changes to the above information will be sent out either through text alerts or a letter. As always a **big thank you** must go to the staff who run these clubs in their own free time. Any children not making the 'Right Choices' during after school clubs will be asked not to attend. Different clubs will be run throughout the year.*

Thank you.

Toddler Group

It is with great delight that I can state that we will be running a Toddler Group in school again from September, due to the kindness of Mrs Burnip. These sessions will take place on a Thursday afternoon from 1.15pm until about 3pm. Everyone is welcome to come along, so spread the word!





Fond Farewells and New Welcomes



As some of you may have already guessed, **Mrs Slack** is expecting a new bundle of delight to add to her family! Her baby is due in October, so she will be with us until the end of September next year and coming back to us in late July 2018—if all goes to plan. I'm sure that you will all join with me to wish her all the best with her pregnancy and maternity leave. Very exciting times ahead for the Slack family household!

Throughout this year, we have had a School's Direct Teaching Student with us in Class 1. **Mrs Clifton** has been working primarily with Year 1, but also doing a lot of whole class teaching as well. The idea behind School's Direct is that a teacher learns to teach and what the job entails whilst being in school instead of following a PGCE course in University. Mrs Clifton has been an excellent addition to our staff and has been successfully appointed to our teaching team from September.



Aurevoir

We will also be saying a fond farewell to **Mrs Rucroft**, who has been working up in Class 3 this year. I know you will all join with me in thanking her for all her hard work and wishing her all the best in the future.



IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR PARENTS/CARERS

Unauthorised leave of absence during term time

On 6th April 2017 the Supreme Court appeal, in relation to the *Platt v Isle of Wight* case, determined that under section 444(1) of the Education Act 1996 attending school 'regularly' means:

"in accordance with the rules prescribed by the school"

PLEASE NOTE

Therefore, from 1st September 2017, if requested, Derbyshire County Council will consider the issue of a penalty notice for any period of holiday absence which has not been authorised by the Headteacher regardless of a child's wider school attendance.



IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR PARENTS/CARERS

Unauthorised leave of absence during term time

So, what does it actually mean?

DCC says:

The 2013 Pupil registration Regulations have not changed. Headteachers are still required to determine whether a request for absence is authorised on the grounds of exceptional circumstances or not. Each request will be taken on its own merits and based on the information provided by the parent.

Where a child is absent with no reason provided and the Headteacher has grounds to believe that the child is on holiday, the Headteacher may wish to challenge this absence and apply for a penalty notice to be issued.

Once the LA receives a request for a penalty notice it will be issued unless there are material errors in the documents provided.

We say:

As far as we are concerned, an unauthorised leave request form should be filled in as normal and handed in to the office. From then a decision will be made as to whether the request fits into 'exceptional circumstances'. If it does, then the absence will be authorised. If it doesn't, then the request will be looked at in terms of whether a penalty notice should be issued. This is now the school's decision to make, not DCC's decision as it used to be. We will set an attendance percentage limit as used to be in place (94%), but have to await further instruction from DCC on this which will be available in the Autumn term.

I hope that this makes sense as much as it can do at this moment in time.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a lovely summer holiday. Have lots of fun and rest and we'll see the children back ready and raring to go on Wednesday 6th September 2017.