

ASTON HALL JUNIOR AND INFANT SCHOOL

SPRING TERM 1 NEWSLETTER 3.1.17

Mrs Bestall - Head of School



SPRING TERM 1 TOPIC "LOOK AFTER OUR FUTURE"

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very HAPPY NEW YEAR! I hope that you had a wonderful Christmas break and are all set for a great 2017 at Aston Hall School.

Our first whole school topic of 2017 is 'Look After our Future'. In FS2, children will be learning about winter in their own community and other places around the world, Y1/Y2 plan to focus their learning around recycling (including an exhibition for parents/carers!), learning in Y3/4 will focus on renewable energy sources such as wind turbines and also a community project towards their Young Leaders Award, and Y5/6 will centre their learning around environmental issues and graffiti.

NSPCC'S "SPEAK OUT. STAY SAFE" PROGRAMME

The NSPCC's "Speak out. Stay safe." programme is visiting our school on 25th January to make sure our pupils have the knowledge and understanding they need to stay safe from abuse. This is a nationwide programme for every primary-school-aged child in the UK and Channel Islands. With the help of their friendly mascot Buddy, they'll be presenting a KS1 and KS2 assembly in our school as well as a workshop for Years 5 and 6. As a charity, the NSPCC can only provide these vital resources thanks to the financial support and generosity of their supporters. Which is why I am delighted to say that our school has chosen to support the valuable work of the NSPCC by taking part in a fundraising event, and I would really value your support and encouragement. More information on how you can support their work will follow their visit to our school.

What is the "Speak out. Stay safe." programme?

Through child-friendly, interactive assemblies and workshops their specially trained staff and volunteers will give our children information about how to keep themselves safe from harm and how to get help if they have any worries, sensitively discussing issues like bullying and sexual abuse, without using scary words or adult language. We have studied the content of the materials and heard from other schools who have participated and are extremely confident that they are appropriate for primary-school-aged children. By the end of their visit, we're convinced children will feel empowered - knowing how they can speak out and stay safe.

"This service provides important information in a child-friendly way - it should be made mandatory in all schools. A brilliant service!" Teacher, Wistaston Primary, Crewe

If you would like any more information about the NSPCC "Speak out. Stay safe." programme, including frequently asked questions, you can find it on the NSPCC website nspcc.org.uk/schools or please come into speak to me and I can provide more information.

Talking about the Underwear Rule with your children

The NSPCC's work in schools will help encourage conversations about staying safe - and they have a number of child-friendly materials to help you carry on the conversation afterwards. That includes 'The Underwear Rule', a simple way for parents to help keep children safe from sexual abuse in an age appropriate way. The guide uses the rules of PANTS to teach children that their body belongs to them and them alone. You can find out more and download the free resources at nspcc.org.uk/pants. If you'd like to know more about the NSPCC's work, or take a look at the wide range of information and advice which is available for parents and carers, please visit their website nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/

NSPCC Speak out.
Stay safe. programme



Protecting a generation of children against abuse Find out how we can help your school.

SAVE THE DATE!

- 3/4.1.17 Swimming starts for Y4
- 4.1.17 Y1W and Y1/2D Pantomime Visit
- 5.1.17 Y2N Pantomime Visit
- 5.1.17 Y6 SATs Meeting for parents/carers 4pm
- 9.1.17 Young Voices Concert
- 16.1.17 'Bike It' bicycle safety assembly for KS1/KS2
- 25.1.17 NSPCC Assemblies for KS1 and KS2 (see above)
- 26.1.17 Y2 SATs Meeting for parents/carers 3:30pm
- 1.2.17 NSPCC Workshops for Y5 and Y6
- 17.2.17 Break up for half term holiday (back on 27.2.17)

BREAKFAST CLUB

Our committed Breakfast Club staff have developed a caring and engaging Breakfast Club environment at Aston Hall J&I, which has led to the provision's popularity and success. The team has strict guidelines to follow re the number of places available each day - these are set according to staffing ratios and the size of the room, and places booked also need to be catered for in advance. Because of its popularity, places are becoming extremely limited, and on certain days our Breakfast Club is completely full. **I therefore politely remind you that all spaces need to be booked and paid for in advance via the school office.** No places will be available on the day at the Breakfast Club in order to ensure the safety and wellbeing of both children and staff.

Many thanks to both the families who use this provision and our amazing Breakfast Club staff who make this possible!

BABY NEWS!

I am delighted to say that Mrs O'Daly had a beautiful baby girl before Christmas and both mum and baby are well. ☺ Mrs Thompson will be covering the full time role of acting Assistant Head during Mrs O'Daly's maternity leave.



Mrs Esposito is also due take maternity leave next half term and I am pleased to confirm that her class will be covered by two very experienced members of our current teaching team during this time - Mrs Rotherforth (Mon-Wed) and Mrs Thompson (Thurs-Fri). Please note - this will not affect Mrs Thompson's current teaching commitment with Y3BT.

ATTENDANCE

If your child is ill, please ensure that you ring the school office by 9am on the day of illness and leave a message to inform us of the reason for absence. A member of the school office team will contact you after this time if your child is not in school as their safety is of paramount importance to us.

Our attendance figure for 2016-2017 has been set by the Local Authority at 96.5%.

Along with other schools in the authority, we will not be able to authorise term time holidays this year and, in line with guidance, your child's overall attendance and records of any previous holidays from the past 3 terms will be considered when a request is processed.

Holiday forms are available from the school office and should please be completed so we know your child is safe and well if absent from school.

Many thanks for your support.

END OF YEAR STATUTORY ASSESSMENTS TESTS FOR Y2/Y6 + Y1 PHONICS SCREENING

As you may already be aware, end of KS1 and KS2 statutory assessment tests will be administered in the Summer Term of 2017 to reflect the raised expectations of the new National Curriculum for Y2 and Y6 pupils. If you would like to find out more about the tests or the phonics screening test for Y1 children, please attend the following meetings:

Y1 Phonics - Date TBC (after February half term)

Y2 SATs - Thursday 26th January 3:30pm

Y6 SATs - Thursday 5th January 4pm

Should you be unable to attend these sessions, information from the sessions will also be available to send home.

LUNCHTIME BOOK CLUB FOR Y2-Y6

Mrs Ditchburn will be running a Book Club to encourage reading for pleasure. Children are able to bring a book/comic etc. of their own choice from home to Mrs Ditchburn's classroom on a Thursday lunchtime 12:30-1pm - no letter/consent form is required. See you there!

HEALTHY EATING

Aston Hall School has proudly held a 'Healthy Schools Award' for a number of years and actively encourages the children to make healthy choices. Lunchtime is an important part of this and Education Catering Services provide a range of school meals that are nutritionally balanced and varied. We also encourage parents to ensure that packed lunches and snacks are also balanced and encourage children to make healthy choices, in line with our school policy. The NHS website recommends that a healthy packed lunch contains;

- starchy foods such as bread, rice or pasta etc.
- protein foods incl. meat, fish, eggs, beans
- a dairy item e.g. cheese or a yoghurt
- vegetables or salad and a portion of fruit

For great ideas on healthy lunch box treats, please see -
<http://www.nhs.uk/Livewell/childhealth6-15/Pages/Lighterlunchboxes.aspx>

Operation Encompass

I would like to inform you of a new safeguarding project that is being run across Rotherham- Operation Encompass. This has been designed to provide early reporting on any domestic violence incidents that occur outside school and might have an impact on a child in school. Schools will be informed of any domestic violence that has happened overnight. Our Designated Safeguarding Lead will use the information shared, in confidence, to ensure we are able to make provision for possible difficulties experienced by children, or their families, who have been involved.

If you have any Safeguarding concerns re the risk of harm to a child, these can be reported directly to the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub on 01709 336080.

Heartfelt thanks for your continued support

Mrs Bestall
Head of School



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www.astonhall.co.uk