



# Newsletter

## June 2019



### Message from Mrs Threlkeld

Dear Parents,

June has been a busy time for all with a wide range of events during and after school. Transition Days are working well across classes and schools to reassure all of change and prepare for next year. We end the month with annual Reports and our Open Evening for you to meet your next teacher.

Staffing update: Mrs Edmonds, Our Senco leaves at the end of term to take up a new post. Mrs Edmonds has enjoyed her year at Perton and is thanked for her work supporting SEND. I am pleased to inform you that Mrs Place will be our new Senco next term. She is looking forward to this important role. Our SEND meetings will continue to be held on Thursdays. We will also be moving our Music tuition day in KS2 to Thursdays and Swimming for the new Y3 also continues on Thursdays. At the end of September Miss Willis will be going on Maternity Leave and Mrs Handley will be teaching in Base 7.

We were delighted to see 10 Year 1 poems in the Young Writers summer edition 'Poetry Patrol'. I am sure that the children will be as proud of themselves as we are to read their published work.

In spite of the weather, the children have been out and about on memorable visits. Our Nursery children have been to Corsers Court and the residents are looking forward to future visits. They also made Fathers' Day extra special with an after school fun event designing and making together followed by a presentation of special mentions for Dads. Exciting Visits to Farm, Zoo and Think Tank took place for Rec-Y3.

The children have now completed all National tests and we are pleased to maintain our high standards above 2018 in Early Years, Phonics and KS1 SATs. The hard work at home and school that goes into meeting high outcomes benefits your child's future success. We are currently having a trial of the Multiplication Tables Test in Y4 which comes on board in 2020. So far, the children love their Times Tables Rock Star challenges competing against the staff. In September we will also trial the new Baseline Assessment in Reception before it is compulsory in 2020. We have a busy packed diary in July and look forward to seeing you at our end of year events. Mrs Threlkeld

Have you downloaded our school app or followed our page on Facebook? These are the easiest ways to keep up to date with all events going on in school.

### **Reminder:**

Inset Day: Friday 5<sup>th</sup>  
July

End of summer term: 19<sup>th</sup>  
July at 1.15pm

**Attendance:**  
**Current School**  
**Attendance for this**  
**month: 95.6%**

### School Meals

A few years ago, the government introduced 'Universal Infant Free School Meals' (free school meals for children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2). In order to fund the free meals, the DfE gives every school £437 each year per pupil taking a meal on school census days in October and January. Because not every child in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 took a school meal on the October and January census days, the school has missed on enough funding to pay for a full-time Teaching Assistant in next year's budget.

Funding for schools, particularly in Staffordshire, in real terms, is lower than ever and we are working hard to obtain every penny of funding that the school is entitled to so we can provide the best education possible for your children. Therefore on October and January census days, every child in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will be provided with a meal. We will make the menu as fun as possible on those days. You may still send in a packed lunch if you wish. Those children bringing packed lunches will be offered a drink and a cake instead.

We thank you in advance for your understanding and support.

### Summer Holiday Club

Book your child's place in our holiday club!

Booking forms can be picked up from out of school club, from the school office or downloaded from the website. Places are limited and are on a first come, first served basis.

### Warm Weather Reminder

As we approach the warmer summer months, please ensure you apply sun cream to children *before* they come to school.

They will also need a sun hat and their water bottles in school daily.

### Upcoming Events:

Open Evening - Monday 1<sup>st</sup> July 3-5pm

Geography Day - Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July

Reception Sports Day (rearranged) - 2<sup>nd</sup> July

Move up Day - Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July

Y4 Theme Day - Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July

Inset Day - Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July

Sports Day KS1 (rearranged) - 10<sup>th</sup> July 9.20am

Y4 Leaver's Night - Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July 6pm

Reception Graduation - Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> July

Y4 Leaver's Trip - Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July

**For more information and future events, download our school APP and view the calendar.**

### School Visits

Over the past few weeks, children have had exciting visits linked to their topics.

Reception visited Ash End Farm and despite the rainy weather, had a lovely day. They got to feed the animals, go on a tractor ride, see some snakes and spiders and enjoy their lunch in the barn.

Year One enjoyed their trip to Dudley Zoo and didn't let the weather get in their way. We were all very brave when handling some of the animals, especially the giant cockroach. This was also a great way to reward the children for all their hard effort throughout their Phonics Screening. Thank you again for your ongoing support and all the additional Phonics work undertaken at home.

Year Two had a fantastic time at the Think Tank exploring all aspects of Science, Technology and Engineering. They explored the outdoor science garden, created their own spinning top launchers in Lego Gears and relaxed watching a planetarium show about the Solar System. Lots of Yoimojii values were shown by all such as curiosity, independence and enthusiasm. Well done Year Two!

Y3 had a fantastic time in the sunshine at Twycross Zoo earlier this month. They learned about different animals and their diets, including whether they were herbivores, carnivores or omnivores. They have been using this to support their work in class in their topic 'Predator'!

### Phunky Foods Cooking Club

We have run two successful cooking clubs after school. The children have made a selection of recipes, talked about healthy eating and developed their cutting skills by using a knife. A favourite dish they made was the fruity crunch pot where they chopped and layered lots of different fruits, covered the fruit with delicious Greek yoghurt, a drizzle of honey and crunchy granola in the top. Delicious.

### Acorns Payment Terms

Unfortunately, academy staff have had to spend considerable time chasing payments and we have on occasion had no choice but to refer debts to the small claims court.

We do not have the resources to continue chasing payments and have been informed that we are not allowed to offer credit of any kind as it breaches our DfE funding agreement. Therefore, from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2019 all nursery, lunch club, breakfast club, after school club, holiday club and meals *must* be paid in full in advance either by parent pay or by voucher. Please ensure that your account is in credit, as we will have no choice from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2019 but to refuse entry to any of Acorns' facilities if payment has not been made in advance. I hope that you understand our position and that the advance notice gives all parents who owe the academy money, ample time to get their accounts into credit by the new academic year.



### Times Table Rockstars!

As you may already be aware, we are currently trialling 'Times Table Rock Stars' from Y1 - Y4. This fun, interactive game is designed to support children in learning their times tables, alongside the related division facts.

This is especially important as next year the Government will introduce a 'Multiplication Check' for all children in Y4.

Please encourage your child to play TT Rockstars at home regularly. They need to complete 10 sessions in the 'Studio' to initially set their 'rock speed'. This will test their knowledge of all times tables and division facts and may seem tricky, but the aim is to average the speed of their recall. Children can then practise the times tables they are set by their class teacher in the 'Garage'. Each class will have a times table to learn over a two week period to allow them to really 'master' their understanding before moving on to a new times table.

Whilst it might be tempting to allow older siblings to help, please allow the children to play the game independently and develop their own knowledge as we will be closely monitoring the usage and checking children's times table knowledge in class also.

Thank you for your support.