



Federation of Knaphill Schools

# Knaphill Lower School Newsletter

Friday 21st October 2016

Knaphill Lower School  
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Dear Parents and Carers, Pupils, Staff and Governors,

It has been a brilliant start to the new school year. All children have settled beautifully into their new classes and year groups. They have embraced all new learning experiences and are working extremely hard. We are always so proud of their achievements and it was wonderful to see so many of you at Parents Evening this week. Working together in partnership with you is extremely important to us. If you were unable to attend, please speak to your child's Class Teacher who will reschedule an appointment with you. I wish you all an extremely happy and restful break and look forward to welcoming you back on Monday 31st October at 8.45am.

Miss J. Concannon Head of School



## Message from the Federation Headteacher Mrs Mackintosh

What a wonderful first half term. All of the children across the Federation have settled into their new classes extremely well. I have spent some time visiting the classrooms and have been delighted to see so many examples of excellent learning in a variety of different forms, pride in the work produced and success in so many guises.

In my first assembly of the term in both schools we talked about courage. I showed a video of the athlete Derek Redmond who despite coming last in his 400m race at the Olympics in Barcelona in 1992, received a standing ovation. We contemplated this, as athletes who come last do not normally get applauded. We found out that he was being praised for his courage to persevere and complete the race despite a painful injury. This caused us to think about how we can perhaps persevere when things get difficult and find inner strength. We thought about courage to face new situations and courage to try new things and to push and challenge themselves this year in their learning and friendships. Please ask your children what examples they have of using their inner courage this half term.



## New Website!

We hope you like the design of our new website. Please take some time to have a look around. We will continue to populate it and updates will be posted regularly. For parents and carers there is an up to date calendar for you to access outlining all forthcoming dates and events. The website has been designed to ensure you are kept informed of all school information and all school correspondence will be added. We hope you enjoy watching our website grow and develop over the following weeks.



## Diwali

This year the festival falls on Sunday October 30th. Diwali, also known as the festival of lights, is a major holiday signifying the victory of light over dark, good over evil, knowledge over ignorance and hope over despair. Hindus honour the story of Lord Rama and his wife Sita, who returned from exile after defeating the evil King Ravanna. Sikhs celebrate the Bandi Chhor Divas which translates to imprisoned release day. For them, the festival marks the day when Guru Hargobind freed himself and 52 princes from imprisonment. Jains commemorate Lord Mahavira, who attained Nirvana on October 15 527BC. Families mark Diwali with a five-day celebration, and share sweets and gifts with neighbours and friends. It is customary at this time to give to those in need.

## Parent Representatives and Helpers



Thank you to all of our Parent Reps and Helpers who have volunteered to come into school to support children and staff over the course of this academic year. Our Parent Reps did an amazing job of organising the beautiful Harvest Baskets for our Harvest Celebrations last week, thank you! It is wonderful that so many parents are able to help us in school on a regular or ad hoc basis – it makes a huge difference! We welcome parent help for so many things; listening to children read, helping with cooking or gardening activities or accompanying the children on an educational visit, the list is endless. If you are able to come into school to help out, please speak to your child's Class Teacher. All help is greatly appreciated!

**All monetary donations received at our Harvest Celebrations came to an amazing total of £204.14!**

**All donations received will be equally split between Save the Children, Woking Hospice and Freddie's Family.**

## Prospective Parents Open Mornings

We have had the wonderful opportunity of showing prospective parents around our school over the last few weeks. If you have a child due to start school in September 2017 and would like to book a place on one of our tours please call or visit the school office. We have several more tours available on the following dates: 11th, 16th, 18th and 25th of November and the 2nd December 2016. All tours start at 10.00am. If you currently have a Year Two child please note that you will still need to apply through Surrey County Council Admissions to gain a Year 3 place for your child at Knaphill School.

## Federation of Knaphill Schools PTA



We are so lucky as a School to have an active and dedicated PTA Committee that coordinates fundraising and social events for the Federation of Knaphill Schools. The money raised by the PTA is all spent on providing additional resources and improving our learning environments for the direct benefit of every child in the school. You can keep up to date with PTA events and news through the Website and half termly School Newsletters.

## Tucasi

You will have seen from letters about our Parents Evening Module that we are using a new online booking and payment system this year. This has been developed from parent feedback over the last couple of years. We hope after the initial sign in, it will be a quick system for you to use. If you are experiencing any difficulties or do not have access to the internet at home please contact the school office who will be happy to help.



## Parking

The majority of our parents and carers co-operate with us and our neighbours as they park sensitively and safely. Unfortunately this is not always the case which puts the safety of others at risk often just for the convenience of saving a few minutes. As previously mentioned we are continuing to monitor parking in order to ensure our children's safety. Unfortunately several members of our local community have recently reported to us that parents are regularly parking on their driveways. I know it is only a few, but please consider where you are parking your vehicle so we can maintain good relationships with the local community. **Everyone** should take responsibility for setting the right example to our children by thinking of others.

## Green Day - Sunday 13th November

Over the last few years we have organised a weekend event for parents, staff and governors to work together to tidy up our school grounds and complete projects. Most recently that has included: weeding patio areas, raised flower beds and lots of planting. We are so lucky to have such amazing facilities but as you can imagine our vast site isn't easy to maintain. On Sunday 13th November 10.00am - 1.00pm we would love as many people to come armed with secateurs, garden forks, spades, rakes and wheelbarrows to tidy up, weed and plant bulbs in key areas around the school. Please e-mail the school office if you are able to come for all or just part of the morning so we can organise refreshments and plan the morning effectively.



## School Photographs: Monday 7th November 2016

## Absence

Please notify the school office before 9.10am, if your child is ill, on every day of your child's absence. Lateness and any absence not substantiated either verbally or in writing by the parents/guardians of the child to the school office staff or the teacher are recorded as being unauthorised. These will go on your child's report and details also forwarded to the Local Authority.

*Thank you all for your continued support.*

**School will re-open on Monday 31st October at 8.45am**



# Diary Dates

## Autumn Term 2016



### October

Monday 24th - Friday 28th October  
Monday 31st October

Half-Term (School Closed)  
School opens at 8.45am

### November

Monday 28th November

INSET DAY (School closed to pupils)

### December

Tuesday 6th December  
Wednesday 7th December  
Thursday 8th December  
Tuesday 13th December  
Tuesday 13th December

Ladybird Class Nativity 9.45am  
Butterfly Class Nativity 9.45am  
Dragonfly Class Nativity 9.45am  
Nursery Christmas Singalong 10.00am  
KS1 Christmas Performance 1.35pm  
(Family Members)

Wednesday 14th December

KS1 Christmas Performance 9.45am  
(Family Members)

Thursday 15th December

KS1 Christmas Performance 9.45am  
(Adults Only)

Wednesday 21st December

End of Term 1.30pm



For all our latest dates and events,  
please visit our new website and  
view the parents calendar.

[www.knaphill-lower.surrey.sch.uk](http://www.knaphill-lower.surrey.sch.uk)