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April Newsletter 2017

Dear Parents

Ah Spring is here at last! As you may have noticed, at Droxford Junior we have decided to embark on a seasonal enterprise project – ‘Grow a pound’. Hopefully your child has discussed this venture with you. Last week I launched the project in school – giving every child £1 and challenging them to make a pledge (if they wished) to turn the pound into a profit.



We discussed, initial ideas, products, packaging, marketing, customers and target audiences, accounts, innovations and entrepreneurs. We also reflected on the values and habits of success such as resilience, self-belief, hard work and collaboration. In the past we have looked at the work of James Dyson and more recently we had a look at some successful ‘Dragon’s Den’ bids and also at the career of Anita Roddick (Body Shop).

Please discuss ideas and products with your child(ren) and help them to grow their pounds. Projects I have heard about so far include: artists selling work, car washing, nail painting and pedicures, cake makers and bakers.

My hope is that the children really learn through memorable experience, whilst fundraising for the school. As I have mentioned recently the school (and all schools nationally) are facing challenging times, financially. In addition we have computers to replace in the ICT suite and classrooms to replace by 2019 which will cost £15,000 and our adventure playground / climbing frame is due to be replaced with an all-weather, multi-purpose solution which will cost in the region of £10,000.

But we can do it! After all, every child in the school now has a locker! They look fantastic, the children love them and they are very practical.



FODS Easter Fair

The Easter Fair was a great success again; thank you to FODS and all the families who organised and supported the event. A great, big pat on the back to all the children for their ingenuity and endeavour. Lots of amazing entrepreneurial children had great fun selling beautiful cakes, playing ingenious games and one lucky child even won a prize to be me for a day! Good luck with that Erica!



Key Stage 2 National Tests

The National 2017 Key Stage 2 tests will take place from 8th -11th May. These are for Year 6 pupils.

The results of the tests, alongside other assessments, will be used by the teachers to write the annual report for your child when all data is made available.

Date	Tests
Monday 8 th May	English: reading (1 paper)
Tuesday 9 th May	English: grammar, punctuation and spelling 2 papers: spelling; punctuation and grammar (including vocabulary)
Wednesday 10 th May	Mathematics 2 papers: arithmetic; mathematical reasoning
Thursday 11 th May	Mathematics 1 paper: mathematical reasoning

The Year 6 children will also have a range of their written work moderated.

Please do not request leave of absence in the lead up to and during these dates. Holidays will not be authorised. Thank you.

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IMPORTANT + IMPORTANT + IMPORTANT + IMPORTANT + IMPORTANT

Safer parking

As you need not be reminded, road safety is high on our agenda and we have a fantastic School Crossing Patrol Officer (SCPO) who is incredibly diligent and experienced in ensuring children and adults are safely crossed the A32 and up to the school crossing where Mr Vardy patrols.

However she has concerns over recent drop habits and has written to me. Rather than paraphrase I have included her letter – please take heed.

Dear Mr Dampier,

I am writing to you as I am getting increasingly concerned over the amount of traffic that is going up and down Park Lane, especially in the mornings between 08.30 and 09.00. Even when the weather is not wet, people are still using this road to drop off children. Most of them are not parking, just stopping in the middle of the road whilst their child/children exit the vehicle. Some even pulling in at the top of Park Lane at the junction (where Mr Vardy stands) and dropping off there.

I have counted at least 15 vehicles doing this daily. That is apart from the other traffic that uses this lane and residents that park there also! In the afternoon I see some of these children getting onto the coaches to go home, which is probably why the parking problem is not as bad at that time.

On quite a few mornings both coaches have come in together, this means there is a huge amount of children walking up Park Lane, which only exacerbates the problem. I will speak with these new drivers and ask that if one coach is unloading, then please can they wait until I have crossed those first, before letting their children get off.

I am doing everything in my capacity as School Crossing Patrol Officer, but as the situation stands it is an accident waiting to happen and I have had enough of yelling at children to get in the side and that a car or cars are coming!

I appreciate that last year the car park in the square was a lot busier, because the Church was being refurbished and workmen parked there, but that work is now complete. We also get a fair amount of walkers using the square car park. But it is by far a much safer option to park - not just drop off - in the square, or at the Fire Station, or in the Bakers Arms car park for that matter, than what is currently happening.

I would appreciate it if you would give this matter your urgent attention.

*Kind regards
Julia Lovejoy-Brinkman
SCPO*

Newtown / Soberton Bus

We have had to remind children again on this bus, to stay sat down and to stop swapping seats. They have been spoken to by school staff and the driver. Please could you highlight the safety aspect to your child(ren). Thank you.

Book Buddies

We have been fortunate over the years to have a number of 'Book Buddies'. These dedicated volunteers come in to school to listen to children read. Reading to an adult and talking about what they've read on a regular basis is a vital part of learning to read. It helps promote reading for pleasure and deepens their understanding of the text. If you have some time to spare on weekday afternoons and are interested in becoming a Book Buddy, please contact the school office on the number below. Full training will be given by Ms Jacobs.



Absence of pupils – a reminder

If your child is ill please either telephone the school on 01489 877537 or email adminoffice@droxford.hants.sch.uk by 9.30 am **each day of absence**. Thank you. If no explanation of a child's absence from school is received by 9.30 am parents will be contacted by the school. When contact cannot be made with a parent/carer the absence will be recorded as 'unauthorised'. This is a safeguarding procedure.

School Dinners

As of 1st April 2017 school dinners will increase to £2.15 per day. New lunch menus have been sent home; the new menu will start on Monday 24th April.

The total cost will be £51.60 for the 1st half of the summer term (**Year 5 children please deduct £8.60 for the Year 5 Enrichment Week**) and £75.25 for the 2nd half of the summer term (**Year 3 children please deduct £2.15 for the Year 3 Camp**). If you wish to pay by cheque please make it payable to 'HCC'. Payments can be made online via SCOPay - there is a [link on the school website](#). Any balances at the end of the spring term will be carried forward.

If you need another copy of the SCOPay letter please contact Liz in the school office. There is **no obligation to pay online** when you register, however, you will be able to **view** your child's balances for dinner money, trips etc. whether you made your payment online or directly in school. You will also be able to set up "**reminders**" for when your dinner account is getting low or needs topping up.

Memory Sticks We discourage children to bring in homework on memory sticks because of the risk of viruses. If your child cannot print out their work at home then homework can be emailed to their learning bases. The children must tell the teachers as the email accounts are not checked regularly.

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Closure Days

Monday 5th June 2017

Friday 7th July 2017

Don't forget to use the [calendar](#) on our website.

Mobile phones in school

If your child needs to bring their phone into school for emergency reasons please can it be accompanied by a note from yourself to confirm and handed in at the office for safe keeping.

Administration of Paracetamol

Thank you to all parents who have returned their completed forms. Please note that we only have a limited supply of medicine therefore the administration of school paracetamol is for **an occasional dose under limited circumstances** (ie: *an unforeseen occurrence such as a headache or any other type of mild to moderate pain*).



And finally...

The school has recruited a new member of staff to take up the post left vacant by Miss Rossiter's successful promotion.

Mr James Todd will take up his post in Year 6 in September. Part of the rigorous recruitment process was to write a pen portrait of himself, which will be included on our school website, alongside all staff pen portraits at the end of this academic year.

His appointment, made by myself, school staff and governors was unanimous and we are excited about the school's future teaching and learning.

Hello! My name is Mr Todd and I am very excited to teach at Droxford Junior School; what a fantastic setting in which to teach and learn! I am also lucky to work with enthusiastic, friendly children and hard-working staff.

Previously, I have taught in schools in Southampton and Eastleigh. I have taught children of every age from Year 1 to Year 6 and have loved helping children to develop and reach their potential as learners and people!

Over my career, I have led History, PE, Computing and Science. These are some of my favourite subjects but I also really enjoy maths because you can use your mathematical skills to solve some really interesting problems.

One of the best things about being a teacher is running sports teams after school and taking these teams to matches and tournaments. I am very keen on sports myself and I love seeing children from my school excel in a variety of activities. Outside of school, my hobbies are very sporty; I play for a football and cricket team and play badminton for Hampshire. When I was a younger man I reached number 32 in the national rankings and even travelled to a foreign, exotic country (Wales) to play an international tournament!

I really enjoy encouraging children to push themselves in order to achieve their goals: academic, sporting, musical or anything! Celebrating successes is so important and I look forward to working with and celebrating the successes of children in school, and working across the whole school community.

Mr James Todd

Have a great, relaxing Easter and have fun growing that one pound!

Best wishes



Matthew Dampier
Headteacher

