

Thursday 11th January 2018

Dear Parents,

Newsletter #14



Ivy Life

Happy 2018 & the start of Term 3. Our topic is 'Ways with Words' and in assembly this week we enjoyed some riddles. Please share any of your own favourite riddles with your child to share with us!

We welcomed the newly elected parent governor Joanne Massiah to our Governors meeting earlier this week, there is more information about governors on our website.

It was great to see many Year 2 parents attending our SATs Workshops this week. We hope you all went away with a greater knowledge of KS1 expectations and feel better able to support your child at home with their academic learning. For all the parents who weren't able to attend, we will email out the information.

At the end of the term in December we said goodbye to one of our Ivy Lane families, as Nina Lynch (Carle) and her family have moved to Lincolnshire. We send them our best wishes for the future.

Y1 Bedtime Stories

We will be running our popular 'Bedtime Stories' session for **Y1 children** on Thursday 25th January from 5.30pm to 6.30pm. The children come along in bedclothes, and enjoy stories (and hot chocolate & cookies) in especially created rooms.

Reading with your child – Neil Griffiths session for parents

At the same time as Bedtime Stories on Thursday 25th January, Neil Griffiths (children's author and ex-pupil) will be doing a short session for **ALL parents** about reading at home with your child at 5.45pm. Feedback last time was very positive and Neil talks in a very understanding and humorous way!

Dates for Parents

There are many exciting events planned for the next few months, starting today with Y5 and Y6 pupils and many family members in Birmingham Genting Arena for the Young Voices concert. In addition please put these dates in your diary:

Thursday 25th January @ 5.45pm: Neil Griffiths talk for parents about 'Reading with your child' (see below)

30th and 31st January @ 3.15pm: Parents' Evenings (further information will be sent to parents shortly)

1st March @ 6pm: E-safety Session for Parents with Karl Hopwood

In addition, there are several class assemblies on Wednesdays at 2pm:

Wednesday, 24th January Y2 Milligan

Wednesday, 7th February Y2 Dahl

Wednesday, 14th March Y4 Hughes

Wednesday, 21st March Y4 Morpurgo

Staffing

Mrs Love (YR) and Mrs Morgan (Speech & Language) continue to be absent from school, and from the middle of next week Mrs Tiller will be recuperating from an operation until Term 4. Her email address will still be used for Breakfast Club bookings and communication.

We are pleased that Mrs Soreau joins us temporarily as a TA and MDSA (to cover, Mrs Tiller's absence).

Updated Home Reading Guidance

From next Monday you will notice a change in your KS1 and KS2 child's Reading Record Book. We have updated our Home Reading Guidance (attached) which is stuck inside the front cover of our pupils' reading records. We continue to expect pupils to read at least 5 times a week at home and get their reading record signed by an adult, but we want to place a greater emphasis on pupils frequently reading their colour banded school reading book. In KS1 reading (and re reading) a colour banded book (at least twice) will aid confidence and fluency. In KS2 the new emphasis is on sustaining reading over a longer period of time and regularly finishing whole books is crucial for their development from '*learning to read to reading to learn*'. Please take a moment to review our updated advice for home reading. Your support and commitment to reading with your child at home could not be more important for their development as readers.

Ivy Lane Library

Our library is cosy and welcoming on these cold winter days, but for those children who have so far been disappointed by the lack of snow in Chippenham, we have a selection of snowy stories to read instead. These beautiful winter picture books are on our central display and are available to borrow now.

Our new featured author is Cressida Cowell. Best known for her 'How To Train Your Dragon' series, she had an interesting childhood split between homes in London and a remote, uninhabited island off the west coast of Scotland where there was no electricity! No wonder she has such an amazing imagination and an amazing gift for storytelling.

Your support in helping your child to remember to return their library book each week is much appreciated. Books must be returned or renewed weekly when your child visits the library with their class.

Happy winter reading everyone!

New Complaints Policy

Can we please draw your attention to a change in our Complaints Policy (full version on the website) agreed by the Governors:

Raising Concerns

The majority of concerns can be dealt with without resorting to the formal complaints procedure. Where you have a concern about any aspect of the school or your child's education or wellbeing, your first point of contact is your child's class teacher or the Key Stage Leader. If you can, please speak directly to them (we ask that this is done after school and not at the start of the school day). Alternatively, you can speak with the Pastoral Manager in the morning. Hopefully, they will be able to address your concerns swiftly, or arrange a meeting with you to discuss the issue.

You can also raise a concern via the office by telephone (preferably) or by e-mail. Please note that we will do our best to respond to emails within 5 school days and a verbal discussion will generally also be necessary. (Please speak directly to us if you require a quicker response). We cannot commit to resolving all concerns and complaints solely by e-mail.

A face to face meeting maybe necessary to resolve concerns raised to enable discussion and to share information.

Swimming Lessons – Y5 Byars and Y4 Hughes/Morpurgo

Just for information and to remind parents of the dates for swimming lessons which are currently ongoing:

Y4 Hughes and Morpurgo: 17th, 24th and 31st January.

Y5 Byars: 15th, 22nd, 29th January. 5th, 19th, 26th February. 5th, 12th, 19th March.

Lucky Tray Day – Thursday, 18th January



On Thursday, 18th January we will be having a 'Lucky Tray Day' in Ivy Hall. Lots of prizes will be up for grabs and we will be serving up Fish Fingers and Chips, Cheese & Tomato Quiche and Chips or Chicken Pasta Salad. Can we please request **all children in YR, Y1 and Y2** who ever (even very occasionally) have a school dinner please order a lunch on 18th January (even if just for one day). The funding we receive to provide free infant meals depends on the number of KS1 children who have a school dinner on this day!

Milligan Class Assembly and FOILS Cake Sale on Wednesday 24th January

Milligan Class will be performing their special assembly for parents and family on Wednesday 24th January at 2pm in Ivy Hall. Please could parents of Milligan Class children bring in their yummy cake donations on the morning of the class assembly which will be sold by FOILS, together with drinks, that afternoon. Can we please remind parents to avoid anything containing nuts and fresh cream and could you also be aware there is no parking available on site for class assemblies.

After School Clubs w/c 22nd and 29th January

Please be aware that there will be no school clubs during week commencing 22nd January and 29th January 2018. This is due to other school activities taking place and also Parents Evening at the end of the month.

Year 2 Milligan Fire Safety Talk



Year 2 were very lucky this week as they had a visit from Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue. The children were taught how to get out of a fire safely and how to 'stop, drop and roll'. They have taken away some very important information and took part in role play to teach them how to call 999 and practised crawling and staying low, if they needed to, near a fire. They heard a smoke alarm and now know how often to check one. Impressive! They



have a letter explaining all they learnt, but over all a very informative morning for them. Thank you to Dawn for visiting year 2.

Skippy John

Skippy John, who has started skipping revolutions at other schools, is coming to Ivy Lane for two days on Tuesday 23rd and Wednesday 24th January. Skippy John does sessions with each class to teach and improve skipping skills! We will be purchasing short and long ropes (Dutch Skipping) for the children to continue to enjoy skipping after these dates. If parents (or children with their pocket money) wish to have a new rope at home, Skippy John will also be selling ropes under the canopy after each day – more details below.

Again, we are thankful to **Chippenham Borough Lands Charity** for funding this activity that we hope has a positive impact on the children's activity levels and play both inside and outside school!

Skipping Rope Sales (3pm under the canopy on Skippy John Days)

KS1 or KS2 Child Ropes **£4.00** each

SOLAR Ropes **£5.00** (outside they change colour to a cool deep purple!)

Adult ropes **£5.00** each

4m 'Family ropes' **£7.00** each

Double Dutch **£12.00**.per pair

YR Admission Applications Deadline

Just a reminder to parents that the deadline for applications for children starting in Reception in September 2018 is **midnight on Monday, 15th January 2018**. You can apply online at www.wiltshire.gov.uk or you can submit a paper application. All applications submitted after the deadline date will be treated as late and will be processed accordingly. For more information please log on to www.wiltshire.gov.uk.

Star Awards

The following children have impressed the staff recently:

Fred Gregory (Carle) Conn Deery (Rosen) Noah Billingham (Milligan) Teo Newbury (Dahl)	Leonard House (Walliams) Toby Hunt (Morpurgo) Sophie Barron (Hughes) Alice Knight (Byars)	Aila Layton Walker (Pullman) Thomas Short (Lewis) Eva Sherwin (Rowling)
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Birthday Books

Thank you to all the following who have recently donated books to the school library; Grace Barron, Beth Dunmow, Reece Sheppard, Mitchell and Scarlett Burrett, Amelia England, Henry O'Brien, Julianna Tinson, Chelsea Kostrec, Emilie Haglund-Bate, Ava Swales, Daniel Dowling, Mrs Monaghan and Miss Butcher. We hope that you all had wonderful birthdays.

Celebrating Achievement

Before Christmas we had so many certificates brought into school, so well done to Hollie Jones, Amy, Sophie and Jess Mounty for their gymnastics achievements and to Henry O'Brien, Grace Metcalfe and Rocco Crook for gaining badges for swimming. Well done also to Sammy Hillier who completed the Frome 4km 'Santa Dash' and raised money for the 'We Hear You' cancer charity. At the start of this year Lilian and Sylvia Davies have been awarded medals for skiing at the Hemel Hempstead Snow Centre and Charlie Smart has achieved a Merit pass in acoustic guitar Grade 1.

Tax-Free Childcare

We have recently signed up for the Government Tax-Free Childcare service. If you pay for your child to attend our Breakfast Club you may be entitled to sign up for this tax-free service, which means that for every £8 you pay the government will automatically add an extra £2 straight into your Tax-Free Childcare account. For more information and to see if you are eligible go to www.gov.uk/childcare-calculator. Alternatively call into the school office and we will supply you with some information.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Cannings

The next newsletter will be on Thursday 25th January 2018.