



Heathcoat Primary School Newsletter

Aspiring to achieve our best: moving forward together!

Monday 16 April 2018

News

Holiday in Term Time - a reminder to parents that the school cannot authorise time off school for a family holiday. Please fill out the absence request form available from the document stand outside the school office so that the headteacher can consider your request. The form will then be returned to you so that you can see if it has been authorised. When a child has five or more days off school which is unauthorised, then a penalty notice will be sent out from Devon County Council with a fine. Please note that if you take your child out of school again within two years of receiving a penalty notice, then DCC will not raise a fine the second time, but will send the case straight to court.

Attendance - our whole school percentage from September up until 29 March currently stands at 95.34% (our target set by the Governors is 97%).

Year 5 Swimming Lessons - a reminder that these children will be starting their lessons on Friday 20 April. Please make sure that the children bring their costume and towel (with their name in) every Friday until Friday 25 May.

Used Batteries - the school is still collecting dead batteries to send off for recycling. If you have any please send them in.

Year 6 Transition to Tiverton High School - for those children who are moving on to THS after the summer holidays, large envelopes were sent home a little while ago with information about the high school, what it offers, uniform and forms that needed to be completed. If you have not already done so, please complete the S11/1 Data Collection Form and either return to THS or to our school office.

School Dinner Money - unfortunately some children were still in debt for their lunches when we broke up for the Easter holidays. Please could all parents

ensure that all meals and clubs are paid for in advance.

Accelerated Reader Rewards - here is a picture of the recent winners. These children were chosen to receive a prize because they have all made excellent progress on the STAR assessments since the beginning of the year. Well done!



Down Syndrome Day - well done to Kezia Mullins who raised £10.40 for this charity by selling sweets in the school staff room.

Issues in School - We all know that, at times, children fall out with each other or find social elements of school tricky. If your child is going through this kind of issue then please do talk to their class teacher, team leader, Miss Higginson or Mrs Keller. Over recent weeks, we have had a number of incidents when parents have approached other children's parents in the playground to discuss issues that are happening in school. These actions have led to both children and their families understandably feeling upset and embarrassed. Whilst we understand how serious each child's happiness and well-being is to their parent, we would politely request that all issues are dealt with by staff members. We can talk to the children involved and gain a full and fair picture of what is happening which is very difficult to do as a parent outside of the classroom or playground setting. If you have any concerns relating to this then please do come and talk to Miss Higginson or Mrs Keller.

This newsletter will be available on the school website under the 'News' section

Diary Dates

Exmoor Challenge
Practise Walk - 21 April

Year 6 SATs Meeting -
26 April 2.30pm

Term Dates

May Bank Holiday
Monday 7 May

Summer Half Term
Monday 28 May -
Friday 1 June

Last Day of Summer
Term
Friday 20 July

First Day of Autumn
Term
Tuesday 4 September

Autumn Half Term
Monday 22 October -
Friday 26 October

Last Day of Autumn
Term
Wednesday 19 Dec

First Day of Spring
Term
Monday 7 Jan 2019

Spring Half Term
Monday 18 February -
Friday 22 February

Last Day of Spring
Term
Friday 5 April

First Day of Summer
Term
Tuesday 23 April

May Bank Holiday
Monday 6 May



Message from Mrs Keller, Head of Primaries

It has been really lovely catching up with many of you over the last few weeks since I returned from maternity leave. Being the mother of two is wonderful but certainly has its challenges too! After a tricky start, Bobbie is now doing well and Charlie is settling into his role as big brother with increasing enthusiasm.

As I know you are aware, here at Heathcoat, as in schools across the county, we are really struggling with the impact of ever decreasing budgets. Over the last few years we have managed to make ends meet by not renewing some contracts. This year, however, we are sadly have to restructure our staffing which will obviously affect the day to day running of our school.

In response to this, a number of our parents and community members have organised a demonstration that will be taking place in town on Saturday. The event is due to run between 10am and 1pm in Pheonix Lane and there will be press and other representatives there. If you and your family are able to, please do come and join us and make our voice heard. Every member of staff at Heathcoat has a valuable job to do in supporting our children and further cuts will make keeping the quality of our provision even harder to achieve. For further information please see the facebook group, 'Peaceful Protest ACTION AGAINST SCHOOL CUTS!!', online or speak to myself or Emma Mullins.

I hope to see as many of you there, with your placards or banners, as possible and thank you all for your ongoing support.

SATs Question - taken from a Key Stage 2 English Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling paper for one mark.

Which **one** sentence below uses the **present perfect form**?

Jo went shopping on Saturday and she bought a whole new outfit.

The girl entered at the last minute and won the race!

My sister was a reserve, but she scored the winning goal.

My dog was very naughty, but since the classes he has been much better.

Answer to last week's question - looking at the timetable, if the bus leaves Riverdale at 10:31 and arrives in Mott Haven at 11.17 it takes 46 minutes (29 + 17).

If Mr Evans is at Fordham at 10:30, the earliest time he can reach Tremont on the bus is by taking the 10.38 bus to arrive at 10.44am.

Wow Slips - a reminder that parents can share their child's wow moments regarding Building Learning Power by sending in a wow slip (available from the document stand outside the office).