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September 2016 Newsletter

Dear Parents

Welcome everyone!

I would like to offer a special welcome to all the families who are new to our school community. We are all striving to offer our children an outstanding education. Strong partnerships are essential; we have an 'open door' policy so that issues are resolved quickly and the children are settled, happy and successful. Please contact us if you have a concern or a query.

The theme for my first assembly and one we will return to throughout the year is 'Working Together'. The analogy I used was linked to teamwork, the Olympics and successful teams such as Sky cycling team who work together to be highly effective at what they do. Here at Droxford there are many 'Cogs' in the machine; The teaching assistants, governors, teachers, site manager and cleaners, Julia our road crossing team to name just a few. And of course you! In the school hall is a new display showing the teamwork and this is your element.

Working Together The 'Parents' Cog



Enjoying and achieving
Leading a healthy lifestyle
Keeping safe
Making a contribution
Developing Key skills



Lockers!

We were busy in school over the summer holidays with the redecoration and refurbishment of Droxford and Hambledon Base. A new SEN room has been added within a reconfigured Meonstoke Base and we have also had the first phase of our lockers installed! This means that all the children in Years 5 and 6 and Year 4 of Meonstoke Base have now got their own lockers. The pictures below illustrate why I felt lockers would be good for our children: the current situation of cramming big bags and coats and PE kits so tightly together is difficult for the children. Things fall off pegs, things get lost and it can get frustrating. A locker can hold a PE bag, a sensible sized rucksack that can hold a reading book, packed lunch box, reading diary and coat. Pencil cases are not required in school – we supply everything.



Thank you so much to all that have sponsored lockers – we still need a lot more help to ensure all our children have a locker – we are getting there. If you wish to support or know of someone or a business who could help then please don't hesitate to contact the school office and speak to Mrs Denise Bury, adminoffice@droxford.hants.sch.uk.

Parent presentations – Reading and Mathematics. (...dates for your diaries!)

Reading workshop Thursday 6th October 3.45 – 4.30pm

There is an important opportunity for parents to find out how reading skills are developed through the school. Samples of reading tests, books and top tips will be shared. The workshop covers the 'journey' of reading and comprehension of texts from Years 3 – 6 as well as the expectations of the new National Curriculum. It will be presented by Ms Sarah Jacobs.

Mathematics workshop Tuesday 11th October 3:45 - 4:30

Again this will be an opportunity for parents to find out how mathematics is taught at Droxford in line with our calculation strategy document.

<http://droxfordjunior.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/A-guide-to-mental-and-written-calculations-at-droxford-14-15.pdf>

Parents will see how the expectations of our mathematics curriculum progress from Years 3 – 6 and will be given practical ways in which they can support their child's learning.

Open Morning for parents of Year 3 Children

On Thursday 15 September there is an open morning for parents to work alongside their children and stay for lunch. A letter giving further details has been sent to you and can be found on the school website.

Open Morning for parents of Year 2 children

On Thursday 22 September there is an open morning for parents at 10:00 am. If you know of any parents who may be interested in sending their children to our school please let them know!

Road Safety

PLEASE DO NOT DRIVE UP TO THE SCHOOL TO DROP OFF OR COLLECT at peak times.

Please could you also ensure you are dropping off and picking up your child in safe places; the village square car park and the car park adjacent to the Fire station are ideal. A request from Hampshire Fire and Rescue is not to park in the area directly in front of the Fire Station; this is needed for fire crews in an emergency. There is enough parking in the square, the post office carpark or the parking area next to the fire station so hopefully there would be no need to park in The Park. However, if the occasion arises and this does occur the residents of The Park would very much appreciate it if their driveways and garages were not blocked and people do not park on the grass. Thank you!

Bus Escorts

Please ensure your child is clear on their transport arrangements on a daily basis. If your child uses the bus in the mornings please make sure they know what to do if the bus is late picking them up. At the end of the school day a teacher and Mr Vardy, our Site Manager, will escort the children to the buses. Please see website for the statement related to the new bus operators. Please ensure your child carries their bus pass at all times.

<http://www.droxfordjuniorschool.co.uk/>

The children will be registered by staff before going down to the square to catch the bus. It is important they are listening and lining up on time. If your child is participating in a club or going home by other means then the registration process will help us. The Junior Road Safety Officers for the buses this year are;
Harvey Yates and Jack Parker who travel on the Newtown bus;
Sam Kalra and George Seaman who travel on the Meonstoke bus.

They will all help the younger children and report any issues.

School Uniform

The children are looking really smart and this reinforces our high standards and expectations, Thank you. The children should not be wearing jewellery or nail varnish. However a plain earring or pair of earrings is acceptable. They should be wearing practical shoes for everyday use; trainers can be worn for outside PE.



Free School Dinners

From September 2014 all children who were in reception, year 1 or year 2 were offered a free healthy school lunch. Children in other school years are also offered a **free school lunch** if their parents get any of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit

Even if your child prefers to have a packed lunch from home registering for free meals raises money for our school!

Registering your child could raise an extra £1,900 to fund valuable support like extra tuition, additional teaching staff, school trip, residential visit or after school activity support. As an incentive for the 2016/17 academic year, we would like to offer a free school sweatshirt to any parent who successfully registers for Free School Meals by 31st December 2016. Please contact the school office for further details.

School Dinners

The cost of lunches is £2.10 per day. Total cost for the first half of Autumn Term will be £71.40 and the second half will be £73.50. For Year 6 children please deduct £10.50 for Calshot activity week which is in the second half of the term. If you wish to pay by cheque it must be made payable to 'HCC'.

Packed Lunches

Please make these as balanced and as healthy as possible.

There are several children with severe nut allergies so please avoid foods containing nuts. Please remind your child(ren) not to share food. Thank you.

Healthy Snacks

Please provide your child with a piece of fruit or a healthy alternative. The children should not be bringing sweets into school at all. Alternatively Hampshire Caterers sell a variety of snacks at breaktimes. All children are provided with a free water bottle and have access to drinking fountains during learning breaks.

PLEASE DO NOT BRING SWEETS OR CAKES INTO SCHOOL ON BIRTHDAYS!



Learning Outside the Classroom Manifesto

We believe that every young person should experience the world beyond the classroom as an essential part of their learning and personal development. Situated in the South Downs, the children have great opportunities to learn through our local environment. As part of the culture of our school, we utilise the opportunities available to enhance the curriculum.

We would therefore like your informed consent to take your children into the locality throughout the school year.

- Christmas, Easter and end of year church services
- Rehearsals for church services
- Occasional play or sport at the recreational ground.
- Regular trips to the allotments
- Running club and other sports events on the South Downs
- Local geographical studies
- Investigating local habitats

All visits are planned carefully using the Hampshire LA offsite guidance which specifies ratios and safety procedures. Risk assessments are undertaken and reviewed. Medication, first aid kits and a mobile phone are taken on all offsite visits. (Please ensure we have up to date medical information for your child.)

We assume we have your informed consent unless you inform us.

Parents / carers will always be given specific details for offsite visits involving transport; written consent for these visits will be required. For residential trips there are briefing meetings for parents

Holidays

Please do not request any leave of absence during term time as it will not be authorised. The school has to follow statutory guidance set by the Department for Education (DfE) which Hampshire Local Authority states that we legally have to follow. As you may be aware this could involve fines being imposed by the Local Authority.

Medical Forms

If your child needs to have medicines administered in school please complete a medical form (available on website) or obtain a form from the school office. If your child has a particular condition that we should be aware of please inform or update the school office.

School Website

Please have www.droxfordjunior.co.uk saved as a favourite. On the site you will find the school prospectus, newsletters, dates, details of after school clubs, FODS events and homework guidance.

<http://droxfordjunior.co.uk/newsletters/>



After School Clubs

After school club information and safeguarding procedures has been e-mailed to you. Information has also been posted on the school website and all queries should be sent by email to Duncan Banham at clubs@droxford.hants.sch.uk.

Please register by 12th September so that the club registers can be set up and ready to start the week beginning 19th September. Please note some clubs are on a first come first served basis so please register ASAP!

If your child is not attending a club for **any** reason please **always** e-mail clubs@droxford.hants.sch.uk by 3:00pm. If there is a last minute change then please telephone the school office.

For children travelling home by bus, please make sure your child has a back-up plan should they forget to stay for a club.

FODS

ALL WELCOME to the FODS AGM on Thursday 22nd September at school at 6pm to find out what we do and what events are in store for the coming term!

Please do check the book bags regularly for information about FODS events during the term - we don't want your child to miss out on film nights, discos etc.

Thank you in advance for your support - we look forward to some fun social events during the term.

The FODS Team

School Council

We would like to introduce ourselves;

Maddie Parker	- Chairperson
Louis Stark	- Action Manager
Luke Southcott	- Administration Manager
Lillie Paige	- Communications Manager

Listen2Me

Every child will learn an instrument for a term each academic year. Listen2Me is run by Hampshire music service and we pay for expert, whole class tuition. Every child learns and experiences playing four musical instruments, from Years 3-6; reads musical notations and participates in performing to audiences. This year Years 3 and 4 will learn the ukulele and Years 5 and 6 will learn to play the Samba drums! At the end of each term there will be a performance for parents in the school – watch this space!

Library

Just a plea for the library. If you have any good condition, appropriate educational magazines e.g RSPB, wildlife magazines, children's science / mathematics magazines or children's national geographic periodicals etc... or even good condition comics you could donate we would be very grateful.

If you have a bit of time each week and wish to join our Book Buddy team – (this team of volunteers listens to children read to give them a little bit of extra comprehension practise) – please let Ms Jacobs know via the school office. Training available!



Reminder – Day Closure dates

Friday 21 October 2016
Monday 23 January 2017
Friday 17 February 2017
Monday 5 June 2017
Friday 7 July 2017

Where possible these dates have been agreed with infant schools. If schools are arranging for a consultant, inspector or teacher adviser to lead professional training then their availability does dictate the date set. However the dates are generally on a Monday or Friday so that families can organise longer weekends rather than requesting leave of absence at other times.

It is great to see everyone again – especially our new Year 3 children. We are all looking forwards to another successful term – with everyone working together – I am sure it will be!

Yours sincerely,



Matthew Dampier
Headteacher

