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NEWSLETTER

No. 3 December 2018



Dear Parents,

Over the past few weeks, many of you have been in to school to visit, either at a class outcome or a Christmas performance or at the Christmas Fayre. It has been lovely to see school so busy.

Reception 2018 School Applications

If you would like to apply for a Reception place for your child the deadline for this is 15th January 2019. The application must be made through the Hertfordshire County Council website.

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/schools-and-education/school-admissions/primary-junior-and-middle-schools/primary-junior-and-middle-school-places.aspx>

Staffing Update

We will be being saying farewell to Mrs Stickland, who has been teaching year 1 Birch and a big welcome to Miss Swinburne who joins us as an experienced KS1 teacher in January. Ms Shepherd will be going on maternity leave in January, and Miss Smith will be teaching in Larch class. We also welcome two new teaching assistants, Mrs Winstanley and Mrs Ramsey in the New Year.

Class Outcomes

I hope you all enjoyed visiting the classrooms and finding out more about our skills based curriculum. Thank you for all your positive feedback. It was lovely walking around the school and hearing the children talking confidently about their learning and seeing them so proud to show you what they have learnt. Thank you to all of you who were able to come and visit the school and be part of the class outcomes.

Christmas Performances

Well done to all the children for performing so well during their Christmas performances. The EYFS production of 'Whoops a Daisy Angel' was brilliant and the KS1 Christmas performances were great as always. The KS2 carol concert at Christchurch was impressive; it was lovely to see so many of you there. I would like to extend a very BIG thank you to Nicky Footer, Mr Day and Kirsty Allman-Ward from the music service for all of their hard work. Thank you also for your very generous donations to the MacMillan charity – a grand total of £750! We will send this on to them in the new Year.

British Legion Poppy Appeal



Thank you very much for your contributions with this year's Poppy Appeal; £113.15 was collected for the charity.

Attendance

Well done to Year 6 for having the highest attendance for this term! Congratulations to everyone, our Autumn term attendance for the whole school overall is 98.1%.

ATTENDANCE – Autumn Term 2018			
Lilac	98.5%	Elm	97.2%
Willow	97.6%	Ash	98.4%
Hazel	98.0%	Larch	98.4%
Birch	97.9%	Pine	98.5%
Hawthorn	98.1%	Walnut	98.4%
Oak	98.1%	Maple	97.7%
		Year 6	98.6%



Everbridge School Closure Notification System

In the event of inclement weather or in an emergency where we would have to close the school, as well as using Parentmail, the school also uses the Everbridge system which is the Hertfordshire County Council's School Closure Notification System. It takes 5 minutes to register your details so that you can receive immediate information and updates. Please sign up for Everbridge using this link:

<https://member.everbridge.net/index/892807736725489#/login>

Diary Dates

Date	Class	Event	Time
Tuesday 8 th January 2019	ALL	Parent Governor Election form	returned to office by 3.30pm
Tuesday 8 th January 2019	ALL WELCOME	SLPA Meeting	8pm – The Angels
Monday 21 st January 2019	Elm Year 3	Swimming	During school day
Tuesday 22 nd January 2019	Ash Year 3	Swimming	During school day
Monday 28 th January 2019	Elm Year 3	Swimming	During school day
Tuesday 29 th January 2019	Ash Year 3	Swimming	During school day
Monday 4 th February 2019	Elm Year 3	Swimming	During school day
Tuesday 5 th February 2018	Ash Year 3	Swimming	During school day
Friday 8 th February 2019	ALL	SLPA DISCO	After school tbc
Monday 11 th February 2019	Elm Year 3	Swimming	During school day
Tuesday 12 th February 2019	Ash Year 3	Swimming	During school day
Monday 18 th February 2019	ALL	HALF TERM WEEK	



Music Lessons

Music lessons are available to all pupils in Years 3 – 6 (piano lessons are available for Year 2). The following instruments are taught:

Instrument	Teacher	Cost per school term	Waiting list
Piano	Mr Day	£150.70 individual 20 minute lesson	22
Brass	Mr Robinson	£150.70 individual 20 minute lesson £77.00 3-6 sharing 30 minute group lesson £112.75 2 sharing 30 minute lesson	Spaces available
Viola & Violin	Mrs Morris	£225.50 individual 30 minute lesson £150.70 individual 20 minute lesson £77.00 2 sharing 20 minute lesson £77.00 3-6 sharing 30 minute lesson	5
Cello	Ms Parsons-Gurr	£150.70 individual 20 minute lesson £112.75 2 sharing 30 minute lesson	3
Guitar	Mr Coulthard	£150.70 individual 20 minute lesson	22
Clarinet, flute & saxophone	Valerie Blake – Musicale*	Please call 01582 713333	Please call 01582 713333

**The school does not hold the waiting list for Musicale please contact them directly.*

Shared and group lessons are dependent on other children wanting to share a lesson and also matching ability.

To book on to a waiting list (children in Year 2 may join a waiting list for any instrument to learn in Years 3 -6) please contact Mrs Ferridge in the school office. There is no obligation to take up the music lessons once your name is on the list. Once you get to the top of the list the school office staff will give you a call for you to decide if you would like to proceed with the lessons. If not they will be offered to the next child on the list.

The invoice for the music lessons is sent termly for payment and the lessons are all held during the school day (sometimes before the school day).

Remission of music fees for families on low incomes is available from Hertfordshire County Council simply by calling 0300 1234048.

School Website

The school website can be found at <https://sam lucas.herts.sch.uk/> . Did you know on the website you can find out diary dates, term dates for this year and next year, you can subscribe to your children's class blog and find out about what they are learning about in class for the term? There is also an inclusion blog and information relating to parent workshops and support.

Parent Governor Election

There is currently a vacancy for a parent governor on our school's governing board. If you would like to stand for election, please complete and return the form sent home on Monday, to the school office by 3.30pm on Tuesday 8th January 2019. You will need to ask another parent of a pupil at the school to sign the form.



The role of the school governor is demanding but very rewarding and is a good way to give back to your local community. School governing boards are responsible for working with the school to ensure that it delivers a good quality education. Together with the headteacher, who is responsible for day-to-day management, they set the school's aims and policies.

Key roles of governors:

- To ensure clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- To hold the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff
- To oversee the financial performance of the school and make sure its money is well spent

You would need to attend one committee meeting per term and a full governing board meeting per term, these are held in the evenings at 6.30pm or 7pm. You will also be linked with a subject and expected to be able to make a couple of school visits during term time.

Sports Update from Mr Smith

KS1 have continued developing their fundamental skills using their feet in PE; we have focused on movement, control, striking a ball and aiming for various targets. In KS2 we have worked on our Chest Push Throws in preparation for the Sports hall Athletics Intra-House tournaments.



The football 'A' team lost the Wix Cup semi-final to Highover School, 3-2, in a thrilling cup tie where neither team really deserved to lose. We wish Highover School the best of luck for the final. Both our goals were scored by Noah and player of the match went to Olly for an excellent defensive performance.

The competitive fixtures have finished for the time being, I have however been busy this week organising football and netball fixtures for the New Year. It is looking promising that we will have Year 3/4 girls, Year 4 boys and further 'B' team and girls team football matches to look forward to. In Netball I have been in contact with a few schools regarding further friendly matches in preparation for the rally in April. I have also entered a Year 3/4 team into a Speed stacking competition in February and potentially two teams into the Year 5/6 Hockey tournament in March.

The Sports Committee have continued their fine work with the Kung Fu Panda lunchtime club and we have a catch up meeting planned for a couple of weeks' time to discuss all things sport in school.

The healthy selfie display is really starting to take shape and it has been wonderful to see the different ways that children (and staff!) are active away from school. Pictures can be emailed to the school office or handed directly to me for the display.



A message from the SLPA

Bags 2 School

Thank you for all your bags. We raised an impressive £232. Our next collection is on the 1st May 2019, so don't throw out any clothes, shoes, bags, curtains or bedding before then! The heavier our load, the more money we make!

SLPA Lottery

Thank you to all those that have purchased tickets. We currently have 90 members in the draw (up from 75 last year) meaning the monthly prize winner receives £22.50 and the runner up receives £9.00. If you would like to purchase a ticket to be in every monthly drawer from January, please contact the School Office. Our BIG Christmas winner was Odile Barclay winning a whopping £90!!!! A huge congratulations!

Film Night

This was such a fun evening and the children appeared to really enjoy themselves. It was wonderful to see them singing and dancing along at the end of the movie. A big thank you to all the volunteers and to the grandparents who donated all the squash and snacks, so all of the £664.89 made was profit. In keeping with our green theme, all crisp packets were recycled.

Christmas cards

We hope you liked the designs of your children's Christmas cards; we raised £531.50. Following feedback, £1.50 for the first pack and £1 for any further packs goes directly to the school, so thank you for buying them, each pack raises a fair amount.

Christmas Fayre

Wow! What a wonderful turnout. A huge thank you to everybody who attended, donated and volunteered, it was a team effort and could not have taken place without a lot of time given, hard work and effort, thank you. It was an enormous success, both financially (raising £3982.72) and as a fun and festive fayre. We really enjoyed watching so many happy children attending with their families and a big well done to the choir for their beautiful performance. We again did our best to recycle as much of the waste as we possibly could, as well as trying our best to create more biodegradable waste, such as swapping wrapping paper to brown paper in the grotto. A huge thank you to the grandparent who donated £160 to the fayre to push us towards a £4K total. A big congratulations to Michelle Winship, the winner of the Helper Hamper.

Christmas Tree Festival

Our tree looked stunning with all your footprint penguins and the wonderful penguin topper made by a parent from school (thank you.) Sadly, we didn't win any prizes, but hopefully the making of the penguins created an important dialogue about keeping plastic out of our oceans and litter off our beaches.

SLPA Dates for diary

We have our next SLPA meeting coming up on the 8th January at The Angels Reply (anyone is welcome to join us) at 8pm and the SLPA disco on the 8th February. Thank you for supporting us during this term, have a very happy Christmas.



Lego Donations – Thank You from Mrs Foster



Thank you to everyone who has donated Lego for our Lego club. If you are having a tidy up over the holiday and find some odd Lego blocks that are unwanted or any Lego sets that are no longer used, we would love to have them, even if it is a handful of blocks. Thank you so much.



Lastly, I just want you all to know that when children return from their holidays they tell me about memories they have made from being at home with you. They tell me about pyjama days and family visits and being with friends, they mention their gifts but most of all, this time of year is all about being with you. Make memories and enjoy your time with your children. Have a lovely break and see you all in the New Year. School closes at 2pm tomorrow and re-opens on Monday 7th January.

Yours faithfully,

Tracy Thomas

Tracy Thomas
Headteacher

