

Newsletter Spring Term 1 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

The time has flown by since Christmas and although it has been a very short term, it has been extremely busy.



The biggest challenge in school has been the absences of both staff and pupils. The winter bugs have been “ever present” and at one point we were concerned that there was an epidemic starting – thankfully this did not happen, and I hope as we move to Spring we will see everyone becoming well again.

Work we have undertaken this term

Spring Term 1 tends to be a reflection period for us. Pupil progress meetings have been taking place to review how well your child is doing and if we need to put more support or challenge in place; the School Development and Improvement Plan has been reviewed with staff at the beginning of term to check if we are “on track” and to question whether our priorities remain the same. The Priorities we are currently focussing on this term are:



- Play – in all its forms as part of our creative and experiential curriculum remains a focus for all pupils;
- The development of further staff skills in ADHD; Autism and Signing;
- E safety and Cyber Bullying – Keeping Children Safe
- Developing employability Skills for older students.
- High Quality Teaching and Assessment.

Each department has a development plan and we continually review opportunities within our community.

[Website](#)

We have recently updated our **website**, much thanks to Mr Courtney who keeps uploading revised or new materials.

We are working with a new provider to develop an “all singing all dancing site” bringing us up to date with our technology – don’t be surprised if we ask permission to use some of our new photographs in the future.

Exciting Pupil Activities This Term



The “New Year” disco for Year 6 and above was well attended and great fun at the beginning of term – we have great dancers and children with a huge sense of style.

Parent Drop In day – which had a focus on E safety which was attended by a number of you. For those of you who were not able to meet the O2 Guru for IT or discuss keeping children safe on line – please contact us if you need support.





ADHD Drop In for parents via Time 2Talk – with a presentation from Zoe Tobin ADHD family Support Adviser from ADHD Matters. This was a brilliant presentation and well received for all who attended

E safety work across the whole school with a presentation from the O2 Guru.

“Solve It” – from Drug Education have been working with Key Stage 3 & 4 on the main corridor Mental Health Reflection in celebration of Mental Health Awareness Day on Friday 9th February 2018 (today) saw the school being invited to release balloons as part of the Northamptonshire Mental Health Awareness initiative. This event took place at our sixth form centre.

The final event of the term was the official opening of our Sixth Form Centre, Coffee Shop and Retail by Michael Ellis MP for Northamptonshire. Look out for us in the Press! I am delighted to report that the Café is starting to attract regular customers, but we still have a long way to go before we begin to make profit. The students are gaining confidence and skills, I am very hopeful that this will lead, for some of them into future employment opportunities.



Reminders.....

Taking Children out of School

Some parents have been receiving attendance letters, which we don't particularly want to issue, but we cannot ignore if attendance is falling. We understand if there are medical issues or sad unexpected events in families – these things cannot be avoided. However, may I politely remind you that holidays in term time are against the law. I appreciate that every situation is individual and I take personal circumstances into account, when reading the requests. However, it is an expectation and hope that every child should attend for a minimum of 96% each year – has your child been at school for 96%?

Please remember you need to ring into us to explain your child's absence, otherwise it is automatically recoded as unauthorised. If absence is unauthorised this is then reported to the Educational Inclusion Service, who may issue a fine.

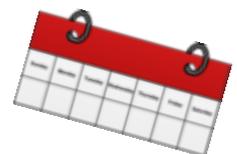
Upto Date Contact Numbers



In light of national incidents, we have reviewed our contact number database. It is important that we hold at least TWO emergency contact numbers for you. If you have changed your numbers, please let us know immediately after half term.

Events Next term

Please check the calendar, on the next page, for all our events and look out for texts and letters. If in doubt contact the school office and they will let you know if your child is involved in anything “extra”.



Spring Term 2 2018

19 th – 23 rd February	Creative Arts Week – afternoons only.
Thursday 22 nd February 2018	Parent drop In – focus Creative Arts Afternoon 1.45pm – 2.45pm, see information on flyer
Thursday 1 st March 2018	World Book Day
Monday 12 th to Friday 16 th March 2018	Work Experience Year 11
Monday 19 th to Thursday 22 nd March 2018	Parent Consultations – more details to follow, as we are waiting for the O2 Guru to confirm when he can present to Parents.
Monday 26 th to Thursday 29 th March 2018	Autism Week
Thursday 29 th March 2018	Celebrating Easter
Thursday 29 th March 2018	Last day of Term

30th March 2018 to Monday 16th April 2018 Easter Holiday with School reopening on Tuesday 17th April 2018

Finally, I hope you all have a lovely half term break.
School opens to children on **Monday 19th February 2018**

Yours sincerely,



Headteacher