



Hardwick and Cambourne Community Primary School Newsletter

10th February 2017

Dear Parents and Guardians

We do hope you all have a good half term break. Although it's been a short half term we do seem to have packed a great deal into it. We would like to remind you that the school is closed on Monday 20th February for staff training, so we look forward to welcoming the children back on **TUESDAY 21st** February. For those children who are involved in the guiding or scouting movements, Wednesday 22nd is their "World Thinking Day". Children who are beavers, cubs, rainbows or brownies are welcome to wear their uniforms to school that day if they wish to recognise their participation.

Reception news.

We have packed so much into this half term! We made a chilly start with our learning about polar regions and were incredibly lucky to be visited by people who have worked in Antarctica. We all enjoyed trying on the warm clothes needed for the Antarctic climate and it was a privilege to hold the real Antarctic ice. We celebrated Chinese New Year with dragon dances and learning about how Chinese people are celebrating the New Year of the Rooster. These last couple of weeks have felt a bit warmer as we have transformed parts of the classrooms into rainforests and we have become jungle explorers. We have been out on safari and spotted lots of African animals along the way. We made our own version of Julia Donaldson's 'Monkey Puzzle' which we will enjoy sharing in our reading area. We are proud of our fantastic learning and hard work. Our topic after the half term break will be 'People Who Help Us'. We are keen to welcome visitors such as police officers, nurses, doctors, vets, firefighters (or any parent whose job falls into a 'helping people' category). If you think you might be able to help us then please speak to anyone in the Reception teams on either Campus. Many thanks.

The Reception Team

Year 1/2 news

This half term we've had a fabulous time exploring the swashbuckling life of pirates. We have learnt how to draw maps, to write character descriptions using similes and noun phrases, as well as learning how to create algorithms and how to cook pirate cookies. The highlight was our 'pirate day' where we had fun trying to make ships that could float as well as taking part in a maths investigation all about parrots. Now it's time to leave the land of pirates behind us and enter the world of superheroes for our next topic. If you have any superhero books at home we would love your child to share them with their class. We will be having a superhero day where the children will have the opportunity to become a superhero for the day. More details about this event will be sent out nearer the time as we will be asking children to dress up for the day. Enjoy the half term break and don't forget to check the learning platform for new home learning ideas as well as the usual writing challenge.

Year 3/4 news

Year 3/4 have had an amazing half term of Magic! Earlier in the term JezO, the magician, put on a fabulous magic show for us, which we all thoroughly enjoyed. The children learnt lots of skills which helped them to design and put together their own magic shows which they have put on this week. We think everyone will agree that the children succeeded in producing some fantastic magic; with much laughter and faces of amazement as to exactly how the magic worked! Apparently it's all in the magic words! We hope parents enjoyed looking at the children's work too. We were thoroughly impressed with their Escher tessellations and Magic Box poems.

Next half term our learning will be based around our topic The Lion King, where we will be learning about Africa and looking at play scripts in English. Last week auditions were held for our production of the Lion King. We are pleased to report that the year 4s demonstrated extremely high levels of talent, making the casting of parts very difficult for the teachers! Thank you in advance for helping with the learning of lines and song words. Do look on the learning platform for lyrics etc. We look forward to sharing spectacular shows with you !

Performance dates:

Hardwick: afternoon performance: Tuesday 28th March evening performance: Wednesday 29th March
Cambourne: afternoon performance: Wednesday 29th March evening performance: Thursday 30th March

Year 5/6 news

We are well into our topic, 'Tomorrow's World', and it has been lovely to see the children so engaged with this learning. We have been learning about biomes, pollution, endangered species, deforestation, palm oil, recycling and so much more! There have been some very passionate class discussions about the condition of our planet and corporate as well as individual responsibility.

It was lovely to see so many of you at the parents' consultations this week. We would like to thank you for your continued support, especially the help you give your children with their home learning.

We hope you have a super half term and look forward to seeing you after the break.

The Year 5/6 Team.

Y5/6 Gardening Club

Our new Year 5/6 gardening club is proving to be very popular with the children. We are just hoping the weather will hurry up and improve so we can get back outside and continue to attack our nature area - as we have a lot of plans! We want this area to be attractive to bees and other creatures in the future, as well as being a space in which we can enjoy our own learning. We would really like to thank Simon Crisp for volunteering to lead this club and Childerley Hall for offering to assist us with equipment and cuttings - and for extending an invitation for our club to visit them in the future; hopefully in the summer term. Well done to Huthayfa and Ryan in Year 6 for producing the advert to which Simon replied. Exciting times are ahead!

Ethics Council News

A big thank you to everyone who wore their Christmas jumpers and donated to Save The Children at the end of last year. We raised the impressive sum of £341.06 which was a fabulous amount. Thank you. Just to let you know about some up and coming events this term. We have our annual Waste Week between the 6-10th of March which this year is about up-cycling. We'll send out more information about how you can get involved nearer the time. Also on Friday March 24th we are going to take part in Red Nose Day. We will be selling red noses in school and if the children bring a donation they can dress up in red and might even be picked to gunge the head teachers! Again, we'll send out more information nearer the time but definitely not one to miss!

Governor Update

It is now a term since our Ofsted visit and the Governing Body has had the time to digest and discuss the report and begin to explore with our co-heads how the next steps might be tackled. Of course, the key point is that we are all delighted that the school has retained its rating of Good and that the report has recognised the effectiveness of our curriculum delivery and our inclusive ethos. This is particularly pleasing as this was our first Ofsted inspection after opening our Cambourne campus and our vision of "one school over two buildings" has been externally validated. The governors are well aware that this is due to the immensely hard work, not only from Ruth and Andy but from our large and very talented staff, both teachers and support staff, whether in or out of the classroom, and our thanks and congratulations have been given to all of them. Naturally, we can't rest on our laurels. There were three "next steps" identified by Ofsted and at our last meeting we discussed how those might best be implemented. For those who are interested, the minutes of that meeting will be on itslearning (in the Parents' area) shortly after they have been approved, so probably by early February. All approved minutes from full Governing Body meetings can be found there, and details of the members of the Governing Body are on the school website. More information about progress on each of these points will follow in future newsletters.

Dinner Money

You should have received a paper copy of the letter about the upgrade to our school meal booking service. An electronic copy is also attached to those receiving this letter by email. We will be sending out flyers for the World Book Day lunch on Wednesday 8th March, after half term, together with a colouring completion to design a meal for a favourite book character. The prize is a £5 book voucher. The flyers and competition entry need to be returned by 28th February

The cost of school dinners for next half term is as follows

<u>Daily</u>	<u>Weekly</u>	<u>Half Term</u>
£2.25	£11.25	£65.25

Please ensure you pay for school dinners in advance, the school offices spend a great deal of time chasing payments, please settle up any outstanding debts immediately.

3:15 Club; Breakfast and After School Provision

As the school continues to grow rapidly over both sites, pressure on places in before and after school provision is becoming tighter all the time. The numbers that the club can admit are based on the adult ratios and the size of the space. If you are interested, or know anyone who might be, in a role as a playworker at the club, do please look at the school website where the full job description is available.