



Droxford Junior School
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Headteacher: Matthew Dampier

September 2018 Newsletter

Dear Parents

Welcome everyone!

I would like to offer a special welcome to all the families who are new to our school community. It can be exciting and daunting in equal measures at times. We are here to help and support and ensure it becomes more engaging, motivating and fun in the long term.

Strong partnerships are essential; we have an 'open door' policy so that issues are resolved quickly and the children are settled, happy and successful. You are more than welcome to pop in see the teachers before or after school or call / email anytime. Being a rural school we don't always get to see you but that doesn't mean we won't.

Clubs including Breakfast club



Breakfast club is proving very popular and numbers are on the up which is great news and means if it stays this way we will definitely continue with the club after Christmas. Please contact the school office for information on how to book a place.

Mr Banham is finalising the club registers and children will find out soon about club choices. Any late comers please check website for details.

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

Help - We need new Governors!!!

We are now at a rare point where we really, really need new governors to join our hard working, dedicated and experienced governing body. If you feel you have a little bit of time to spare to attend meetings (twice per half term / Wednesday evenings), some training but ultimately support the school we would be so grateful. Please contact our **Clerk to the Governors - Mrs Natsha Beckley** via

N.Beckley@droxford.hants.sch.uk

Date for the diary

Autumn Clean up Day Saturday 13th October 9:30 – 3pm – (come along whenever – on the day) to help with painting, digging, gardening or generally re-organising the needy, untidy areas of the school – includes free lunch and childcare! (ICT suite, playing on the field – cinema in the school hall) Always successful, community spirited and makes a huge difference to the school in so many ways! Thank you in advance.



Open Morning for parents of Year 3 Children

On Thursday 13th September had the chance to work alongside their children and stay for lunch. A great opportunity for our Year 3 children to show their parents around the school, work with them in class and stay for lunch!

Year 6 information evening including Calshot

On **10th October** we will be holding an information evening about Year 6. This will include: the structure of the year; SATs (and their impact); the curriculum; various other aspects of the year. It will also be an information evening for the upcoming trip for Calshot. It would be great to see you there.

English workshop Thursday 4th October 9.15 – 10.15am

There will be a short presentation on how we teach reading, writing and spelling – discuss homework and there will be the opportunity visit your child's class and see the teaching of English in action. This is a great opportunity to learn about our curriculum and how you can best support your child at home where possible.

Mathematics workshop Thursday 22nd November 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.

Road Safety

PLEASE DO NOT DRIVE UP TO THE SCHOOL TO DROP OFF OR COLLECT CHILDREN 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 or the parking area next to the fire station so hopefully there would be no need to park in The Park. However, if the very rare 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 because we know where they are.



School Uniform

The children are looking really smart and this reinforces our high standards and expectations. 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, skirts and **blue polo shirts**. FODS do have second-hand uniform sales at various school events.

School Dinners

The cost of lunches is £2.30 per day. Total cost for the first half of Autumn Term will be £78.20 and the second half will be £92. For Year 6 children please deduct £11.50 for Calshot activity week which is in the second half of the term which would equal £80.50. 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 and other 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.

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.



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.

Friends of Droxford School (FODS)

You are ALL WELCOME to the FODS AGM on Tuesday 18th September at 7pm in school 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

Friendsofdroxfordschool@gmail.com

Core School Council members for 2017-2018

The core members will support myself and the school with many tasks and responsibilities throughout the year.

We would like to introduce ourselves;

James Sadler - Chairperson
Lara Webb - Action Manager
Charlie Palmer - Administration Manager
Jemima Short - 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 and Breakfast club magazines

Just a plea for the library and breakfast club. 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. **Our new librarian, Mrs Jackie Daniells would be delighted!**



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 aunts or uncles who might be, please contact the school office.

Reminder – Day Closure dates

Monday 25th February 2019

Tuesday 26th February 2019

Friday 24th May 2019

Friday 21st June 2019

Where possible these dates have been agreed with infant schools. 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.

And finally...

A little thought from some friends (and us) for an ex-pupil of our school – Amelia Wannell whose family we know so well...

...please follow this link (copy and paste in address bar)

<https://www.gofundme.com/independence-for-amelia>

or

gf.me/u/k6qhg5

Thank you

We are all looking forward to another successful and enjoyable year,

Best wishes



Matthew Dampier
Headteacher

