



18<sup>th</sup> January 2019

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Today was the launch of our Inter-House Competition. I am writing this having just walked around the school; it was great to see how much pleasure the children got from having an extended time to create something - especially in Robin class, who created dinosaur eggs. Although some weren't too sure about the slimy texture of paper-mache on their hands (and I have to say I agree with them), their pleasure and sense of pride when they were painting was amazing to watch. In Penguin Class, children finished multi-coloured hot air balloons. It was great to see them coming together after planning, designing, and making the paper-mache balloons. Seeing a number of days worth of hard work pay-off, rather than wanting instant results is such a valuable lesson. In Years 3,4,5 and 6 they were working in 4 teams to create a huge piece of artwork - the way they discussed ideas, agreed a final solution, and worked with determination to ensure they reached their goals was very impressive. I cannot wait to announce the winners to the children, and on Twitter on Monday.

It is not often I discuss the 'behind the doors' working of the school. However, I do want let you know about little about this week's staff meeting. We are now 4 months into a 2-year project, focused on improving mental health provision within schools. So far this project has introduced our worry monsters, looked at additional support we can provide within school and informed PSHE lessons - focused on how we can teach both friendships and how to teach children to recognise their own emotions. The training on Wednesday was ran by two education psychologists on a 'Solution Focused Approach,' it is designed to be an approach we can use with children when they face any problem - either in their work, their friendships, with anxiety, behaviour or attitude. We will be looking at behaviour policy and anti-bullying policy in light of this training.

Finally, hall progress: We have now been given a new completion date, of during half term in February. So far they have put on over 2 kilometres worth of wooden cladding, with about another half a kilometre to go. Wirings and service pipes are installed behind all of the internal walls and they are moving onto plastering, painting and fitting the floorings. We are looking for an exciting way to launch the opening of the hall in March - more details to follow in due course.

#### **After School Clubs**

Monday night Construction Club from 3.15-4.30pm – cost £2

Tuesday night – Art and Crafts (KS1 focus) – cost £2

Wednesday night – Computer Club from 3.15-4.30pm – cost £2

Thursday night – Art and Crafts (KS2) – cost £2

Friday Night – Film Night – 3.15-5.30 pm - cost £3

Children are welcome to stay at After School Club until 5.30pm. Charge for this is £3.80.

Please contact the office if you would like more information or to book.

**Breakfast Club** – every day from 8am – cost is £3 per session

## **Governors**

### **School Hall - A lasting legacy**

We are all excited that work is progressing with the building of our new school hall. This work has been possible because of a successful bid to the Government's Condition Improvement Fund. However, we still need to raise funds to make sure the hall is fully kitted out with new sports equipment, catering facilities and audio-visual facilities.

### **Legacy Donors**

Anyone who donates £20 towards the school hall will have their name recorded and displayed permanently within the new hall. This is a way we can celebrate, in a lasting way, the contributions that people make. Please place donations (cash or cheques to "Byfield School") in an envelope marked "Legacy Donor", and clearly indicate the name you would like to be displayed, then hand in at Reception.

### **Naming the School Hall**

You may wish to make a substantial donation, in return for having the school hall named after yourself, your family, or perhaps a loved one *in memoriam*. Please contact the Headteacher to arrange a meeting if you would like to discuss this option.

Any support you can give to the School is hugely appreciated and helps us provide the best facilities we can for your children.

With thanks Sarah Burke Chair of Governors

## **Dates for the Diary**

*String music lessons – every Wednesday      Guitar music lessons – every Tuesday*  
*Keyboard lessons – every Thursday*

*PE – Please bring PE kit in to school every day, PE lessons will be weather dependent. We also have some sessions for PE booked at the village hall.*

*Celebration Assemblies Monday – Kiwi Tuesday – Owls Thursday – Penguins Friday – Robins*

*Hotshots – Every Tuesday – 8am (Village Hall until further notice)*

*Dance Club – Every Wednesday after school (Village Hall)*

**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> January** – SATS meeting Yr 6 children and parents

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> February** – Height and Weight checks Robin Class and Year 6s

**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> January** – Hotshots Village Hall 8am

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> January** – Art Competition

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February** – break up for half term 3.15pm

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February** – school opens 8.45am

**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> February** – Group photos – classes, clubs, music groups etc

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March** – Cross Country Event – Woodford Halse Primary School