



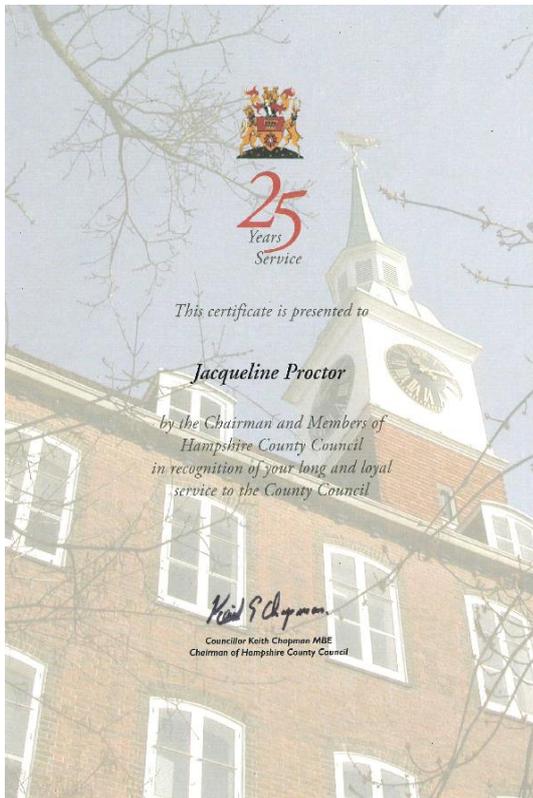
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November Newsletter 2016

Dear Parents

I thought I'd start this newsletter by saying thank you to a team of unsung heroes. Our teaching assistants work extremely hard and show great dedication to this school, their roles and importantly, your children. They are integral to this school, as any other member of the school is, but often have more of an impact in child development and progress than other adults have.



Our unsung heroes are (in no particular order): Mrs Lucia Smith; Mrs Sarah Evans; Mrs Hilary Kuiper; Mr Nic Christie; Mrs Elizabeth Fowler, Ms Sarah Cook; Mrs Deb Chapman; Mrs Vicky Barnett and Mrs Jackie Proctor.

Mrs Proctor, in fact, has been working in education since 1991 and has just received a 25 'Years Service' certificate and gift package from Hampshire County Council. Incidentally, all those 25 years have been spent at Droxford! In a recent assembly, we thanked Mrs Proctor and she got to light the candle and also received a big round of applause from the children in gratitude and appreciation for everything she has done.

Over the years she has made a difference to so many children, not only through teaching but also through nurture, kindness and humour. She also is the best costume and set designer there has ever been! Well done Mrs P – and thank you as well!

Parent meetings / workshops.

Thank you also, to all who attended (and led) a raft of meetings that occurred recently: Reading and Maths workshops, Parents evening and Year 6 Calshot meetings have all taken place. If you missed any workshops you may find what you need at the following link.

<http://droxfordjunior.co.uk/parent-workshops/>



Safer crossing

A few parents had voiced their concerns surrounding safer crossing of the roads at the end of the school day. I have requested that Mr Vardy goes to the junction of Union and Park lanes before the end of the school day in order to safely cross children heading towards the square to meet their parents. His presence also alerts any traffic and speeding vehicles of our intent to cross. I myself and the other school staff will register the bus children and walk them down the hill in the usual orderly manner, where they are then met by Mr Vardy and escorted to the buses as per normal.

Hopefully the new system I have put in place will alleviate these concerns and make crossing safer for children and adults. Thank you for your concerns and please don't hesitate to contact me on this matter in the future.

Parking

With the darker evenings drawing in and inclement weather please can I call upon your support in using the identified parking zones around the village and consider the safety of where you drop your children off - i.e. not in the middle of a road, junction or Droxford Square blocking potential cars wishing to park. Thank you again for your considered support.

Autumn clean – Saturday 12th November

Thank you finally to those who have volunteered to help at our 'clean up' day back in the Spring term. We achieved so much and had fun at the same time. There is always a sense of satisfaction from all when reflecting on the achievements and pride through community spirit.

The list for this Autumn's 'clean up' day includes: tidying the school grounds through clearing of dead plants, clearing of fallen leaves, cutting back boundary plants, digging over the wildlife area which may all result in a small controlled bonfire! There are two rooms and a corridor that need repainting and the picnic tables need wood preservative on them to elongate their life expectancy. The allotment needs some attention and if we have many hands the picket fence at the front of the school needs wood preserving and re-staining.

If you are interested and willing to muck in please don't hesitate to contact us by either completing the reply slip below or contact the school office with your intentions. Lunch will be provided for all (homemade pizza and coleslaw) and refreshments and biscuits too! Sometimes kind souls bring in cakes to raise morale! Drop in anytime between 9a.m. and 3 p.m.

Remembrance

Poppies will be on tomorrow. We are encouraging all children to make a donation of 20p or more for a poppy or to support the Royal British Legion by buying a wrist band or other items that are being sold (children will be advised on prices in assembly).

I will lead a remembrance assembly on Monday 7th November and we will observe a minute's silence at 11 a.m. on Friday 11th November. Please discuss the relevance and meaning of this commemoration and why we spare thoughts in silence for those who have fallen in conflict since 1914 – thank you.



School Lunches

The new menu has now started. If the leaflet handed to your child has not made it home, details can be found on the school website. Bonfire Night lunch is on Thursday 3rd November. The menu can be found on the school website; there is no need to pre-order. Christmas lunch will be on Wednesday 14th December and will need to be ordered by Friday 25th November – please see attached flyer for details (*you can handwrite or email your reply if you cannot print the flyer*).

Droxford Does Time Team!

As part of our 'Ice to Iron' history topic this term, we decided to take our year 3 and 4 pupils on a trip back in time. Not having access to a real time machine, instead we plumped for an educational visit to Butser Ancient Farm.

It was a glorious October morning and we were greeted by the friendly and knowledgeable staff on arrival. After a brief safety talk, we made our way to an Iron Age roundhouse where the children sat around an open fire and heard all about life in prehistoric Britain.

Next it was time to get our hands dirty. The children got to try four different activities which gave them a feel for what life was like in the period. First came pottery. Children used clay straight from the ground (complete with worms) to make a pot which they decorated using feathers.

After that came chalk carving. Then children tried their hands at wattling where they



helped to build a fence. Finally, it was time to dig in the dirt by becoming archaeologists. The children thoroughly enjoyed using their trowels (and sometimes their hands) to find all sorts of artefacts from bronze vases to animal bones.

I asked some children what they thought of the trip:

"I liked learning how people made their homes and all the activities. It was fun!"

"I really loved the clay and the chalk because it was interesting to find out about how they did things."

"I enjoyed digging for things and making pots because I love getting messy!"

All the classes learned a great deal and this was demonstrated in the fantastic recounts they wrote the next day back at school. The visit was certainly worthwhile and I know we can't wait to go back again.

+++++Thank You!+++++

As you kindly spent £1,140 at the book fair, we now have £624 to spend on books for our library!





Children in Need - Friday 18th November

Non school uniform or be spotacular for a £1 donation. Take a look at the official website for ideas:

<https://www.bbcchildreninneed.co.uk/schools/spotacular>

Once again thank you for all your support,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Matthew Dampier'.

Matthew Dampier
Headteacher

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Autumn Clean – Saturday November 12th 9:00 a.m.

Please state where applicable, you'd be happy to support on the day. Bringing own tools of the trade would also be great (but not a necessity) – please state if you can though. Thank you again!!!

I'd / we'd be delighted to be indoors and paint!
I'd / we'd be delighted to be outdoors digging!
I / we don't mind what the task is!

Name: Date: