

ASTON HALL JUNIOR AND INFANT SCHOOL

SPRING TERM 1 NEWSLETTER 15.1.18

Mrs Bestall - Head of School

SPRING TERM 1 TOPIC "COMMUNITY COUNTS"

First of all, 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 fantastic 2018 at Aston Hall School. I would also like to welcome all children and staff back to school, including Mrs Lindley (nee Miss Smith) who got married over the Christmas period - congratulations from everyone at Aston Hall.

Our first whole school topic of 2018 is 'Community Counts' - please look out for class newsletters for information on teaching and learning in class in Spring Term 1!

HOMETIME SAFETY

As our school continues to grow in size, the roads and paths around school are becoming increasingly busy at the end of the school day. The school day for FS2/KS1 and KS2 is slightly staggered to try and help with congestion, and we have members of staff at the top of the path to help ensure children's safety at the end of the school day after children have been reunited with parents/carers.

Although we are unable to alter the pathways etc. or parking around school to help ease this, we would like to amend hometime arrangements slightly (please see below) to help reduce pedestrian congestion and therefore ensure our children's safety.

- Mrs Barnes/Mrs Corbiere will now be supervising the **double green playground gate** (the gate that is locked/unlocked each morning and afternoon).
- **Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1** - Hometime arrangements remain the same at 2:55pm. Please note that staff will now supervise the side playground gate instead of the top gate, so please encourage children to stay with you as they leave the school grounds.
- **Y3/4 and any Y5/6 children who are collected from school** - Please wait and meet your child/ren **within the vicinity of your child/ren's classroom, inside the green playground fencing**. If for any reason you are a few minutes late collecting your child/ren from school, children will also be able to wait safely within the school grounds in the covered outdoor seating area on the KS1 yard until you arrive. When the school site is clear of parents/carers, Mrs Barnes/Mrs Corbiere will bring any child/ren into the school library area who still need to be collected.
- **Upper Key Stage 2 children with permission to walk home** - arrangements remain unchanged. Please ensure we have a signed consent form in school if you would like your child to walk home unsupervised.

Please note - the school start/end times will remain unchanged (2:55pm FS2/KS1 and 3:05pm KS2).

We really do appreciate your support in helping to ensure a safe and happy hometime for all 😊



PE AT ASTON HALL J&I SCHOOL THE DAILY MILE

We are excited to say that we are launching the 'Daily Mile' tomorrow at Aston Hall to encourage all children (and staff!) to have 30 min exercise per day at school.

We will also be sending information home shortly about ideas for children to have 30min daily exercise at home each day too! More information to follow from Miss Hanley!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

- FUNDRAISING

Our 2017 Christmas Fair was the most successful yet - and we were even fortunate enough that Santa was able to visit, despite his huge workload!

A heartfelt THANK YOU to all who helped raise around £1025 for our school at the fair, which was in memory of Sue Henshaw, and also £189.75 for Save the Children on Christmas Jumper Day!

The organisation of the fair took a considerable amount of energy, love and care, and I would like to thank all those who dedicated time, sponsorship and/or contributions to make this event successful.

We also raised £296.30 for Children in Need last term.

- DONATIONS

A big thank you to Cookes Pet Supplies for their very kind and generous donation of a state of the art fishtank to house two new starters at Aston Hall; Woody and Buddy the fish have settled in nicely and are being very well cared for by Y5B.

ATTENDANCE

Along with other schools in the authority, we will not be able to authorise regular term time holidays this year. Holiday forms are still available from the school office and, in line with guidance, your child's overall attendance and records of any previous holidays from the past 3 terms will be considered before you receive a written reply to your request. This will state either -

1. The holiday is unauthorised but parents will not be recommended for a fine on this occasion
2. The holiday is unauthorised and parents will be recommended for a fine e.g. due to previous term time holidays or poor attendance
3. The absence is authorised due to 'exceptional circumstances'. Please note - any request for exceptional circumstances will need to be supported by a letter from an employer that states that the term time absence is unavoidable.

Thank you for your continued support

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 Mellors 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>

SAVE THE DATE!

- 16.1.18 The Daily Mile launch event
- 16.1.18 Aston Academy staff visit Y6 at AHJI
- 17.1.18 Y2N Apple ICT visit
- 19.1.18 English Institute of Sports Festival - Y2
- 19.1.18 Young Voices Concert
- 26.1.18 Friends of Aston Hall - Coffee Morning
- 7.2.18 Rocksteady Music Concert for children in assembly
- 8.2.18 Provisional date for school disco
- 9.2.18 Break up for half term holiday (back on 19.2.18)

DOJO

We are pleased that so many parents and carers are using Dojo to keep up to date with learning and events in school and find this an effective way of communicating with staff. Our staff are extremely committed and work extremely hard; to help our staff keep a healthy work/life balance, Dojo will only be used during the hours of the school day, and staff will aim to check and update Dojo once a week to continue to give you information regarding children's learning.

If you have any urgent messages or would like to discuss something with a classteacher, please continue to contact them via the school office in school hours as really do value face to face contact and the opportunity to discuss any questions you may have in person.



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

