

ASTON HALL JUNIOR AND INFANT SCHOOL

SUMMER TERM 1 NEWSLETTER 24.4.17

Mrs Bestall -Head of School



A warm welcome back to Aston Hall Junior and Infant School ☺. I hope that you all had a lovely Easter break and that the Easter Bunny managed to find his way to all of you!

Across school we aspire to personalise our curriculum to make it both exciting and relevant for the different ages, needs and interests of our children. Our whole school topic this half term is 'Incredible Inventions'. Learning in FS2 will centre around familiar inventions such as toys, learning in Y1/Y2 will centre around Robots and Wallace and Gromit, Y3/Y4 will be learning about the Egyptians and their inventions, and Y5/Y6 will be learning about the work of Steve Jobs, Alexander Bell and the invention of the telephone.

Our children in Y2 and Y6 will also be completing their statutory end of key stage assessments this half term. Thank you to all parents/carers from Y2 and Y6 who attended our SATs meetings to find out about the assessments and arrangements in school. If you would like more information, the DfE have also produced 2 videos and a leaflet to give further details about specific arrangements for KS1 and KS2 SATs -

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/2017-national-curriculum-tests-for-key-stages-1-and-2-information-for-parents>

SCHOOL BUDGET UPDATE

Funding cuts in education have been in the headlines recently, and I feel it is important to give you an overview of the impact on Aston Hall J&I School. Along with many schools across England, our school budget is less this year in real terms meaning less money is available to spend on staffing and resources etc. For example, school has to allocate additional funds for increased employer contributions (e.g. National Insurance and pension contributions), utilities and services have increased significantly, and the government has implemented an Apprenticeship Levy which we have to pay from this month. In addition, schools also have to plan for actual cuts to funding per pupil from September 2017. The government are changing the way that money will be allocated per pupil 'to make funding fair for schools and children' (you may have heard this referred to as the 'National Funding Formula'), although official figures released as part of a formal consultation show that 9,045 schools will lose money, while 10,653 will get more. Unfortunately, this will have a negative impact on our budget at Aston Hall J&I School and, despite our numbers of children on roll and costs increasing in September 2017, our budget will reduce by approx. a further £30,000 in real terms.

I feel it is important for you to be aware of the challenges we are facing, but I also want to reassure you that your children will always remain at the heart of all we do. We are completely committed to maintaining high quality teaching and learning for all our children, and we have carefully planned how to address this in school to minimise impact and ensure that your children continue to receive the education they rightly deserve. We will continue to find savings in lower impact areas and best value for money, however the scale of the cuts means there will also inevitably be difficult decisions. I would like to reassure you that we, as part of Wickersley Partnership Trust, will continue to strive to ensure that Aston Hall maintains its high standards of education, outcomes, ethos and care to help each of our children continue to develop into independent, respectful, successful, compassionate, confident, happy and resilient young people.

Please also be reassured that members of Wickersley Partnership Trust have written to local MPs to raise concerns about the financial challenges schools are facing, and John Healey has undertaken to conduct a survey in Rotherham schools which he plans to raise in parliament. I will keep you informed of any updates, and would like to thank you for your continued support. Your understanding and support is, as ever, invaluable and, by continuing to work together, Aston Hall children will continue to 'believe, achieve and succeed'.

Kind regards,
Mrs Bestall

INSET DAYS

Our final INSET days, which have already been arranged and sent out to parents/carers, are -

Monday 5th June 2017

Monday 24th July 2017

Tuesday 25th July 2017

In addition, school now needs to be closed on Thursday 8th June 2017 due to the upcoming General Election.

SUMMER TERM 1 - SAVE THE DATE!

24th April

Back to school - first day of Summer Term 1

27th April

Friends of Aston Hall Fundraising Meeting 3:15pm

1st May

Bank Holiday - School closed

2nd May+

Y2 SATs begin and continue throughout May

4th May

Parenting Workshop 9:15am- 11:15am

Parent/carer drop in advice sessions 1-3pm (text message to follow with more info)

w/b 8th May

Y6 SATS week

26th May

Last day of Summer Term 1

CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENTS AT ASTON HALL!**PIONEER THE MUSICAL**

A huge 'WELL DONE!' to Year 3/4B for their hard work to rehearse and take part in 'Pioneer the Musical'! The original musical was both written and performed by the children of Rotherham at Magna. Our school was one of eleven who took part - a massive thank you to Miss Bullivant for organising and to parents/carers and staff for supporting the late nights and Magna trips. Thank you - and well done Y3/4B - I loved it!

WICKERSLEY MUSIC FESTIVAL

Upper Key Stage 2 children dazzled the audience with their musical and vocal talents last half term at the WPT Musical Festival. Well done to all for taking part. We came second - a great achievement!

BBC NEWS REPORT AWARDS

A group of Y5 students worked alongside radio presenters and other WPT pupils at Rawmarsh Community School to learn the skills of the trade and create news, sport and weather reports. The children and Miss Hanley had an amazing day at Rawmarsh, and also had the opportunity to share their learning and outcomes with us at a WPT Awards Ceremony in the final week of the Spring Term. Thank you to parents and carers for their support attending this special evening - I could definitely feel the encouragement and support for Aston Hall in the room!

We may also have a news reporter of the future in our midst as William Brown was presented with a special award and trophy for News Presenter of the Year. This is an amazing achievement William, well done ☺!

BIKE IT

A huge thank you to Miss Hanley for organising our Bike It sessions before half term. The Big Pedal and Bike it Breakfast was a huge success (with 898 journeys made!) and we came 13th out of over 200 schools in Yorkshire and the Humber! Well done AHJ!

FABULOUS FUNDRAISERS!

I would like to thank our parent/carer group 'Friends of Aston Hall' who have supported us for a number of years by raising funds for additional school resources, for example through organising their annual Christmas Fair. Your support is invaluable!

This amazing group of people are currently busy planning additional activities such as school discos, coffee mornings and also a Summer Fair which really will help make a difference to our children. Miss Newton is also working alongside this group - please look out for updates and letters from her for more information!

Also, a big thank you to...

- Miss Newton for organising our Easter Raffle
- Staff who contributed around 50 chocolate eggs/prizes
- You for buying tickets to help us raise over £300!

Miss Newton plans on using this to money to buy new IT software to support computing across school.

HOMETIME SAFETY

I do appreciate how difficult it can be to park close to school each day, but may I please ask you to continue to park courteously outside school - for example by avoiding parking in the school entrance, and avoiding blocking driveways/footpaths so children can safely walk to school each day.

Also, please may we politely ask parents/carers with dogs to wait to the left of the school gate/the wider grassed area to both avoid congestion on narrow pavements and also allow children and parents with pushchairs etc. to walk safely on the path.

Many thanks for your understanding and support.

NSPCC

In order to help educate children and keep them safe from abuse, the NSPCC has launched a campaign 'The Underwear Rule' to boost parents' understanding of how to teach their children about the dangers of sexual abuse.



The aim is to encourage parents to "talk PANTS" to their children with the view to reducing the number of children that are abused in the UK.

Please look and share the resources available on the NSPCC website:

<http://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/underwear-rule/>

As always, if you have any feedback or concerns, please do not hesitate to make an appointment to see me or a member of staff.
Thank you for your continued support, Mrs Bestall



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www.astonhallschool.co.uk