



October Newsletter 2017

Dear Parents

I'd like to start this newsletter by thanking all of you for your commitment and support in making the start of the school term so successful. This echoes the sentiments stated in my recent letter to you all sent out last week and can be found on our website...

<http://droxfordjunior.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/Welcome-to-parents-2017.pdf>

I would like to reiterate that parents are welcome in school - before and after school to speak to class teachers or myself if they wish. I find sometimes that a quick two minute conversation face to face can make all the difference. Staff would be more than happy to see you (just not for an hour – five days a week!) Please ensure you enter the school through the front door so we know who is on site and also to help with facilitating any such meetings.

A little reminder that children are allowed on site at 8:30 with the playground supervised at 8:40 – please don't drop children off earlier – thank you.

And it is this Thursday 5th October that the Daily Echo will be placing their article celebrating the 'life' of our school, the feature editor changed the date of the published edition – therefore you haven't missed the article if you were looking for it.

School Website

Just a reminder that the school website (www.droxfordjunior.co.uk) is for everyone and is a constant window into the schools' operations. If you have a question regarding a need for you or child then start here first...

For example try...

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

'Grow a pound' help grow some iPads!

We are delighted to announce that all the entrepreneurial endeavours of the children (and parents) raising over £3000 last term has meant we have purchased more iPads. With additional funds from FODS and the school we have bought 15 new iPads plus a charging unit and protective cases. Something to celebrate – well done everyone involved and thank you.



...and just a reminder the old style pound coins go out of circulation on October 15th – please don't send them in to us on or after that date as we will have to return them to you.



Autumn Clean: DATE FOR YOUR DIARY! Saturday 4th November

(Thank you to those who have volunteered so far)

The next school community 'Autumn Clean' date has been set for **Saturday 4th November**. The school will be open between 9.15 a.m. and 3pm – you are welcome to drop in at any time (with children who can easily be accommodated with games and films etc...). We provide lunch (at 12:15 – pizza!) and tea, coffee and biscuits and the necessary tools and materials for the tasks.

There is much to do this year. Painting, weeding, digging, chopping and bonfire making. In an effort to make space for the children on the playground, we will hire a skip and fill it with the remnants of three brick planters (pictured below) which we (some burly school staff members) will make a start demolishing the day before. The two blossom trees will need to be transplanted to the front of the school and will replace two prickly, unsociable bushes near some seating. The school also needs a bit of a spruce up in the corridors near the Year 5 and 6 classrooms and the picnic benches need painting with life extending wood preservative. Finally, certain areas of the school grounds need weeding and chopping back giving us the opportunity to have an impromptu bonfire.

The school governors and FODS are also supportive of the school obtaining a new permanent shed to be placed near our existing PE shed. This will house our DT and Science resources (currently in a rickety shed in the carpark – moved to make way for the lockers) and all of FODS resources. Therefore we need to build a concrete plinth in the area pictured and cut a path to the door of the new shed. Anyone who can dedicate some time to this project would be gratefully received.

If you are able to volunteer your services for these projects and / or able to contribute to any resources then please phone or email the school office. Many thanks!



Harvest Festival and Food Bank

Our Harvest Festival assembly for the children will be on Thursday 19th October. The assembly will be led by Father Tony. It would be fantastic if children could bring in a donation, on the day, for the **Meon Valley Food Bank**.

We have decided that we should have a permanent food bank in the school reception so we can support those in need all year not just in the Autumn. We will send regular updates to you on the Food Bank and how we can all help. A guide from Sue Pardon, the Meon Valley Food Bank organiser can be seen below.

'We really value donations to restock our store cupboards during harvest and would be grateful for:
Tinned Meat Meals, Packet sauces, Instant Pasta/Noodle Meals, Part Baked Baguettes, Stock Cubes, Couscous, Coffee, Sugar (Granulated and Caster), Squash, Cans - Tinned Carrots, Custard, Evaporated Milk, Sweet Biscuits, Breakfast Cereals – different varieties, Easy Cook Rice, Pasta, Jars Pasta Sauce, Tinned Fruit, Brown Sauce/Tomato Ketchup/Mayonnaise, Milk (UHT or powdered), Tea Bags, Fruit/Herbal Tea, Tinned Tuna, Tinned Sponge Pudding, Rice Pudding (tinned), Soup, Baked Beans, Tomatoes (tinned), Instant Mashed Potato, Instant Hot Chocolate Drink and Fruit Juice (cartons)
Please check the use by dates! Thank you

Parent's Evening - Tuesday 17th and Wednesday 18th October

You can now book a parent's evening appointment online, please see the link on our website...

<http://droxfordjunior.co.uk/parents/parents-evening/>

A number of parents have still not registered; this will delay your ability to book an appointment. If you need your link code to register please email the school office, each child has a separate code. Parents/carers who do not have access to the internet will be able to book via the school office. Autumn parents' evening appointments are for parents/carers only. We aim to see **all** parents/carers to discuss progress and to set targets. Thank you.

The Autumn term evening consultations are for parents / carers only. In the Spring term we find it is beneficial for the children to be present to review targets and progress.

Book Fair Tuesday 17th October

We have decided to change our book fair suppliers as the stock seemed a little limited with Scholastic. We are trialling the 'Roving Bookshop' who are in for **one day only – Tuesday 17th October from 8:30 in the morning until 7pm in the evening**. Parents and children are welcome to visit the bookshop at **any time** during this period. You should find more information in your child's bookbag. The selection of books is very comprehensive and is run like a bookshop by Roving Bookshop's own staff (and yes they do take cards as payment).

...The Roving Bookshop is a real children's bookshop with around 3000 different titles appropriate for all the different ages and interests of junior school students. The books have been chosen to give the readers lasting enjoyment and include classics written decades ago and books hot off the press from aspiring new authors. Children will have the opportunity to browse the Bookshop and buy books in the school day and it will be open to parents before, during and after school...



Cool Planet Week – Localities

During the week beginning 16th October the children will be investigating 'Locational Geography' – using maps and other primary resources in order to gain a greater understanding of the UK and the rest of the world in terms of a sense of place.

In the mixed age, team groups (named after famous Britons: Jane Austen, Isambard Kingdom Brunel, Mary Seacole, Horatio Nelson, Mo Farah, Mary Anning, JK Rowling, Kelly Holmes, Tim Berners-Lee, Winston Churchill and Charles Darwin), children will have the opportunity to investigate a variety of lines of enquiries and a whole school display will be created in the ICT suite to reflect their work.

The children will be back in these team groups later in the year – once in the Spring for an enterprise project and finally in the Summer term on sports day. Please ask your child which group they are in and hopefully they will be able to tell you why their famous Briton has been chosen. Perhaps **you** know already and could tell them?!

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.

Please return the reply slip or email the school office if you would like to attend. There will be refreshments available.

Also – a big **thank you** for your support in ensuring the reading diaries are used really well and for nurturing a love for reading!

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.

Please return the reply slip or email the school office if you would like to attend. There will be refreshments available.

Enrichment Projects for all.

In the past schools were required to provide extra support for children perceived as 'gifted and talented'. The requirement to deliver this initiative was made non-statutory by the government a few years ago. We still, however, believe that as a school we should be challenging and supporting all pupils, including those who are currently attaining well above age related expectations or who have been identified as currently performing well above their peers whether it be sports, the arts, ICT or within the confines of the national curriculum. We endeavour to do this by varying the diet of educational provision for **all** pupils, including the 'most able' (terminology from Ofsted and the Department for Education) during lesson times and provide enrichment opportunities during the school day and afterwards.



In the past we have really benefitted from the wealth of knowledge and experiences parents have brought to school through their expertise and lines of work. We will also actively engage with our local Universities to help raise awareness and the profile of higher education. If you or your place of work could support the school in running a workshop or forging links in any way then please contact me through the school office.

Children's Eye Health

Poor eyesight can have a significant effect on children's ability to learn and on their behaviour, yet often goes unrecognised. NHS sight tests are FREE for all children and are available at your local optician.

Head Lice Guidance!

We wish to share with parents the guidance from Hampshire County Council regarding head lice.

Head louse infection is not primarily a problem of schools, but of the wider community. It cannot be solved by the school, but the school can help the local community to deal with it. Head lice are transmitted by direct and prolonged head to head contact. Transmission of lice within the classroom is relatively rare. When it does occur, it is usually from a 'best friend'. Head lice will not be eradicated in the foreseeable future, but a sensible, informed approach, based on fact not myth, will help to limit the problem. "Blitzing" a school after several cases have occurred is not effective as a method of prevention and control of head lice. Success is more likely to be achieved with a calm, consistent and thorough approach, based on authoritative information and advice. Please see the information sheet at the end of the newsletter to help detect and treat head lice.

Snacks at breaktime

We have recently reminded the children if they want to bring in a break time snack from home, it should be a healthy one such as a piece of fruit or healthy alternative. Children have been asked not to help themselves to parts of their packed lunch at break times. Thank you.

Governors

The wonderful, new formatted annual report has been sent out to all of you already in a separate communication. It gives details on the school's governance, who are our governors and what their responsibilities are. More details plus the report can be found on our website.

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

Parking

Just a heads up that there will be even less parking in the car park adjacent to the recreation ground on Wednesday 4th October and for two weeks commencing Monday 9th October due to improvements being made to the Rec and car park.

Conkers!

There will be a conker tournament on Monday 9th October at 12:30pm. If your child wishes to enter they will need to bring in, on the day, one or two conkers. Please ensure the conkers are fully prepared and your child is highly trained before the event!

If you could also remind children that conkers aren't for throwing at children, in school, on the bus or on the way to school that would be very helpful. Thank you!





Rules of play

Two players, each with a conker threaded on a piece of string or a shoelace, take it in turns to hit each other's conker, until there is one conker left.

- The first player holds out their conker at arm's length, hanging down, ready to be hit. The string should be wrapped around his or her hand to stop it being dropped.
- They must hold the conker still as the other player hits it. If it accidentally swings, the second player can steady it before they take a strike.
- The second player then wraps the string of his or her conker around her hand, draws it back and takes an aim.
- He or she lets go of the conker as they swing their arm in an arc and tries to hit the other person's conker.
- The first player then has a go at hitting the other player's conker and they take it in turns.

NOTE: If the player deliberately moves his or her conker while waiting for it to be hit, the other player is allowed another go!

And finally...Half term – enjoy it!

There will be the usual English / Mathematics homework but obviously you will have more time to do it – however there won't be big topic homework tasks. If you are stuck for ideas to entertain or challenge (and these are **optional**) then we have some enrichment projects on our website. If you have any ideas and activities we can add to this page then please don't hesitate to contact us. In the meantime please visit...

<http://droxfordjunior.co.uk/enrichment-tasks/>

Thank you for your continued and valued support,

Yours sincerely

Matthew Dampier
Headteacher



Reading workshop for parents



I would like to attend the reading workshop at 9.15am on Thursday 5th October 2017

Name of child: Learning base:

Name of parent:

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Mathematics workshop for parents



I would like to attend the mathematics workshop at 9.15am on Thursday 12th October 2017

Name of child: Learning base:

Name of parent:



LICE DETECTION

It is probably worth checking your child for head lice weekly. The best way to check on the presence of lice, if you are not sure is to use the following regime:



- Wash the hair well and towel dry. The hair should be damp not dripping.
- If required apply a small amount of conditioner, including the full length of long hair.
- Make sure there is good light. Daylight is best.



- Comb the hair through with a normal comb first, to get rid of any knots.



- With a fine tooth detection comb ("nit comb"), starting from the roots of the hairs, draw the comb carefully along the complete length of the hair.
- After each stroke check the comb for lice and wipe it clean.



- Work systematically around the whole head of hair.
- Do this for several minutes. It takes 10 to 20 minutes to do it properly for each head.
- If there are head lice, you will find one or more lice on the teeth of the comb.



Live louse on the head

- Head lice are little insects with moving legs. They are not much bigger than a pinhead, but may be as big as a sesame seed.
- Remove any lice from the comb with a cocktail stick or finger nail onto kitchen or toilet paper.
- Clean the comb under the tap when finished.
- If you find something and are not sure what it is; stick it on white paper with clear sticky tape (see below) and show it to your Pharmacist, School Nurse or Doctor



- If you see empty cases stuck on the hair it does not mean that the person has lice.



Size of egg casing compared with a pinhead

- Do not treat unless you are sure that you have found a living moving louse.