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SPRING 2 2020 NEWSLETTER

Spring is on its way ...

Welcome back after the half term. Let's hope we get some lovely warm weather soon! **Please remember that school is shut this Friday – 28th February – for a staff training day.**



Reading, Reading, Reading

As you know, one of our school priorities this year is reading. I am delighted to say that this half term's percentages for reading at home are much higher in some classes – well done and thank you to parents and family members for your support. The overall winners were Y6 with a fantastic 79% of the class achieving 20 reads this half term. That's going to take some beating and the way the Y6s were enjoying the chocolate bouquet makes me think they will be chasing it again so everyone else needs to get reading to have a chance of winning!

Parental Expectations

It has been brought to my attention that adults occasionally have been overheard swearing or using inappropriate language on the playgrounds whilst waiting to drop off or pick up children. This is clearly unacceptable as there are younger siblings nearby or children waiting to enter school themselves. Please be aware that adults can be prevented from being on school premises if their conduct does not support the values and ethos of the school and please do support us in modelling good manners and language in front of the children. Thank you.

Consultations and Questionnaires

It was good to see so many of you at our recent parent consultation evenings. I hope you found the conversations with your child's teacher useful and supportive.

Thank you to everyone who completed a parental questionnaire during consultations. In total 111 were completed and this accounted for 191 children in the school which is 65% of school. I have collated the responses and attached them to this letter. Not all responses total 111 as not all questions were answered every time. We continue to be very encouraged by your positive views of the school and will continue to do everything to work with you and provide a great place for your children to learn. The outcomes are attached to this letter.

Robinwood Residential

Mrs Scaife, Miss Shadforth and Mrs Moore had another fabulous residential trip, this time to Baraugh Hall in Alston. They took a great group of Year 5 and Year 6 children and they have all commented on the excellent behaviour and attitudes of the children who got stuck into the activities. Unfortunately, due to wild weather, a few activities like the Zip Wire had to be cancelled but that didn't stop the fun. Well done everyone! We will hold a celebration assembly in the next few weeks when we will share the photos and stories of what they got up to with parents and KS2 children. We will also give out letters to current Year 5 children to book a place on our trip next year. The dates are 18th – 20th January and the cost will be £135 with an initial **non-refundable** deposit of £25.

Y2 & Y6 SATs/Y1 Phonics Screening

We are getting closer to the annual test weeks in May which means that children in Year 6 and Year 2 are preparing particularly hard. Children in Year 1 will also undertake the phonics screening check during a week in June. These tests are not the total measure of any child as there is so much more to every individual that can't be reported as a scaled

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score or written down in a test. We don't want the children to be worried or stressed about tests but to see them as an extension of all their usual classwork – an opportunity even to show off how much they have learned!

- **Year 6 Test Week is Monday 11th May until Thursday 14th May.**
- **Year 2 will be taking their tests throughout May as part of everyday lessons.**
- **Year 1 will take the phonics screening check in the week commencing 8th June.**

We obviously want to help the children do their very best and therefore we ask that you continue to make every effort to ensure your child has excellent attendance and punctuality over the coming weeks. This will ensure that they do not miss out on important learning in relation to these assessments. Thank you.

BINGO Night and Easter Fundraising



Our school fundraising team, led by Mrs Dowson in the nursery, are busy organising our Family Bingo Night of the year. This will be on **Thursday 5th March** and

as before will include the option of buying a light supper of pie and peas for adults or hot dogs for children. These are popular events and great fun for parents, grandparents, family friends and children – bring the whole gang! The letters have already gone out and there are a few tickets remaining so get in quick!

Mrs Dowson and the team will also be organising the usual Easter fundraising events this term, including the Easter Egg raffle and the Decorated Egg competition. Dates and details will follow shortly. Friday 13th March is Sport Relief Day. We

will be having a sport related activity to raise money for this charity. More details will follow.

Nuts

Can I remind parents that we have a number of children in school with severe allergies. Please remember that nuts must not be part of any snack or packed lunch food. This includes foods such as Nutella or chocolate hazelnut spread. Thank you for your co-operation.

Attendance and Leave of Absence

Please remember that Viewley Hill Academy **does not authorise leave of absence for the purpose of a family holiday apart from in the most exceptional of circumstances.** Unauthorised absence of 10 school sessions or more (which is 5 school days) will result in a referral to the Local Authority for the issue of a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN). Please note that the school does not receive the money from any penalties.

In all cases, a request for leave of absence form should be completed and given into the school office. In the event that we believe a child has been on holiday without a request form being completed then the absence will not be authorised and if appropriate, a referral for FPN will be made.

Dates for the Diary

26 th February	Olympic Athlete in school
28 th February	School Closed – PD Day
5 th March	World Book Day – info to follow
13 th March	Sport Relief Day
	Family Friday Y1/2 Miss Bradley
27 th March	Family Friday Y1 Miss Sheard
2 nd April	100% Attendance Party
3 rd April	Last day of term
20 th April	School re-opens