



KNAPHILL NEWS

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

March 2017

Lower School Edition

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Dear Parents and Carers, Pupils, Staff and Governors,

The children have all worked extremely hard over the Spring Term and have enthusiastically embraced all learning opportunities. We are so proud of their achievements, attitudes to learning and increased independence.



I am sure you will join me in wishing Mrs Moss and Miss Stokes every happiness as they await the arrival of their new bundles of joy! Mrs Moss will begin her maternity leave shortly after the Easter break and we say a sad farewell to Miss Stokes who leaves us to move nearer to her family up North. We have appointed new staff to cover during their absence and look forward to welcoming them to the Knaphill team.

May we take this opportunity to thank Miss Stokes for her amazing contribution to the Nursery and send her and her family our very best wishes for this exciting new chapter in their lives.

We would also like to extend our warmest wishes to Miss Clayton one of our Teaching Assistants, who is getting married over the Easter break. We will welcome her back to school as Mrs Beech. Many congratulations!

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff and Governors for their continued support, passion and commitment to the Knaphill Federation of Schools. Their dedication is unprecedented and very much appreciated.

Wishing you all a very Happy Easter!

Miss Concannon, Head of School (Lower)

Federation News – Our Values



I am very pleased to report that the children of the Pupil Parliament from both the Lower and Junior Schools met this week to discuss our Federation Values. Mrs Sebo and Miss Concannon worked with the children, who discussed in a most mature way what our schools stand for. After much discussion

they came up with:

- 1) Trust
- 2) Respect
- 3) Enjoy and Achieve
- 4) Perseverance

Thank you to everyone for all their hard work on this - what fabulous values. Lovely to see that pupil voice is so strong at Knaphill.

School Funding Cuts – Are you aware?

You may be aware from the press of the grave concerns that Headteachers currently have regarding education funding. Over the life of this Parliament, schools across the country are facing a cut in their budgets in real terms of some 8%. This 8% comes from:

- cuts to post-16 funding
- cuts to early years funding
- unfunded staff pay rises
- increased pension and NI costs
- the new Apprenticeship Levy
- significant cuts to funding for support services
- inflationary costs and rate rises will serve to compound this increasing financial burden on schools.

Heads are faced with extremely difficult choices and in some schools this is resulting in staffing cuts, increased class sizes, reduced numbers of teaching and support staff, cuts to essential support services and restrictions to the depth and breadth of the curriculum offered.

I am telling you this just so you are aware of the pressures that all schools, including The Knaphill Federation, are under and the importance of parents' contributions to the school via The PTA, donations, school fund, or payments for school trips. So **please** keep your contributions flowing in, so that we can continue to maintain the great provision that we currently have. Thank you!

Parking

Please can I remind parents who drive their children to school to be considerate when parking near to the schools. We have received a number of complaints, particularly about cars driving up on to the kerb near the Lower School and there was a near miss with a child recently. Please park considerately, or preferably walk, cycle or scoot to school instead.

Spellosaur

Spellosaur is a free app to help children with their spelling. First you enter the words to learn, this can be your weekly spelling list, or just a set of words that your child has been struggling to learn. Spellosaur makes learning words more fun with a set of games to help progressively learn each spelling - listen and choose the correct word, complete the word by adding the missing letters, plus re-arrange the letters to make the word. You can also test yourself on your word list just like you would at school - listen to the word, then spell it, then the app will report which you got correct and incorrect at the end of the test. Each time you enter a new word list your prior words are saved for future review - so you can track how many words you have learned and try them again! To download the app, scan this QR code, or go to the following website: <http://downloadapp.info/Spellosaur-461007342.html>

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a safe and happy holiday and look forward to welcoming you all to the start of the Summer Term on Tuesday 18th April.

Mrs Mackintosh,

Federation Headteacher



A Note from the Governors

As part of the new look Knaphill Federation Of Schools (KFOS) Newsletter we thought you would like a brief update on the Governing Board.

This term we have welcomed three new members to the Governing Board – Mrs Amy Skeoch - Parent Governor, Mrs Alexandra Barker and Mr Matthew Furniss - Co-opted Governors.

The Board has been busy with termly meetings of the Children and Learning Committee, the Resources Committee and most recently the Full Governing Board meeting. The budget for the next financial year has been formulated, agreed and submitted; fortunately, with the help of the PTA, KFOS is in a better financial situation than some other schools. Governors have been keeping up to date with statutory changes and best practice by attending training courses. Governor monitoring visits have been made to ensure statutory and local policies are known and being used throughout the schools.

Being a school Governor is a commitment not to be underestimated, not least in the current climate where there are so many changes in education. This commitment is well rewarded by the children who are all proud to share their learning with us when we visit the schools.

May I wish you a Happy Easter from the Governing Board and I look forward to your continued support.

Caroline Wright
Chair of Governors

Nursery

What an exciting half term we have had in Nursery! We have really focused on the children's interests, starting off with learning about 'Outer Space'. Thank you so much for all of your involvement in our 'show and tell' junk model rocket competition, this really did extend the

children's interests by supporting their learning, and they all loved showing their rockets to their friends.



We also thoroughly enjoyed learning all about pirates, where we were very busy creating a make-believe pirate ship in the garden, our own pirate flags and even our own treasure maps.



Thank you again for supporting our dressing up day for World Book Day, the children enjoyed sharing their outfits of their favourite characters with their friends.

Finally, I would like to wish all of the children the best of luck as they continue on with their exciting learning journey throughout the summer term. It has been an absolute pleasure to be their class teacher and I will miss them all dearly.

Miss Stokes 😊

Reception



Reception have been exploring traditional tales this term including The Gingerbread Man, The Three Little Pigs and Jack and the Beanstalk. Some of the activities the children have enjoyed included using gingerbread men as non-standard units of measure, making their own house out of recycled materials for The Three Little Pigs and becoming authors, writing their own traditional tale!



We thoroughly enjoyed book week and dressing up as our favourite book character and were so lucky to have two authors visit us as well as CBeebies 'Rhyme Rocket'!

We have discussed the changing seasons and the children have been observing and investigating signs of spring in our environment. We have also used this as a starting point to discuss growth and change and have kept a close eye on our cress seeds to watch how they change over time!



We have had a fabulous spring term and we are looking forward to a summer term filled with sunshine so we can make the most of our outside areas. We are especially looking forward to our school trip!

Year 1

This half term in Year 1 has been very exciting. We started off by learning about Isambard Kingdom Brunel. The children loved learning about all of his amazing engineering feats, and especially enjoyed the part when the Victorians were afraid to get on his new passenger train because it would be so fast their 'heads might boil and explode!' We then became engineers ourselves and designed and built our own bridges. The difficult part was when we had to test and evaluate them - not many were waterproof when we poured water on them!



We then spent a wonderful week celebrating World Book Week. A lovely moment was when the Year 2 children came down and read to our classes, and then the next day we went down to our old Reception classes and read to their children. We had two authors come in to talk to us, as well as hearing all of the teachers reading their favourite stories to us.

In P.E. we have been very busy. With Coach Darrell we have moved onto module 4 and are looking at bat and ball skills. We are currently learning to pass the ball back and forwards to each other using tennis rackets. In our indoor P.E. sessions we have been continuing our circus theme for movement and dance. We have looked at being clowns, tight rope walkers, strong men and circus animals.

We have had so much fun in Year 1 this half term, and we are really looking forward to the warmer weather in the summer term so that we can expand our learning environments outside of the classrooms. Don't forget to check out what new things we will release on Mathletics ready for the Easter holidays.

Year One Team

Year 2

In English the children have linked their writing to their history topic of pirates! They have been busy writing character descriptions, setting descriptions, diary entries, applying for a pirate job and writing factual sentences about pirates. They have read and compared a wide variety of pirate stories and used these to get ideas for their own stories. They then worked really hard on making their own pirate story, focussing strongly on the planning to ensure that their finished story had as much detail as possible. They wrote their stories as a book, including illustrations, a front cover and a back cover.



They have also learned verses of the humorous poem 'Aliens stole my underpants' and have begun to perform these in an entertaining way to an audience.

In maths the children have been learning to recognise, find, name and write fractions $\frac{1}{3}$, $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{2}{4}$ and $\frac{3}{4}$ of a length, shape, set of objects or quantity. They can write simple fractions for example, $\frac{1}{2}$ of 6 = 3 and recognise the equivalence of 24 and 12. They even used fractions to help them cut up their pancakes on Pancake Day! They have also learned to read time to the hour, half hour, quarter hour and at 5 minute intervals.



In science the children have been exploring a healthy lifestyle. They have sorted foods, looked at the effects of exercise, learned the benefits of good hygiene and then consolidated their learning by producing an information book.



Year Two Team

News from Pupil Parliament

This half term has been busy for the members of Pupil Parliament. All members have been fantastic role models, opening doors, remembering their manners and helping Mr Richards pack away the chairs from assembly. In partnership with the Friendship Council at the Junior School, the Lower School Pupil Parliament gave out stickers to those children playing well with others on the playground at lunchtime. It was so lovely to see all the children working together.



Mrs Merrin
PSHE Co-ordinator

Book Week

This year's Book Week has been an amazing one! Read on to find out more about all the lovely learning experiences that have taken place.

Author Visits

We were lucky enough to receive visits from two authors. Michelle Monan came to talk about the inspiration for her story "Can You Hear It Too?" and the process from having the idea to getting it published. This proved to be a very popular reading with all the classes and Michelle was asked some lovely, and interesting, questions by the children. This book is in its early stages and is currently being printed. Her book will hopefully be completed by the end of March when Michelle will return to the school to show us the finished product. Your child will then be able to purchase the book and have it signed by the author. A date will be confirmed nearer the time.



Paul Geraghty, author of 'Solo', 'The Hunter' and many more wonderful picture books, came to talk to the children about his books. He gave two exciting workshops where he talked to the children about where his ideas and inspiration came from, how he illustrates his own books and how he plans his stories. At the end of the school day children had the opportunity to buy one of his books, signed by him. During his two workshops he created unique, large pieces of art. One of these was available for auction and went to the highest bidder.



Making Books!

To build on ideas generated from the two author visits, each year group was given a challenge to create their own class or individual book during Book Week. Reception children have written some wonderful story books based on the story of the Three Little Pigs. Year One children used inspiration from Roald Dahl to create a class 'Gobblefunk' dictionary, playing with words to create new words and meanings. Year Two linked their stories to their pirate topic and each child has made their own pirate story book with a front and back cover including a blurb.



Reading Buddies!

The Year Two classes read their reading books to the Year One classes and the Year One classes read their reading books to the Reception classes. The children loved this opportunity to show off their reading skills and support younger children in the love of reading.





World Book Day

For World Book Day the children and adults came to school dressed as their favourite book character. The children then wrote about their character and the stories they were from. The class teachers were challenged to complete a reading roundabout where they read their favourite story to each class and rotated round to each class. That means by the end of the session the children had been introduced to and heard a total of 9 new stories!

Book Fair

The Book Fair from TRAVELLING BOOKS came to our school. All the children had the opportunity to look at some new books. They were then able to come to the Book Fair after school to buy a new book and spend their £1 off book token. Every book sold at our Book Fair helped to earn rewards to spend on free books and resources for our classrooms and library.

Sponsored Read

All children took part in our Sponsored Read where they had to read at home every day and work towards an individual target. The children who achieved this have received a sponsored read certificate and have been collecting in their sponsorship money. The money raised will help go towards the costing of new books and reading resources like the amazing Bug Club (active learn) online resource that has been introduced this year. So far an amazing £1435.00 has been collected!

Thank you so much!

Well done to all the children for all their hard work and great achievements. Keep up the love of reading!

Miss Stockwell
English Co-ordinator

News from the PTA

The current PTA team are now half way through their second year. They have thoroughly enjoyed running the PTA but feel it is now time to give others a chance to take the reins! They have several events left to run so thought this would be a good opportunity for anyone interested to work alongside them and learn the ropes. They look forward to hearing from you, if you have any questions or would like to just have a chat then please email at chair@knaphillschoolspta.org.uk or speak to them at the school gates.

Thank you so much to our hardworking PTA team!

Diary Pages

Remaining Term Dates - Academic year 2016/2017

Summer Term 2017



Start of Term	Half Term	End of Term
18 April 2017	29 May–2 June 2017	20 July 2017

Key Diary Dates Summer Term 2017

Monday 18th April	Children return to school
Monday 24 th April	Perform Drama Workshop
Tuesday 25 th April	Phonics Talk to Parents 2.15pm and 6.00pm
Tuesday 25 th April	Reception School Trip – The Lookout
Monday 1 st May	BANK HOLIDAY
Friday 5 th May	PTA Mufti Day
Monday 15 th May – Friday 19 th May	Walk to School Week
Friday 26 th May	INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS
Monday 29 th May – Friday 2 nd June	Half – Term
Thursday 22 nd June	Reception September 2017 Induction Evening
Saturday 24 th June	PTA Dads Camping
Wednesday 28 th June	Sports Day
Friday 30 th June	PTA Mufti Day
Tuesday 4 th July	Alternative Sports Day Date (If 28 th June rained off)
Wednesday 5 th July	Transition/Moving On Day
Friday 7 th July	Knaphill Federation of Schools ‘Big Lunch’
Saturday 8 th July	PTA Summer Fair
Wednesday 12 th July	Curriculum Open Afternoon 3.30 – 6.30pm
Thursday 20 th 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 Easter Break!

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards

Miss J. Concannon

Head of School (Lower)