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September 2017 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.

We are also wishing our fantastic new teachers every success for this year – if you haven't met them already you will meet them at Parents evening next month.

Miss Kirby – Meonstoke Base (Years 3 and 4)

Miss Jones – Exton Base (Year 5)

Mr Todd – Soberton Base (Years 5 and 6)

We are also delighted to have Mrs Proctor (TA and ELSA) and Mrs Barnett (TA) rejoining us for the start of the year – we have all missed them!

Open Morning for parents of Year 3 Children

On Thursday 14 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.

Reading workshop Thursday 5th October 9.15 – 10.15am

At Droxford Junior School we are passionate about reading and we'd love you to come along to our reading workshop on **Thursday 5th October** from **9.15-10.15am**. There will be a short presentation on how we teach reading followed by a chance to visit your child's class and see the teaching of reading in action. This is a great opportunity to learn about our reading curriculum and how you can best support your child at home. We look forward to seeing you there.

Mathematics workshop Thursday 12th October 9.15 – 10.15am

Again, this will be an opportunity for parents to find out how mathematics is taught at Droxford in line with our calculation strategy document. As you can appreciate, there are many ways to teach the same calculation in maths and hearing different strategies can be confusing for children. This workshop will enable you to understand the way your children learn maths at Droxford so you can help support them at home. After the presentation, you will have the opportunity to visit your children in their maths class.



<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.

Road Safety

PLEASE DO NOT DRIVE UP TO THE SCHOOL TO DROP OFF OR COLLECT AT PEAK TIMES.

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 car park 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 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.

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.

As a reminder it is grey trousers and blue polo shirts from now onwards.

School Dinners

The cost of lunches is £2.15 per day. Total cost for the first half of Autumn Term will be £70.95 and the second half will be £83.85. For Year 6 children please deduct £10.75 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 food allergies in school. 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 break time. 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!

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 £1,320 to fund valuable support like extra tuition, additional teaching staff, school trip, residential visit or after school activity support. As an incentive for the 2017/18 academic year, we would like to offer a free school sweatshirt to any parent who successfully registers for Free School Meals by 31st December 2017. Please contact the school office for further details.

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 Tuesday 12th September so the club registers can be set up and ready to start the week beginning 18th September.

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.

Friends of Droxford School (FODS)

ALL WELCOME to the FODS AGM on Friday 22nd September at school during the FODS Coffee Café 3.00 – 5.00pm to find out what we do and what events are in store for the coming term!

Please do check 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



Core School Council members for 2017-2018

We would like to introduce ourselves;

Oliver Cordery - Chairperson
Dylan Martin - Action Manager
Rhania Nicholls - Administration Manager
Daisy Golds - Communications Manager

Class school council member elections will take place soon.

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 violin and Years 5 and 6 will learn to play brass instruments! 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.

Book Buddies

Over the years we have been very fortunate to have members of the local community come in and hear children read. For many children, this is a vital part of their learning as it improves their confidence and understanding. It's a rewarding role and the children absolutely love being able to read to an adult. It really does make a difference. We currently have spaces for book buddies and full training can be given. If you can spare an hour (or two!) a week and are interested or if you know any grandparents, or aunties or uncles who might be, please contact the school office.

Reminder – Day Closure dates

Monday 4 September 2017
Friday 20 October 2017
Monday 19 February 2018
Friday 25 May 2018
Monday 23 July 2018

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.

Education Sunday – September 17th

I will be attending a church event to discuss how children learn at Droxford Junior School. I will be discussing how we encourage the children to help each other in class. If any children and their parents wish to come along and help me with the short presentation and see what else is happening on the day then please contact the school office.



Scarecrow Competition

Families, children and staff of Droxford Junior School are invited to attend the village party to celebrate the end of the scarecrow competition and raise funds for the rec. It's for a great cause; to continue to improve the facilities for all, it's a perfect place to let off steam after a busy school day. Donations of bottles or chocolate for the tombola are much appreciated. They can be left at the Droxford Post Office, at my house Park View Cottage (next to the fire station) or with me after school on a Monday or Thursday. Look forward to seeing you all there, Jo Proctor (07779025911)

YOU ARE INVITED TO A VILLAGE PARTY

SAT 23 SEPT 2017 3pm Droxford Recreation Ground

Bring a chair/blanket (and picnic if you wish)

All ages: young & old – inc. friends, family & neighbours

- AFTERNOON TEA AND CAKE
- CHOCOLATE & WINE TOMBOLA
- BAR ● MUSIC ● GAMES
- ANNOUNCEMENT OF WINNER OF DROXFORD SCARECROW FESTIVAL

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO RAISE MONEY FOR THE REC.

And finally...

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

