

### Owls (EYFS)

The Owls never cease to amaze me with their enormous levels of curiosity. They love to find out everything, from what happens when there is a storm blowing outside to something as simple as why there is a dead fly on the floor! Mrs Hancock had a big surprise when thirteen of our children suddenly came to visit in her office. They were fascinated to see all the interesting things she keeps and they also enjoyed seeing what the office staff were up to and talking to them. Keep up that enthusiasm Owls ... and keep asking those questions. It's a great way to learn.

### Sparrows (Y1)

Our English Learning has been all about the story 'Toys in Space'. We have been learning all about the structure of the story and how to write a story. We have been describing both setting and characters. In our maths learning we have been learning all about multiplication. We have been counting in 2's, 5's and 10's and using this knowledge to work out the answers to different problems.

### Chaffinches (Y2)

All the children in year 2 have made a fabulous start to the half term. They are working hard and improving day by day. I am very proud of them all. During our lessons we have been using a book called 'Meerkat Mail'. In Science we have been investigating meerkat habitats and considering the meerkat's place in the food chain. Our Geography work has been based on the Kalahari Desert, where our story's main character lives. We have located it on maps and considered the landscape, climate and land use. In Art we are looking at Tingatinga paintings so that we can use this style to create our own artwork. We have been busy writing recounts in our English lessons. All the children have a clear understanding of the features of a recount and are trying their best to include these when they write. One feature is to write in the past tense. This has been supported by our spelling work this week as we have been looking at changing words into the past tense by adding ed. In maths, we have been solving addition and subtraction calculations using a number line. We have been using our addition and subtraction skills to solve word problems. Next we will be investigating fractions.

### Sporting Successes

Over the last month, the children have taken part in a range of sporting activities. We came 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Dodgeball competition making it through the Semi Finals. We had 9 children turn out for Cross Country County try outs, with 2 qualifying for county places. In the DSAT Gym Competition our Y3/4 team came first and our Y5/6 team came second. We are now sending a Y2, Y3/4 and Y5/6 to represent us at county level gym.



**Asfordby  
Captain's Close**  
Primary School

## Spring Newsletter 2

### Headteacher's Message

Hello everyone

We are forging on with all our key priorities this term.

### World Book Day

For World Book Day children and staff dressed up as a character from a book that has inspired them to read. During the day children spoke about their book, did reviews to go onto Jonathan Emmett's blog, and discussed what books they like reading. The day was finished off with a whole school assembly led by Miss G.

It is great to share our learning with you and we are looking forward to a range of events.

Well done to all our athletes who have been very busy. I can't believe how many 25 Captain's Coins awards I have given already. Loads more to come. We have such amazing and thoughtful children.

Many thanks to FOACC for our Pancake breakfast. Mr Stone, the Trust CEO thought it was a fantastic idea when he visited.

This half term Robins' class has been learning lots about humans and animals and how we can show empathy. In English we are focusing on characterisation and have had lots of fun reading fractured fairytales. Our favourite so far has been 'Ninja Red Riding Hood' because she is strong and courageous but still caring towards others. In Art we have been drawing bodies using felt tips and charcoal. It was fantastic when Charlie Brend had black tights over his body so we could only see his outline! We have also been thinking about our rights and discussing the difference between what we want and what we need.

### Robins (Y3)

Year 4 have really enjoyed looking at the genre of fantasy and especially the topic of The Hobbit. It was fantastic to see all of the hard work and effort the class put into building their Hobbit holes, castles and tree houses. All of the hard work hasn't gone unnoticed and many teachers and pupils from other classes have commented on the creativity and dedication put into the projects. Well done Year 4 keep up the great work.

### Swallows (Y4)

'It has been really fun this week because we have been learning about decimals and I also have liked PE. We have been doing field hockey and tennis and my favourite is hockey because it is something I am good at.' Harley  
'This week in Maths we have started looking at decimal numbers and I find it fun and know it well after we have just looked at fractions. In English we have been looking at the book The Tin Forest, and we have been looking at adverbial phrases and different grammar in writing.' Grace W  
'This week we have been learning about the rainforest. I can't wait to learn more, because since we read *The Great Kapok Tree* I have wanted to know more about them. Noah  
'I have really enjoyed doing the English lesson because I find that making different sentences is really fun because we got challenged to do it and I really like getting challenged in all different activities and subjects. I have also enjoyed Maths because we have been doing decimal values and I find it really interesting and fun. I have also enjoyed finding out about transport through time. Georgi

This half term, our topic is themed around the Tudors and the Elizabethan Era. So far we have enjoyed learning about the Tudor Rose and what it represents for the start of the Tudor period (after the War of the Roses). We have also combined Maths learning with Art by learning about Tudor Knot designs - come and ask us about how the Maths fit in with this if you'd like to know more! In English, we have started a new unit on SPOCS: this means we are going to be writing lots of different texts based on some ghoulish antics occurring at a Tudor House and the need for us to combat these in role as ghost hunters. We've started thinking about how to write a persuasive letter to apply for this role and will be designing contraptions to snare the ghosts in the next few weeks.

### Headteacher's Message continued...

#### **Parent evaluations Spring term**

Thankyou so much for your feedback. It really helps us to reflect on our work and your perception of school to consider how we work together to facilitate parent engagement in learning.

Here are some elements we would like to share and consider.

Many of you were happy that you knew your child's targets and specific areas to support as well as achievements to celebrate. It was especially good to have positive feedback on the value of having children at their parents' evening. eg. "I love the idea of involving the pupils". This is an integral move to ensure children take ownership of their learning and understand their role in developing their learning as well as a great chance for us all to work together and address anything or really celebrate our children.

Lots of you commented on the need to practice spellings and maths facts. This is crucial-as is your support for phonics, reading and developing questioning to probe children's understanding of texts. I'm so pleased so many of you are enjoying this and more aware of the online resources we have to help. There are also useful links on our website.

It was concerning to see some of you were not aware our newsletter is circulated by e mail now, despite previous letters and newsletters outlining these plans in response to parental requests. If you wish to have a paper copy, the Office will provide one, or if you need to update your email contacts, please let the office have these. We also upload the newsletter to our website and place one in the outdoor display board by the back door.

#### **Spring parent feedback 2017**

Thanks to those of you who returned parent feedback sheets at the end of last half term.

Although we did not receive a large sample, it was great to see you noted Strengths in that parents can attend classes in action, teachers are approachable, parents receive information, and our inclusivity across age groups.

We are very proud of the emphasis we place on children's emotional wellbeing and this was also noted.

To answer a couple of queries:

If you feel you have a concern that needs to be discussed privately, please contact the office so we can schedule this at a mutually agreeable time. Our staff really do have the children's and families' best interests at heart so we absolutely want to get this right and give you adequate time. Sometimes if they are caught on the hop, when they are responsible for managing children, they can come across as a bit short-we all need a little time to think and prepare.

Adults in school all have different responsibilities. Teaching staff liaise with parents regarding the children's education, and in many cases, wellbeing, we have a SENDco for special education needs, and Miss Giles, and our education welfare Officer oversee registers, attendance, etc.

If you are unsure as to who you should speak to, please check with your class team.

I have asked staff to maintain regular blogs and we do all try to blog weekly, however we prioritise planning and working with our children, and on occasion, we just run out of time. Please bear with us! I also try to Tweet as often as I can, sharing what we are doing as well as interesting elements of the changing face of education that impacts on our work with your children.

A minority of you have commented on my role and how it takes me out of school. This has changed dramatically over the last few years with the loss of services at our Local Authority and Leicestershire's push for academisation. Governors made this decision to protect our sustainability and capacity for continuous improvement, particularly as we are a small school (we are still charged for the same services large schools have) It makes sense for schools to work together and support each other to develop staff, curriculum and resources as well as offer opportunities for children to collaborate. Inevitably this means I, and other staff, are out of school for meetings/training and working across schools. This is a government expectation as part of headteacher and leadership standards. Please be assured that even though you may think this takes us away from the work of the school, all of this work is geared to making sure we are as up to date as possible with regulations, developments, budgets, etc. If class teachers are out, their classes are very much planned for by them. Some of my days out generate income for school, not myself, but also enable me to work strategically with our leadership team and the Trust staff to plan for more impact on our children, for example making joint decisions about employing speech and language specialists, or buying services together to ensure we have enough of our shrinking budgets for adequate staffing. Currently I am working on bids for funding to retain 7 classes and look at increasing space. Rest assured, almost every waking moment I am thinking about ways to support our children and staff. We are an amazing school and every member of our community is crucial to us in making our children's educational experiences the best they can be.

Mrs Hancock

## Dates

### March

- Monday 6<sup>th</sup> EYFS writing event
- Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> Advisory Board meeting
- Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> Year 6 parents' event
- Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> Hywel Roberts visits KS2
- Friday 17<sup>th</sup> School is hosting a Senior Leader Delegate day
- Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> school discos

### April

- Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> School Closes for Easter holiday
- Monday 24<sup>th</sup> Back to school

### May

- Monday 1<sup>st</sup> Bank Holiday
- Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> Afternoon Tea (FOACC)
- Monday 8<sup>th</sup> –Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> KS2 SATs week
- Friday 9<sup>th</sup> Year 6 SATs event

Please note Year 2 will be taking SATs through May and holidays should not be booked during this time

- Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> Chair of Board visit
- Friday 19<sup>th</sup> Family disco and BBQ
- Friday 26<sup>th</sup> Half term

### Library Van dates:

- April 5
- May 3
- June 7
- July 5th

### For your consideration:

Please can parents be mindful of children when the lines are entering school in the morning. Please pass by the rear of the line if you are leaving, so as to avoid collision with other year groups who may be still moving into school.

We have also spoken to children about using footballs, cycles and scooters at the start and end of the day. Please be aware these are not to be used on the playground for health and safety reasons.

Thankyou