



# KNAPHILL NEWS

THE KNAPHILL FEDERATION OF SCHOOLS  
Knaphill Lower & Junior Schools - "Together we are Better"

May 2017

## Lower School Edition

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Dear Parents and Carers, Pupils, Staff and Governors,

It is difficult to believe that we are already approaching the final term of this academic year, time is flying by! The children have worked extremely hard during the Spring Term and have enthusiastically embraced all learning opportunities. We are so proud of **all** of their achievements. **Thank you** to all the children, families and staff members who came along to our Green Afternoon last Friday to work on our Sensory Garden. The outside areas are really taking shape and starting to blossom. I would also like to thank you all for your support, offers of help and donations following the Nursery flood. The Nursery Team and premises staff worked tirelessly to ensure that the Nursery was able to reopen the following week. Thank you all for your patience during this time. May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very safe and happy half-term.



Miss Concannon, Head of School (Lower)

## Federation News

Dear Parents,

At this time of year our thoughts turn to September and naturally, some staff move on to pastures new. Getting the right staff in place for each academic year is arguably the most important job of any Headteacher, so I am very pleased to report that, working closely with the Heads of Schools, we are now fully staffed for September with the highest calibre of staff. We have spent hours poring over applications and interviewing candidates to ensure that we appoint the very best people who fit our Knaphill values and ideals.



As part of the staffing changes we have also had to plan for the wonderful news (probably the worst kept secret ever!) that Mrs Sebo is expecting a baby in October. This is fabulous news - and we can't wait to meet baby Sebo!

Mrs Sebo will of course be here for the remainder of this year and will start the new academic year with us in September. This will enable her to induct the existing Year 2s as they move into Year 3 and see Years 4 to 6 settle into their new year groups. She will embark on her maternity leave at the end of September and take a well-earned rest until the birth of her baby. On her departure, I am pleased to report that Miss Daly (our current Assistant Head) will take over as Acting Head of School until Mrs Sebo returns. To add capacity to the Senior Team, we will shortly be promoting one of our current Year Leaders to take on the role of Acting Assistant Head. I will update you with more details of this after half term. I will of course be here to help and support during this transition.

Parents can be assured that the usual high standards that you have come to expect from Knaphill School will continue seamlessly. This is a very exciting change and it is always lovely when our

community adapts and grows. I'm sure you will want to join me in wishing Mrs Sebo and her husband many congratulations and all the very best for their new arrival.

Mrs Mackintosh, Federation Headteacher

## A Note from the Governors – Alexandra Barker

Having joined the Board of Governors in December 2016, I thought it would be useful to provide an insight into what the role of a typical Governor involves. Although I have been involved in education for a number of years I had no previous experience of being a Governor and so my first job was to get some initial training. Since then I have been involved in both Resource Committee and Full Governor Body meetings and have been hugely impressed by the dedication of all involved and the strong relationship that exists between the Governors and School Leadership. More recently, I had the opportunity to visit both sites to find out more about how the Sports Funding is being used to the benefit of the children. I was struck by the dedication of all those involved in this area and look forward to my next visit. In the meantime I hope you all have a restful half term.

Alexandra Barker

## Nursery

The children came back after the Easter break excited to share their news with the class. This half term we have been learning about people who help us. We have talked about fire fighters, the police, postmen, doctors, Paula, our cleaner and Mr Richards, our caretaker. We have learnt just how important they are and all the jobs they do for us.



We were lucky to have Pippa's mum, who is a GP, to come to visit and talk to the class about her role as a doctor. The children were happy to share their experiences with her.

During our week learning about fire fighters, the children were interested to observe an air ambulance land in the field next to the Nursery.

The children have been learning about the job of the postmen and what happens to our post once it has been posted in the letterbox. They have enjoyed writing postcards to friends and family showing off their lovely writing and knowledge of letter sounds.

Our role play area has been full of various uniforms and equipment, that the 'People who help us' wear, which the children have enjoyed playing with.



For the final part of our term, our topic will be Animals. We will be exploring the themes: Under the Sea, Jungle and Pets. As part of our Pets week, we would like to invite the children to bring in photos of their pets to show the class. If you would like to bring in a pet to show the class that would be wonderful. Please see one of the Nursery team to arrange a time which would be at the beginning or end of a Nursery session.

## Reception



Reception has had an exciting start to the summer term with a visit to the Lookout Discovery Centre. The children were able to explore various scientific concepts and took part in an interactive show. Following the trip the children learnt about different types of scientists and became scientists themselves. They asked questions, discussed ways we could find the answers, predicted,



experimented and explored different scientific concepts such as float/sinking, magnetism, forces and chemical reactions.

One Monday morning Reception came into school to find the outside area had been wrecked. They examined the evidence that had been left behind and made suggestions of what it could be. When we checked the school cameras they discovered it was a dinosaur! They have enjoyed reading a range of fiction and non-fiction work based on dinosaurs and have been exploring the mathematical concepts of addition and subtraction, including doubling and halving.



The Reception Team

## Year 1

As always we have been very busy in Year 1. We have been developing our throwing and catching skills in PE, as well as practising some skills we will need for Sports Day. In Art we have been enjoying using different media to re-create famous pieces of art. Our favourite was Van Gogh's – Sunflowers. The

children used paint mixed with flour to create a textured appearance and used the end of their brushes to add definition to their piece. Each sunflower was unique and beautiful.



In Science our worms have been very busy! The worms have been tunnelling through the different layers and eating an array of delicious treats including apple and banana. We will be very sad to release the worms back into their natural environment, as we have had so much fun learning about them.

We all have been improving our fitness by 'Running the World'. Each class now has hundreds of miles under their belts and we are pushing for more!

Next half term we will be looking forward to our school trip, where we will be going on an adventure through a forest! We will also be spending some time talking about Year 2 and the exciting times ahead.

The Year One Team

## Year 2



In English the children have been learning about quest stories. They have used stories and role play to explore this genre and to help them to write their own stories. They have written detailed setting descriptions and are building confidence in using the four different types of sentences; commands, statements, questions and explanations. The children have worked especially hard on their presentation and handwriting, forming letters correctly with clear ascenders and descenders and joining their writing neatly.

In Maths, the children have learned to measure capacity, volume and temperature. They have been consolidating all the different methods used to solve arithmetic and reasoning problems and applying them to a variety of mathematical questions.



For this half term's topic the children have been looking at maps. They have drawn a sketch map of the school and local area, they can identify and use the directions on a compass, use a key and recognise and use map road names and symbols.



This month the children have worked extremely hard to apply all their knowledge and understanding to answer the questions in their Key Stage 1 quizzes. We are incredibly proud of their efforts and are looking forward to all the fun and exciting learning opportunities coming up next half term.

Year Two Team

## News from Pupil Parliament



This term sees our last set of Pupil Parliament members take on the responsibility for this academic year. We are very excited for Reception to vote for their members who will join the last few meetings of the half term. It is so wonderful to see how even at such an early age all the children can and do, get involved in this democratic process and are enjoying their new roles and responsibilities. The 'Knaphill Suggestion Box' is regularly checked by the members to ensure all ideas are considered. The main focus of the Pupil Parliament meetings will be on the school values and how Pupil Parliament can help model them around school.

## PE and Sport

Another exciting term of P.E for the children at Knaphill Lower School. The children have been working together to build their fitness and stamina by exercising for an extra 10 minutes per day. We are 'Running the World' following the successes of last year's 'Run2Rio'. The children have run an impressive 1060 miles collectively so far and will continue to add to this until the end of the Summer term. Their fitness is noticeably improving and their teamwork and sportsmanship is also growing. The children are encouraged to run but are exercising at their own pace whether this is a walk, jog or run.



Ten children from Year Two represented Knaphill Lower School this half term at The Winston Churchill School Sports Festival. The children were absolutely amazing and were ambassadors for our school. They worked hard as a team, encouraged each other and mixed with children from other local schools. They worked together in a selection of team games and racked up a sensational score of 439 points, coming 5<sup>th</sup> out of all of the 12 schools. Well done to all of these children and we look forward to the next festival!

The children are going to soon be practising and preparing for our annual Sports Day in the upcoming term. Get ready with your banners and cheers and don't forget your trainers for the Parents and Carers race!

## Supporting your Child's Learning in Mathematics – Top Tips

**Real life** often provides the best opportunities to develop maths skills. When maths is real – about real things and with a real purpose – it can be much easier to understand than just numbers in a book.

**Talk about maths** - Whenever you can, talk about maths in real life. You could measure ingredients for recipes together: 'We need 50g of sugar. Let's use the scales to measure that.' You can look at the clock together: 'If the party is at 5 o'clock we need to leave in half an hour. That'll be half past 4.'

**Count together** - Try counting real objects as this helps children picture maths in their heads. Give children different household objects to count like buttons, coins or shoes.

**Make and Do together** - Most craft and DIY activities involve maths skills. Activities such as model making, sewing and decorating can involve a range of skills such as adding, subtracting, multiplying, dividing, measuring length, perimeter, area and volume, using decimals, fractions and percentages and understanding shapes and angles.

**Out and about together** - You'll find lots of opportunities to help your child use numbers when you're out and about, doing chores or going on trips. Adding or comparing prices, checking change, keeping a record of what you've spent and weighing food are all things that your child might be able to help with.

**These websites are great to assist...**

National Numeracy - <http://www.familymathstoolkit.org.uk/>

ICT Games - <http://www.ictgames.com/resources.html>

Maths is Fun - <http://www.mathsisfun.com/index.htm>

Maths Zone - <http://mathszone.co.uk/>

Woodlands Junior - <http://www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/maths/>

Top Marks - <http://www.topmarks.co.uk/>

NRICH Maths - <http://nrich.maths.org/frontpage>

Mr Barton Maths - <http://mrbartonmaths.com/students/>

Maths Zone - <http://mathszone.co.uk/>

Primary Games - <http://www.primarygames.co.uk/>

Teaching Tables - <http://www.teachingtables.co.uk/>

Oxford Owl - <https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/maths-owl/maths>

## Live My Digital: Learning about digital living, together

The Girls' Day School Trust has created '[Live My Digital](#)', a unique video series to help parents help their children to stay safe online. The series consists of six short films for parents and six matching films for children to empower families to use social media safely and responsibly.

The videos look at the ways in which the internet and digital technology can be used positively by young people as well as identifying the potential issues they may face. The most critical themes in online safety today are covered including: Cyberbullying; The digital footprint; Identity and self-esteem; Relationships and grooming; Security and privacy; Sexting.

We hope that the films, together with the downloadable online safety factsheets, will help encourage and support open discussions in your family about how to enjoy the online environment whilst staying safe.

You can access the videos here: [www.gdst.net/livemydigital](http://www.gdst.net/livemydigital)

## Office Update

### Emergency Contact Numbers

We would be very grateful if parents could ensure that the office is able to contact them at all times. If your mobile is switched off at work, please provide us with an alternative work/emergency number.

### Lost Property



Parents are kindly asked to clearly label their child's belongings so all items can be returned promptly. Teaching Teams and Office Staff endeavour to return all labelled clothing to their rightful owners. Lost property is taken to the school office and Year Groups also collect any unnamed items of clothing. Please check with your child's class teacher or the School Office if you have any lost items of clothing.

**REMINDER - Class Photographs: Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2017**

## INSET Days have been set for 2017-2018

The school will be closed to children on:

Monday 4 September 2017

Monday 20 November 2017

Thursday 21 December 2017

Friday 25 May 2018

Monday 23 July 2018

## Feeling Hot, Hot, Hot!

We expect the weather to turn hotter next half-term, so please ensure necessary sun cream is applied **before** school and that your child has to wear during outdoor activities. Children in school have attended a assembly and have learnt about the importance of keeping safe in



that any  
a school cap  
Sun Smart  
the sun. We



encourage them to remember the following three Sunsmart Steps.

1. **Slip** on clothing that covers your skin
2. **Slop** on SPF 30 or higher
3. **Slap** on a hat



## Diary Pages

Remaining Term Dates - Academic year 2016/2017

### Summer Term 2017



Start of Term	End of Term
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> June 2017	20 July 2017 – 1.30pm

## Key Diary Dates Summer Term 2017

Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> May	INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> May – Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June	Half – Term
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 2 Trip to Legoland
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> June	Class Photographs
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> June	PTA Quiz Night
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> June	Reception Sept 2017 Induction Evening
Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup> June	PTA Dads Camping
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> June	Sports Day
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 1 Trip to Alice Holt
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> June	PTA Mufti Day
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> July	Alternative Sports Day Date (If 28 <sup>th</sup> June rained off)
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> July	Transition/Moving On Day
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> July	Knaphill Federation of Schools 'Big Lunch'
	PTA Summer Fair 3pm
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> July	Curriculum Open Afternoon 3.30 – 6.30pm
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> July	Last day of Summer Term 1.30pm

On behalf of the staff and governors of the Knaphill Federation of Schools, we hope you all have a wonderful half-term!

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards

Miss J. Concannon

Head of School (Lower)