**Minchinhampton Primary Academy**

**Newsletter No 4 2016/17**

**News**

Touchwood- have been in to renovate Woodhenge. They have replaced some of the logs on ground level which inevitably begin to rot with time and added a log here and there to strengthen the structure/ add interest.

The Fireworks. These were more popular than ever this year –testament to the painstaking organisation and boundless creativity of the parents in our PTA. Thank you to everyone who helped and everyone who came along.

Book project--BOOKTASTIC

EXCITING!!!!! Here at school we are writing a proper book, involving every class. We are writing the book, ‘A Portal in Time’ [working title], with the famous author, John Dougherty, our patron of reading. Our book is all about time and each class is doing a zone. John Dougherty has written the first chapter and will be writing the end chapter. The main characters’ names are Coco, Piper, Smithy, Hobbs, a pig on a motor bike (soon to be named) and a half human, half fairy vampire called Winterheart. And…there will be illustrations by the children too. …*Teddy*

The MUGA-

We are experiencing the building of the MUGA on the top playground. There is going to be a basketball/netball court and 2 footballs pitches ready for us by the 15/11/16. When it’s done the children of Minchinhampton Academy School will feel very lucky*. -- Jack*

KS2 Committee News

At school ~KS2 children have all got new committee: Eco-warriors, Charity, News Reporters, Links, Worship, Play leaders and Librarians. Right now the Charity lot are doing a ‘Children in Need’ event at school. We are selling wristbands for £1 and on Friday 18th November 2016 we have to come to school dressed up as Pudsey or come very spotty.

In all the groups we have fun jobs to do; we work as a team and we set out to help our school and our community. We have mix of ages in each committee, from Year 3 to Year 6. All the teachers who help are very nice and help you if you need it. …*Darcey*

Information

**Please remember previous::::::: fruit & veg for snacks:::no nuts :::**

Report Cards and Parents Evening. The Report Cards have evolved over the last year. Please know they were only ever intended as a conversation starter for the Parents Evening but they must serve this purpose well. We used an established scale as a starting point for ‘grading’ learning attitudes last year. Some parents expressed a little concern at the resulting tone and when Miss Tonner and I looked again at them recently I felt the same way. We have taken out the grading element because we want a description of a child, not a number. It is still only a very brief descriptor but that is because its purpose remains a conversation starter only. We feel the result is less judgemental, more positive and a little more informative.

We are also trialling a new approach to Parents Evenings this term. Trays of children’s work will be laid out for you to look at in the shared areas outside your child’s class, as before. However parent meetings will take place in the hall, in the music room and outside the school office. We are hoping this will help the evening to run more efficiently and mean parents have less of a wait. Also we think it will provide for a more secure situation for staff and yourselves. It’s a significant change- we will just see how it goes.

Reading club

From next week there will be a bookshelf situated in the Entrance Foyer for parents to be able to exchange an old read for a new one.

If you have any adult novels that you no longer need, please send them in to Miss Tonner or bring a few in to swap on the shelf. Any queries please see Miss Tonner or contact her via @minchreading on twitter.

The cattle grid

We have secured funding for this but are having to wait a while. Apologies again for any inconvenience.

Food Policy

Please note that we have children at our school who have severe nut allergy and therefore no foods containing nuts may be brought into school at any time. Please note these children, if exposed to nuts could have an anaphylactic reaction, which can be fatal, so we ask for your support in ensuring we do all we can to keep these children safe.

We also have children who are allergic to other foods e.g. gluten, wheat, kiwi, red pepper, milk, egg or even unknown food ingredients causing them to be very poorly. We do ask children not to share their food, but now that we have children who may become very unwell if they eat these foods we are introducing a blanket no sharing food policy. We therefore ask if you can talk to your children about this, advising them not to share any of their food with other children, including their friends. We will of course run awareness sessions in school.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this at all please see Sara Jones, our Appointed First Aider.

**Communication--**

Changes:

Sapphire moved their class assembly- apologies.

Online sign up to Parents Evenings

For ourselves and many parents this was a welcome step in the right direction. There were a few teething problems but I am hopeful these can be overcome. We have a contract with our existing texting service until next July and cannot afford to run two systems concurrently, so for the moment we are simply trialling it.

**Learning News**

Staff from Dursley have been visiting our school over the last two weeks to see how we do Talk for Writing. A number of DGAT schools are interested in our approach because it has given our children plenty of confidence in their writing. As I have said before the main advantage to being in the Trust is the potential for networking and sharing practice across schools.

Job advert

**Clerk to Governors**

Part-time: 60 hours per annum

Are you well organised and in possession of good IT skills? Can you work to deadlines and produce accurate minutes?

The governing body of Minchinhampton Primary Academy wishes to appoint a clerk who will attend full governing body meetings. The contract will be for 60 hours per annum.

The job involves preparing the agendas and papers for all governor meetings, arranging the meetings diary and taking detailed, accurate minutes for distribution to all governors. The annual core responsibility consists of facilitating full governing body meetings, with additional hours agreed by negotiation. A high level of accuracy and confidentiality is required, with the ability to complete work to tight deadlines.

Experience is not essential and appropriate training would be provided. Meetings mainly take place in the evenings.

Please see the school website for an application form, job description and person specification. A written letter of application and the contact details for two referees are also required. Applications should be with us by 22 November 2016.

The Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children and appointments are made subject to an Enhanced DBS check.