



Droxford Junior School
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Headteacher: Matthew Dampier

February Newsletter 2019

Save the date(s)!

It is a busy time in school at the moment (actually – it always is) and we have lots of interesting things planned for the next few months. There are trips and residentials happening but we are also seeking your help for three exciting events.

Firstly, we are organising a sponsored walk to help raise much needed funds for school projects. We will be walking in the National Park, from Winchester to Exton on Sunday 28th April – **details coming out in a separate letter very soon.**

Secondly, on the morning of Monday 25th February (the first of the two INSET days 25th/26th February) we are inviting governors, FODS and up to 20 parents to join all the school staff to help with an initiative highlighted in our School Improvement Plan. We are reviewing our Core Values, Aims, Vision, Keys for Success and behaviour management strategy and would like to update stakeholders of progress but use the opportunity to consult and gather ideas to develop our plans. If you would be interested in joining us and staying for some lunch then please e-mail the school office.

Finally, as mentioned before we are in the early stages of putting together a strategic architect plan for developing outdoor space for learning and play. We have two workshops taking place this year and we would like to invite parents to either or both to share their thoughts – Either or both **Wednesday 27th March (3:45 - 5:45)** or **Tuesday 30th April 9:30 – 11:30**. Those parents involved in landscaping and construction would be even more welcome! 😊

Parents Evening

Please ensure you have booked an appointment time for parents evening, Tuesday 12th or Wednesday 13th February, to see your child's learning base teacher. This term, it is important that **children also attend**, if possible, so their progress and personal targets can be discussed on an individual basis. The children will also be able to show their work to you. You will also receive a **Mid-Year report** which will give you more information on current academic attainment, attendance to date, learning attitudes and information on end of year curriculum expectations. This can then inform next steps in learning and guidance towards the end of the academic year in July.

Year 6 teachers will also be giving out support materials and practise questions which can be used at home in the run up to SATs in May.

Roving Books

The Roving book shop will be open all day on Wednesday 13th February. Your child(ren) will have the opportunity to visit the book shop during the day with a teacher. Last term we raised over £200 in commission from book sales which is great news for the school library. What is most important is the children have access to a real book shop which has a huge range of books.



The office will hold any money brought to them with families using the envelopes sent home for book money (or your own envelopes – making sure they are named) and we give the money back on the day.

Medical issues

We have a small number of children with allergies to various food types. One child in Year 3 has severe allergies and we have always taken this very seriously and remind not only the children but all visitors to use the anti-bacteria soap as they arrive in school. If children have an allergy to this soap then there is alcohol free soap in each classroom.

We will ensure that children eat their nut free healthy snacks in one area of the playground – thus limiting chances of contact and then children anti-bac their hands again. This was reiterated by myself in assembly last week and teachers will do the same in class. Like all things, gentle reminders are always useful and pertinent.

Children are reminded **not** to eat on the school bus.

Clothing and personal possessions (including mobile phones).

In terms of reminders – please help as by labelling or writing names in all clothing – including those clothes not always worn in school like warm coats, gloves and hats. We know how costly this can be if they are lost – naming helps with finding owners.

See below (FODS section) related to secondhand clothing.

Unless necessary, mobile phones are **not** to be brought in to school. Where parents believe it is essential they are to be left in the school office where they will be locked away safely. Thank you.

Easter Fair & Droxford Village Summer Fair – Jarbola returns!



We will be running a Jarbola stall at **both** fairs this year. Please can you keep those jars we have previously discussed and start filling them up. We will be having another competition and prize. Money raised at the fair will go to the school for spending on developing the school grounds.

Children can bring them in now and I will store them in a safe place. The Learning Base with the most jars brought in by Friday 29th March (Easter Fair day) will win a prize – then the competition will continue until May 23rd (the week before the Village Fair which is the June half term). Our pricing strategy was way too generous as your jars were fantastic – therefore each jar will cost £1.50 this year.

'Drox' electric kit car – 2019 season!

Thank you to all the parents who attended the meeting and the subsequent safety briefings. The 2019 team and crew is now full, organised into specific teams and ready for another successful racing season!



The health and safety, risk assessment and regulation briefing has been completed on our school site.

The Drox will soon be moved to its new garage and readied for the 2019 race season.

To inspire next year's team, please follow this link...
<http://droxfordjunior.co.uk/curriculum/the-drox-blog/>

Emergency School Closures

Information regarding emergency school closures can be found on the school website. If we need to close the school – updated information will be on the website on a daily basis, and we will also email and text parents.

There is a link on our website on the parent's page www.droxfordjunior.co.uk or

<http://www.hants.gov.uk/education/schoolclosures/>

...which will list all school closures in Hampshire.

Ice and Snow Plan

There is a Droxford Junior School Ice and Snow Plan that is designed to safeguard our school community and keep the school open whenever possible. During icy or snowy conditions parents must not attempt to drive up the lane to the school; children and parents should walk up. On arrival at school the following access routes will be available:

Level 1 Pathways and normal access routes will be gritted but the adventure playground and playground will be out of use in icy conditions.

Level 2 In more extreme conditions a pathway will be cleared and gritted from the school gate to the front entrance for parents and visitors. A pathway will be cleared from the disabled car parking space to the disabled access route at the front of the building. Children will use this route to gain access to the school building.

The children need to wear normal school shoes in the school building. Wellies or walking boots can be worn on the journey to school and during playtimes; the field can be enjoyed during periods of snow and ice. It is important that children are able to change into a pair of dry shoes. Mr Vardy (site manager) will always make routes clear and obvious for all.

<https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/forecast/gcp1u7t4p#?date=2019-01-29>

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Vardy for all his hard work and dedication and especially acknowledge his efforts in ensuring the pavements all the way up to the school and around the top car park are gritted – not necessarily the school's responsibility but someone needs to do it to ensure children' and parents safety – thank you Mr Vardy!



Film Night Productions - screening **'Valiant'** next Thursday 7th February after School.
Get your tickets now!

During Parents Evenings there will be a table of second hand school uniforms in the hall for parents to buy. Please leave a donation in honesty box provided.

The second hand school uniform box is looking quite diminished so if your children have outgrown or don't wear any items, please drop them into school and we can resell them to generate extra money for the school.

***Thanks for your help and support,
The FODS Team***

Governor news and annual review

The governors annual review is available on our website as per normal. This gives information to the parents in terms of who the governors are; what the governors do; how they can be contacted and a summary from the committees. Also this academic year there is a timely message to all to remind ourselves of the on going, fragile state of school budgets. Mr Keston Williams writes very clearly what the current scenario is and how you could help.

<http://droxfordjunior.co.uk/governors-news-updates/>

It is Keston William's last report as Chair of Governors as he stepped down from the role at the last Full Governor Body meeting, after two years at the helm. I would personally like to thank him for his support to the school and also how he has mentored and guided me through my early years as Headteacher.

Mr Chris Tose is now our Chair of Governors. Chris is no stranger to the school as he has been a governor for many years at our school and also leads the highly successful STEM club after school on a Friday with Mr Andrea Barberi (who was also a governor at Droxford). Both Keston and Chris are also an integral part of our resources committee. May I take this opportunity to wish Mr Tose all the best in his new role and I look forward to working with him closely for the foreseeable future.

If you wish to contact the governors on any matter then please contact our Clerk to the governors, Mrs Natasha Beckley via...

n.beckley@droxford.hants.sch.uk

Thank you for all your continued support,
Best wishes



Matthew Dampier
Headteacher

