

MICKLEOVER PRIMARY SCHOOL

JANUARY 2017

NEWSLETTER



Happy New Year

Happy New Year to you all; I hope you enjoyed a good break over the Christmas period. It was lovely to see so many children return to school after the holiday with a big smile on their faces and a positive, 'can do' attitude; we are looking forward to a busy half term.

As usual, we have a wide variety of extra-curricular clubs that the children can join: KS2 tennis, gym club for infants and juniors, Soccerstars, Mad Science, KS2 table tennis, KS2 wind band, KS2 choir, Y1- 4 Dodgeball, combat Please note, this is a selection of the clubs available and not a complete list!

2016 Results

Many of you will have seen the local primary league tables which were published in The Evening Telegraph just before Christmas and may have been surprised at where we came. We felt it would be useful for you to have a little more insight into our results from last year.

During the external writing moderation process from the Local Authority in May 2016, we became aware that the portfolio of independent writing evidence collected for each pupil was not sufficient to securely award marks for some pupils. This meant that many pupils could not be awarded the 'met' standard from the new national assessment framework. Although writing outcomes were therefore low, maths and reading were on a par with local schools, but the published results amalgamate the outcomes of reading, writing and maths, indicating the percentage of pupils who have achieved the expected standard in all 3 areas, therefore our results look to have dropped.

As you will be aware, since September, we have moved away from our original writing process which has enabled us to widen the evidence we use to assess, to avoid this happening again. We have also included more opportunities to develop handwriting, punctuation, spelling and grammar. The move away from only basing assessment on cold pieces of writing has enabled us to adapt planning more appropriately and respond more quickly to the needs of the class. It has also given pupils more opportunity to edit and improve work independently before final teacher assessment. Success criteria is now more clearly linked to assessment grids and the school is also moving towards addressing any issues with letter formation, joining etc through looking at the introduction of pre-cursive and cursive writing in the infants. We have also invested in a new spelling programme which is being trialled in Years 2 and 3, with a view to rolling it out to the rest of KS2. The school is eager to embrace any training and support offered by the local authority and is enrolled in a new development programme for reading and writing in KS1 and KS2, which begins this term.

We hope that as parents, you know that we will never be complacent about pupils' aspirations and will continue to set challenging targets for all pupils to achieve. 2017 outcomes should see the attainment in writing once more in line with reading and maths, as it has been in previous years.

Absence

If your child is poorly, please ring the office on the first day of absence to let us know; then upon their return to school, please send a note confirming the reason for absence.

Lost Property

Please remember to name coats, hats, gloves and scarves, as a number of them are turning up in lost property! Please feel through to come and look through the box which is in the hall.

Boots / Wellies

If on cold and wet days, you prefer your child to come to school in boots or wellies, please make sure they bring their school shoes to change into in the classroom. To help keep pairs of boots and willies together, a named peg or plastic bag is useful.



DON'T FORGET IT IS INSET DAY ON MONDAY 30TH JANUARY

Dates for your Diary		20th Feb RETURN TO SCHOOL
18th Jan	Y6 Inspire workshop	28th Feb Y6 visit to Cromford Mills
19th Jan	6pm Y6 information evening	2nd March World Book Day
20th Jan	Y6 football tournament	2nd March 6H parents invited to lunch
26th Jan	Bees' parents invited to lunch	3rd March Y4 Inspire workshop
30th Jan	INSET	3rd March Y6 Rolls Royce JET visit
1st Feb	Y3/4 gym competition	9th March pm City dance festival
1st Feb	2.30pm Y2 parents - SATs information session	16th March Dolphins' parents invited to lunch
2nd Feb	Ladybirds' parents invited to lunch	23rd March Cats' parents invited to lunch
6th Feb	Y4 visit to Think Tank	30th March 3F parents invited to lunch
7th Feb	Safer Internet Day	4th April 2pm Y3/4 performance
7th Feb	Bees' class at 'Fundamentals' festival	5th April 6.30pm Y3/4 performance
7th Feb	3.30pm Parents' Evening	6th April BREAK UP FOR EASTER
9th Feb	5G parents invited to lunch	7th April INSET DAY
9th Feb	3.30pm Parents' evening	24th April RETURN TO SCHOOL
10th Feb	BREAK UP FOR HALF TERM	



Snow!

If we get more snow in the coming weeks and we have to make the decision to close the school, we will endeavour to let parents know by 8am at the latest. We will send a text out (although the system has crashed in the past due to the high volume of calls going through). Please do ensure that we have your most up to date mobile number. We will also inform Radio Derby, who will put the information on their websites, although it may take a while before the information appears on the site, so do keep checking. As soon as we make the decision to close the school, we will put the information on our own website.

Please be assured that we will make every effort to remain open, however, our main priority is the health and safety of your children and therefore in order for us to remain open, we must ensure that we have appropriate ratios of adult supervision and that staff can safely get to school. In the meantime, please help us to help your children to enjoy the snow when we have it, by sending them with gloves, hats, spare socks etc and a change of footwear (named wellies or boots if possible).