

# Minchinhampton C of E Primary Academy

# Newsletter

Newsletter Number 15: Summer Term

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2017

## **NEWS:**

### **Changes in staff : Autumn term**

There will be a number of changes to staffing next term which I need to communicate with you. We are being joined by Miss Gittins, who has worked at the Rosary School up to now: she will be taking over in Indigo class. Mr Ricketts is moving up to Year 5/6 to take the place of Miss Heard who has a job closer to home in Gloucester. Mrs Hodges will be leaving us at the end of term and Mr Weinberger will be taking on a full time contract in her place. Miss Smith is reducing her hours and will be job sharing with Mrs Aldridge. So- it's all change – which I'm sure will be both challenging and refreshing for both the school and the individual staff concerned.

### **Road Safety**

A couple phoned as they were concerned by how a couple of our boys - age 9-10yrs- were cycling down Butt Street the other day.

They were on the pavement, then on the road and then across to the other side of the road - all without looking. They also said that one of them rode through the narrow part of Butt Street looking over his shoulder chatting to his friend.

I receive these kinds of concerns intermittently and they are a concern.

We will talk to the children about road safety- please follow up at home.

Also please note the requests concerning the drop off zone on this newsletter.

### **'A Portal Through Time'**

What an extraordinary thing this was! It says much about this village and the school it nourishes that something of this magnitude could happen. I challenge anyone to go out and seek another project anywhere which can measure up to the aspiration, the imagination and the impact on the children of our book and its launch .The commitment shown by staff, very notably Mrs Hodges and Mrs McCarron, was awe-inspiring, as was the support from our Patron of Reading, John Dougherty, and the community at large. Minchinhampton never fails to surprise and inspire me.

## **COMMUNICATION**

**Please check the school calendar for upcoming events and put them in your diaries.**

Sports day: [Please see calendar details for details](#)

KS1: from 9.30 until approx. 11.30

KS2 athletics finals: 11.15 to approx. 12.15 (throwing, long jump, high jump, long distance). KS2 have had trials for these events. They can only take part in 2 of the competitive events (for the sake of fairness and timing) but 3 if we include the sprints later on. They will be informed if they are taking part.

Lunch : 12.00-1.00 (Picnic on field with your children)

Picnics and where to sit

If you are bringing a picnic and want to settle down out of the way- please note that 600m runners will be hurtling past the tree on the corner and the tyres between 11.15 and 12.15. We will put out cones here to give you an idea of their line of trajectory—please try to avoid being trampled.

Timings:

KS2 Sports: 1.00- 3.00

**Please ensure:**

**-your child comes to school with their PE kit and has a hat and sun-cream. Please could KS1 children wear daps rather than trainers.**

## TEXTS:

*'My RE lesson about science and religion made my brain ache but was really enjoyable.'*

*'I kept going through a wobble and found I couldn't stop myself smiling.'*

## LEARNING

There is concern nationally about the mental health of our children. It is instructive to hear education ministers in Finland stating pupil happiness is top of their priority list.

The children are very much the top of the pile for us – we consider everything we do with them in mind.

We make no assumptions however and this next year we will be exploring many avenues for safeguarding and enhancing the mental health of our young people. Mindfulness is one such avenue.

Last week I attended a conference on mental health at the Royal College of Physicians. This has handed me a strong agenda for the next couple of years.

If you have any thoughts about this matter and how we might further enhance school practice, please do get in touch with me.

## SCHOOL PRACTICE

Staff are working towards their level 1 in Philosophy for Children.

We have been focusing on helping pupils generate their own questions. To do this well is hard but do it we must because good learners are the ones who ask questions.

'The unexamined life is not worth living.' - *Socrates*

'Good learning starts with questions, not answers' - *Guy Claxton*

'He who asks a question is a fool for 5 minutes. He who never asks a question, remains a fool for a lifetime.' - *Chinese proverb*

## POETS CORNER

*Imagine*

*Imagine a mouse  
As tiny as a louse,  
Imagine a whale  
As smooth as a pail,  
Imagine a unicorn  
As magical as a pawn,  
Imagine a bear  
As small as a chair,  
Imagine a foal  
As long as a pole,  
Imagine a pig  
As fluffy as a wig,  
And a pizza the same  
size as me!*

## REQUESTS

Please remember previous::::: no pens ::no nuts :::

### Drive through drop off

We have a cattle grid again. Our apologies for the length of time this has taken. It has been a bit of a journey but I won't bore you with it!  
It does mean we have now gone back to the 'drop off' procedure we had started before the grid buckled.

Please do everything you can to avoid congesting the immediate area around the school by:-

- dropping off as you drive through—no parking in the staff car park or drop off zone please –otherwise pupils' safety at risk;
- parking further afield for example Dr Brown's Road/ new extra parking on the common; spaces in Cecily Court;
- walking.

Given there are more/ better options for dropping off now and soon to be, we really ought to see an improvement in safety over the next period. We also want to introduce cycle racks- another reason to see congestion around the school decrease. Parking on the zig zag lines outside the school really is inexcusable—there is no doubt this puts children at risk. The zig zag lines have been painted precisely because parking here will endanger children- it's not rocket science!

I will be asking our Community Committee to prepare some leaflets for windscreens to remind motorists. I will also start taking number plates of cars parked illegally and dangerously and text them out to parents.