



FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER



Dear Parents

Note from the Head

I hope that everyone had a fabulous break last week – what glorious weather we are having! Ideal for getting out and about and having fun in the sun.

I shall be leaving at Easter to resume my role as Deputy Head at South Wootton Junior School. I have enjoyed my time as Head of the Federation and would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support and I would like to wish all the children all the very best for the future.

On behalf the Governors I am pleased to confirm we have found an experienced head, Ms Paula Jones to lead us through the summer term. Ms Jones will be in some days during this half term to ensure a smooth transition.

Keeping your children safe online

We take every opportunity to talk to the children about keeping themselves safe, what to do if they see or hear something which concerns them online, reminding them about recommended ages for playing games such as Fortnite and using social media apps such as Facebook and Snapchat. We talk about internet safety in class discussions and PHSE lessons, in ICT lessons and in whole school assemblies. The Friday before half term was National Internet Safety Day, and the children participated in activities around keeping themselves safe online.

It is vital that parents are aware of the risks of their children being online and keep yourselves informed about how to protect your children. We try to help with this as much as possible. Current trends which school are particularly worried about are Momo – in which children are sent a scary face through Whatsapp and asked to add a contact; Tik Tok where children post videos of themselves dancing or performing to music – but has been used as a platform for grooming and music can be very sexually explicit or inappropriate; and Fortnite the online game where children are messaging each other and have sent or received inappropriate messages and images. These are very real safeguarding concerns. Please find links on the next page which you may find helpful.

If you would like support from school on any of these matters, please let us know. We have also sent you via parenthub an information sheet about Momo.

Useful sites

Information about Momo

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-47359623>

Top Tips for Parents

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2019/safer-internet-day-2019-top-tips-parents-and-carers>

PS4 – how to set up family management

<https://www.playstation.com/en-gb/get-help/help-library/my-account/parental-controls/family-management/>

The Breck Foundation is a charity founded by Lorin LaFave after the tragic loss of her 14 year old son Breck Bednar through internet grooming. It is a self-funding charity, raising awareness of playing safe whilst using the internet.

<http://www.breckfoundation.org/>

Assemblies

Following the last Parents' Forum, parents have indicated that they would like the option of attending Friday assemblies and celebrating along with their children in addition to the class assemblies. Therefore we welcome you to these assemblies, however, any certificates given out will not be notified in advance – children really appreciate the surprise element on the day and it gives teachers the opportunity to reflect on the whole week's work.

School Uniform

Children are most welcome to wear their boots to school during the colder weather but please remember they need to bring their school shoes (not trainers, sandals, etc.) with them to change into to wear indoors. Boots are not practical to wear in school all day. If you are unsure of any aspects of our school uniform please check on our website.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Johanna Bland
Acting Executive Headteacher

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Parents' Forum

We will let you know the date for the next forum shortly – the agenda will include homework.

World Book Day – 7th March

We will be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 7th March – next week. Children are invited to dress up as a book character for £1. Any children not wanting to dress up as a book character should be in school uniform.

British Science Week – 8th – 17th Science Federation Day March 13th

As part of Science Week we shall be holding a Federation Day at Docking on 13th March and science cafes throughout the week – a separate letter has been sent out.

Red Nose Day – 15th March

We have now almost sold out of our Red Noses – thank you to everyone who has bought one. We will be having a non-uniform day on 15th March and ask that children wear something red to school for a donation of £1 (optional). Normal school uniform for any children not wishing to take part.

Easter Service

Our Easter Service will be held at the Church on Thursday 4th April at 9.15am. All welcome.

Other Dates

13th March - Year 5- Smithdon Taster Day – Cosmos Roadshow

15th March – Red Nose Day – wear red!

PTFA Cake sale 3.15pm – donations welcome

22nd March – Golden Eagles class assembly

Non-uniform day – donations of prizes for the PTFA tombola please

28th March – Tempest class photos

29th March – Inca Jays Class assembly

30th March – Easter Fair – 10am-2pm

2nd April – Curlews trip to Norwich Castle Museum

3rd April – Docking School Discos – see separate PTFA letter

4th April - Easter Service 9.15am

5th April – Nightingales Class assembly
end of term

23rd April – return to school for Summer Term