



Main Road, Smalley Derbyshire DE7 6EF
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Head teacher – Mrs K Mason

Newsletter – October 2018

Dear Parents,

It was lovely to welcome so many of you to our Parent/Teacher consultations last week. We apologise to those families who usually attend The Katie Elizabeth School of Dance on Thursdays. Unfortunately we had to cancel their booking in the school hall at very short notice. Our out of school club 'Smalley Childcare' now has very large numbers and we were unable to move them out of the hall on this occasion but we do recognise that it was short notice and we apologise for any inconvenience caused. Please note that our next 'Open Books' is on the 5th December after school until 4.30pm where you will be able to come and view your child's work over this Autumn Term.

PTFA

The PTFA provide many lovely activities for your children as well as raise important funds for our school. It has been very pleasing to welcome new members to the PTFA team. Their next meeting is on Wednesday 7th November 2018 at school starting at 7.00pm.

Fundraising

We are delighted to announce that our grand total raised for Gold September was £716. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who attended our coffee morning and those who made cakes. The amount of cakes in our school hall was overwhelming to see and helped raise such a lot of money for this very dear charity which is close to all our hearts at Smalley.

Last week was our Harvest Festival led by our Year 2 pupils. Again your generosity made such a huge difference. It was lovely to see everyone's food donations – an important message to our children that if we all give a little something together, we can make a big difference to someone's life, by showing that we care, by sharing what we have with others in our community.

We are very aware that during our autumn term we seem to go from one fundraising activity to another and although we want to provide these experiences for your children we don't want you to feel pressured if money is tight. Please give what you can but if you can't we understand.

Uniform

From the start of next term 5th November 2018 children should be in their winter uniform. Long trousers for boys, skirts and tights or trousers for girls, and we request that your child has a warm coat with them and also a winter PE Kit including trainers and tracksuit bottoms. The children do a lot of outdoor learning now as well as playtimes outside. Thank you for your support with this.

Polite Reminders

If your child is unwell and unable to attend school, please contact the school office at your earliest convenience and if your child has experienced **sickness or diarrhoea** the NHS guidance suggests you keep your child at home for **48 hours** after the last bout of illness.

As stated previously only prescribed medicines can be administered in school. Please obtain and sign a consent form at the school office as we cannot administer without this.

Leave of Absence

May I politely remind you the governors have decided that from September 2018 **I may authorise absence for exceptional circumstances only** for children whose attendance is above 95%. If your child's attendance is below 95% the absence will not be authorised and if you still decide to take your child out of school you may be issued with a Penalty Notice (fine) by the Education Welfare Officer at Derbyshire County Council.

All leave of absence forms must be submitted to school at least 2 weeks before you wish your child to be absent.

Parking

Thank you for your support with parking, the neighbours of school are very appreciative of your care and consideration.

Text Messaging

I hope you all agree our text messaging service is of great value in communicating with you effectively. The PTFA kindly pay for this service. I would like to point out that this service only enables us to use 160 characters at a time and therefore our messages are often direct and to the point.

Remembrance

Poppies will be on sale from tomorrow for a minimum donation of 20p and other items such as pencils, rubbers hair grips etc. from £1 and wristbands at £2 from the British Legion. Our annual Remembrance service is on Friday 9th November at 9.30am in our school hall. Year 6 will lead the service and years 2 to 5 will attend. You are invited to join us on this occasion. The BBC have contacted us to film the service for the local news, if you do not wish your child to be part of this please notify the school office by Wednesday 7th November. If your child wears a uniform for Brownies, Guide, Scouts, Beavers etc. they are welcome to wear it on this day.

Congratulations

Our Year 5/6 football team have been taking part in the Gregg Cup Tournament over the last few weeks. We are delighted that they have reached the final of this local competition. We would welcome as much support as possible at this game. Kick-off is at 7.00pm under the floodlights at Heanor Town Ground tomorrow Friday 26th October. It would be great to see lots of families there for this special event.

Thank you

Although it was with a heavy heart that we decided to invite just KS1 parents and family to attend our Harvest Festival on the day it clearly proved to be the right decision. Our school hall was full to capacity and while we dislike limiting our numbers it is always our number one priority to keep your children safe. We now have over 200 children on roll so we have to be realistic. I do hope you understand when we have to change how events have been organised in the past to accommodate our growing school.

Enjoy the half-term holiday with your children and thank you for all your support this half term. We look forward to welcoming the children back on Monday 5th November for another busy but exciting time in school in the lead up to Christmas.

Kind regards

Mrs K Mason
Headteacher

Diary Dates

26 th October	School closes for half term holiday
5 th November	School re-opens
7 th November	PTFA meeting at school – 7.00pm
9 th November	Remembrance Assembly 9.30am (Year 6 to lead)
13 th November	Flu Immunisation for Reception & Years 1,2,3,4,5
16 th November	Children in Need Day
2 nd December	Christingle service at Church
3 rd December	INSET Day school closed for pupils
5 th December	Year 3,4,5,6, trip to Derby Theatre - Hansel and Gretel
5 th December	Open Books after school till 4.30pm
6 th December	Reception, Year 1,2 trip to Riverside Centre - Snowman
10 th December	Key Stage 1 Christmas Concert 6.00pm
11 th December	Key Stage 1 Christmas Concert 2.00pm
17 th December	Key Stage 2 Christmas Concerts 2.00pm & 7.00pm
19 th December	Christmas Dinner
21 st December	School Closes for the Christmas Holidays – Christmas Jumper Day
7 th January	School re-opens

National Support School
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Executive Head teacher – Mr M Crawford
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