



Federation of Knaphill Schools

Knaphill Lower School Newsletter

Wednesday 21st December 2016

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Dear Parents and Carers, Pupils, Staff and Governors,

It's so hard to believe that the end of term is here! It has been a truly amazing term. The children have worked so hard and we are so proud of all of their achievements. The Christmas performances were absolutely fantastic. Every year group 'shone' and their confidence, independence and true enjoyment was an absolute pleasure to watch.



This half term, we have launched a new online reading scheme for Reception and Key Stage 1. Children can now access a variety of books online through their personal Bug Club login. These books are interactive and children can answer questions about what they have read as they progress through the text. Books will be changed half termly and be appropriate to their individual reading ability. Children are very excited about this new resource which also links to their learning in class. Please speak to your child's class teacher if you would like more information. Happy reading!

During National Anti-Bullying Week 14 – 18 November all classes came up with ideas for promoting anti-bullying. Children in classes designed posters and leaflets and these are available for you to look at in the school reception area. Part of the week was also spent discussing the difference between bullying and one off unkindness (neither of which are acceptable) and focusing on how we all have a responsibility to stop bullying by telling someone about it. Please encourage your children to speak up at school if there is a problem.

Communication between Parents, Carers and Teaching Staff is extremely important. If you would like to speak to your child's Class Teacher please inform them at the start or the end of the school day. If you are a working parent please call the school office who will pass a message onto your child's Class Teacher. Class Teachers will return all phone calls and arrange a time to talk or if needed a face to face meeting. Alternatively please jot a note in your child's reading diary and the Class Teacher will respond by phone call or speak to you at the start/end of the day.

We say a sad farewell at the end of this academic term to Miss Bobbie. We thank Miss Bobbie for all of her hard work at Knaphill Lower School over the past academic year and wish her every success and happiness in the future.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Thank you all for your continued support. I look forward to working with you all again in 2017!

Best wishes,
Miss J. Concannon Head of School

Message from our Federation Headteacher Mrs Mackintosh



It is hard to believe we are now at Christmas, the term has gone so quickly. Our fabulous staff and pupils never cease to amaze me with their enthusiasm, excellent teaching and learning and commitment to both schools.

It has been wonderful to see both schools working increasingly closely together this term. Miss Daly, Assistant Head Inclusion, is now working across both schools ensuring policies, practices and systems are the same for our most vulnerable children and that we are not letting any 'slip through the net'. Our subject leads have met to share best practice and moderate work, which is particularly important in years 2 and 3 where we need to ensure a seamless transition. In addition we have had some joint staff meetings that have been great opportunities for training and sharing.

I am pleased to report that we have decided upon a new federation logo which the Pupil Parliament, staff and Governors have all had a say in. We feel this captures the essence of our schools. The hill of Knaphill, the tree a symbol of growth and the children in various states, reading and playing. We will be rolling this out in the New Year. We are also working on a new Federation website landing page, from which the two federation school websites will be accessed. This will be launched to parents in the New Year. We hope you approve!



Thank you parents for supporting our festive performances that showed how talented our pupils are; I am still humming many of the songs and carols now! It was a pleasure to see the concentration and superb self-control from the children, as well as the enjoyment and pride they obviously felt at being able to perform to relatives.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Sebo and Miss Concannon. They are fabulous Heads of Schools, who work incredibly hard. We are very lucky to have them. I'd also like to thank all the children, staff and parents for all the hard work everyone has put in this term to make Knaphill Junior and Lower the very best they can be. I wish you all a peaceful Christmas and look forward to seeing the children again in the New Year.

Best wishes,

Mrs Mackintosh

Federation Headteacher



School Survey

Thank you to all of our parents and carers who have taken the time to complete the online questionnaire. We appreciate your comments and views and read and value all feedback. If you haven't completed our survey and would still like to, please follow the link below or collect a paper copy from the school office.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/LowerParent>



Poppy Appeal

Together we raised over £280 to help the work of the British Legion as we remembered those who have fought or who have been injured in action. Thank you all so much for your generous donations.

Pupil Premium Funding

We appreciate circumstances in families can change. If you are receiving Income Support, Child Tax Credits or Job Seekers Allowance your child may be entitled to Pupil Premium funding to support/extend his/her education. If you would like a claim form or further details please call into the school office. This information is treated in the strictest of confidence. The funding is greatly beneficial to the school in providing curriculum support for your children.



Online Safety

Children and young people spend a lot of time online. It can be a great way for them to socialise, explore, get help with homework, play games and have fun. But children also face risks like cyberbullying or seeing content that could be inappropriate. It is very important that you talk to your child about staying safe, even if you are not an expert on the internet. Understanding what children do online and the risks they face will help you keep your child safe online. Two websites we would recommend you look at for assistance are:

The NSPCC website www.nspcc.org.uk

Parent Zone www.theparentzone.co.uk

Website Update - Year Group Blogs

We are working extremely hard to continuously improve and update the content on our new website. Please have a look at our new weekly year group blogs. Teachers are writing weekly blogs which inform parents and carers of topics and learning covered in class. Photographs, websites and activity ideas are also shared to help you support your child's learning at home. Please take a look!



Federation of Knaphill Schools PTA

A huge thank you to Mrs Hall, Mrs Childs, Mrs Fashoni-Jones and Mr Litchfeld for all of the hard work that they put into making our Christmas Fair such a success. It was a wonderful event which was enjoyed by the community. Thank you to all of those of you who helped in any way, by donating items or manning stalls on the day, as well as all those who came along to support the event.

It was wonderful seeing so many families, governors and children supporting the event. Please visit their website www.knaphillschoolspta.org.uk



Christmas Jumper Day



Thank you all so much for supporting the Save The Children Christmas Jumper Day at Knaphill Lower School. We raised an amazing £192 to send to the charity. Save the Children helped 17.5 million children through their work in 2015. They run world-class programmes to save children's lives and challenge world leaders to keep to their promises to give children a brighter future.

Spring Term starts on Tuesday 3rd January 2017 at 8.45am



Healthy Lunchbox Options

We have noticed that some of the children's lunchboxes do not contain the healthiest options. As a guide, according to NHS choices, a balanced lunchbox should contain:

- * Starchy foods like bread, rice, potatoes or pasta.
- * Protein foods like meat, fish, eggs or beans.
- * A dairy item, like cheese or yogurt.
- * Vegetables or salad and a portion of fruit.



We are a NUT FREE School!

Please remember we are a nut free school. Occasionally parents have sent their children in to school with nut based products, such as **Nutella** in sandwiches. We have many children and staff with **severe allergies** and therefore would ask for your co-operation in working with us to ensure that we keep everybody safe. We would also ask that if your child is recently diagnosed with a food allergy that the school office and teachers are informed as soon as possible.

Appointments - A Message from the Office

If you need to take your child to an appointment during the school day please inform the school office in advance. Arrangements need to be made to ensure that your child is ready for collection and we avoid disrupting the children's learning as much as possible. If at all possible please try and make any medical or dental appointments either first thing in the morning or after school. Thank you all so much for your co-operation.



Key dates for your Diary



- Term Starts:** Tuesday 3rd January 2017 8.45am
- Parents Evening:** Tuesday 31st January 3.30 - 5.30pm
- Parents Evening:** Thursday 2nd February 5.30 - 8.30pm
- Half Term:** Monday 13th February - Friday 17th February
- Term Finishes:** Friday 31st March 1.30pm

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

The Staff and Governors of the Knaphill Federation of Schools wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Have a safe and happy holiday and we will see you all on Tuesday 3rd January 2017!

