



September 2017

Dear Parents / carers

I wish to pass on my gratitude to all of you, on behalf of the staff and governors, for the part you have played in the successful start to this year. Especially to the parents of children starting in year 3 (and those in other years) who have had to deal with new routines and guidance involved in starting a new school.

Our year 3 parents visited the school last week to complete the final part of their children's induction and transition period. They were given a short presentation by myself and my deputy, Ms Sarah Jacobs in the school hall, then went to class and worked with their children on a reading task. Many stayed for lunch! It was a really enjoyable and purposeful morning.

It reminded me, whilst speaking to parents in class and at lunchtime, how fortunate we are at Droxford Junior School. Positive collaboration and communication with parents is extremely important in the two way process of educating children. Whatever we can do for you and your child we will.

I know it is difficult to get in to school for events – time is always an issue (I know personally with my two boys' schools). This said I still wish to provide as many opportunities for parents to come in to school. It will be lovely to have as many of you in school as possible. Some key dates coming up for diaries...

- Thursday 5th October - 9:15 – 10:15am - Reading workshop for all year group parents (presented by children in years 3-6 + Ms Jacobs and Mrs Smith)
- Wednesday 11th October 6-7pm - Calshot residential meeting
- Thursday 12th October – 9:15 – 10:15am Mathematics workshop for all year group parents (presented by children in years 3-6 + Ms Jacobs and Mrs Smith)
- Tuesday / Wednesday 17th/18th October – Parents evenings
- Wednesday 20th December – Matinee of Christmas service for grandparents
- Thursday 21st December – Christmas service

Information about these dates can be found in the most recent newsletter and our website is full of information you can use including the google calendar you can now sync with devices at home.

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

Throughout the year there will be other opportunities for you to visit the school including the chance to see your child perform in musical concerts. We have also begun hosting termly 'open afternoons' where you will be able to come and look at your child's work at the end of each term – Thursday 14th December 3:45 – 5pm being the first one.

FODs are also planning lots of events at their AGM next Wednesday at 9am if you wish to register your intent to help in anyway – you would be most welcome. More information on this should be in your child's book bags today.



We will also be holding an **'Autumn clean' day – Saturday 4th November 9:15 – 3pm (drop in any time)**. This is where school staff and any willing volunteers help with tasks around the school that we cannot achieve during the school day and also, in the challenging climate of financial budgetary constraints, we find cheaper to do ourselves.

This year we have painting in school corridors and classrooms to complete. Also our school grounds need some attention which means chopping, pruning, weeding and relocating plants. We also would like some sturdy brick planters to be demolished in order to provide more playground space. Our allotment needs a little attention and our school picnic benches need some life extending wood preserving. If you think you can help in anyway then please contact the school office. We provide tools and materials (unless you have your own favourites) and food! There will be tea, coffee and cakes provided plus lunch (usually a variety of homemade pizzas and salad). We also take care of your children, giving them the opportunity to play in the playground / school field, set up a cinema in the school hall or free (safe) reign in the ICT suite.

Your support really helps in these instances – it is always good to come and meet other parents, staff and governors as well. In the past this event has always provided a fun, community spirited day - I will be there again, to project manage, muck in – and eat pizza!

Continuing the theme of parents participating in all aspects of school life, I have always welcomed the curriculum enrichment experiences parents have shared in the past. You have such a vast, wide-ranging wealth of experiences and knowledge which can be shared in school. In may sound terrifying but to stand in front of children and educate them is extremely rewarding. If you wish to visit the school and teach, inspire or share aspects of your work, hobbies, subject expertise which you think the children would value then please contact me via the school office. In the past parents have instructed the children in first aid, life-saving, caring for refugees stranded at sea, science, computing and art to name but a few.

adminoffice@droxford.hants.sch.uk

Finally I wanted to share two pieces of exciting news. Firstly the Southampton Daily Echo visited the school on Monday to capture the school life of our school. They interviewed and took photographs of the children in class, at the allotment, on the playground and the ICT suite. Hopefully it will really highlight what fantastic children we have at this school. This will be published in Thursday's edition – 28/09/17.

And these children deserve the best we can offer them. Last term the children threw themselves into an enterprise project entitled 'Grow a £1' and raised over £3,000! The school has added to this pot of money and we are delighted to announce we will be purchasing 15 new iPads and charging unit to enrich the children's learning capacity. It is what they deserve.

We look forward to seeing you in school soon

With best wishes



Matthew Dampier
Headteacher

