

Claregate Newsletter

16/03/2018

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This will be the last newsletter before Easter. Have a lovely break and a well-deserved rest everyone and we look forward to better weather when we come back. Welcome to Mrs Maxwell our new secretary replacing Miss Shelley. She has made a big impression so far and we are pleased to have her on board!

We say goodbye to **Mrs Meyrick** a very long serving Teaching Assistant and wish her all the very best. Many remember her for her kindness in Nursery and we wish her a very happy retirement. Congratulations to **Mrs Holt** who has been promoted to School Improvement Advisor for the Local Authority after the Easter holidays. I am not surprised that her expertise is so coveted! She deserves all our thanks for developing innovative systems and giving so much time to our school. We look forward to working with her in the near future! We have a short period of time before Mrs Reynolds returns to Year 2 and when I have a short term replacement I will let Year 2 parent / carers know.

Reminders

- Our **“Stay and Play”** parent carer group on a Friday morning is 9.00 until 10.30 a.m. for 0 to 4 year olds. It is absolutely wonderful and very well run with plenty of spaces available.
- Please provide us with a second telephone contact number if you have not already done so.
- **“Online Safety”** meeting for parent / carers on April 24th 2018 at 6.30 p.m.
- We will again be running the **“Health Related Behaviour Study”** in Year 2, 4 and 6. This is an anonymous survey done on computers across Wolverhampton schools (see separate letter to these year groups). It allows the health authorities and the LA to plan spending on priorities such health improvement and gives us as a school a statistical snapshot of where our Health Education needs to be targeted.
- Please do not send **sweets or chocolate** in to celebrate your child’s birthday. Due to allergies we need to strictly control any food in school and in short a child could die if they eat confectionary with traces of nuts in. Anaphylaxis is one of the scariest modern syndromes and should be taken exceptionally seriously!
- In the build up to SAT tests in **Year 2 and 6** we plead that there are **no holidays or trips abroad**. It really disrupts the momentum of learning and these are a key way of judging school performance.
- SAT’s week for Year 6 in the week beginning Monday 14th May.

We have finished our period of consultation regarding homework and communication. Many thanks to people who did come forward and suggest and explain what it is like for a parent. We are buying into an app called **“Marvellous Me”** which will replace the text messaging system (which had a cost per text) and will allow free unlimited messages from home to school. We can message praise, spellings and homework and may even be able to do newsletters and letters home. Watch out for the instructions for downloading the app and getting started after Easter.

In order to make life easier for parent / carers, we are also buying into an **online payment system**. You will be able to pay online for dinners, after school clubs, trips and other miscellaneous issues. We will then become a cashless school. Watch out for sign up after Easter.

Celebrating Achievement

Our **Tag Rugby team** won their area heat and have progressed to the final on Monday 26th March at Castlecroft Rugby Club. They are a very strong team and we wish them well!
Alfie Bonser in Year 3 has been very successfully raising money for Compton Hospice all of his

own accord. I am delighted to praise such sensitivity and responsibility from one so young. Very well done Alfie!

Particular praise to **Year 1** for their amazing writing books. I was bowled over!

New Dates for Your Diary

Please look on the website for other dates.

Thursday 3rd May and Monday 7th May 2018 school will be **closed** for voting and May Day. We will also be **closed** on Friday 25th May for a staff training day.

Monday September 3rd will be a **school closure** day for staff training.

On Friday 23rd March in conjunction with the PTA, we are running an **EASTER FUN DAY from 1.15 to 4.00 p.m.** Children are asked to bring **money in a sealed envelope with their full name and class on.** Most stalls will cost 20p and 50p so please endeavour to send small change. We will collect these in the morning and return them at 1.15 to prevent loss. Nursery children will be escorted around by their teachers and there will be things for children of all ages. School hours are for the children only, but after school the PTA will continue with their activities and Parents / Carers / Friends can stay and join in.

Stalls will include :-

Bouncy Castle, Racing Chicks, Garden Darts, Lucky Sock, Forest School activities, Face Painting (please inform us if your child is allergic), Book Sale, Mini Golf, Tombola, Easter Ping Pong, Name the Teacher from baby photos, Garden Dominos, Coconut Shy, Penny Drop, Teddy's Name and a Football competition.

We would be exceptionally grateful for donations as follows :- **Nursery** - small toys, **Reception** - books. **Year 1 and Year 2** – party bag fillers e.g. bubbles and small trinkets, **Year 3** – brik-a-brac, **Year 4** - Teddies, **Year 5** - stationary, **Year 6** - small toys and stationary. All donations are gratefully received, even if you are not in that year group. Please send donations into school by Thursday 22nd March. After school there will be more stalls, cakes and cold refreshments so please do stay and join in. After school is for accompanied children only!

If you can **volunteer any help** we would be extremely grateful – please see Mr Murphy for help in school time or any of the PTA for help after school.

Money raised will go to phase 2 of the new trim trail, which the children love and 100% will go towards projects for the children.

Claregate Luxury Easter Raffle

£1.00 per raffle ticket in advance just send money in with your child each day and Mrs Jones will distribute tickets.



Prizes include :-

£20 voucher for Newbridge pub, £10 voucher for The Lime Tree Café, £20 Pizza Hut voucher, 2 lots of £10 vouchers for Spar and £20 for Bentlands pub. Luxury back massage at Secret Garden in Tettenhall. £10 for Bates Butchers. Box of 6 cupcakes from Sugabudz, Cream Tea offer for 2 at Vanilla Café, 5 lots of 2 day passes for The Gym, Wolverhampton, 2 free passes to Fun World in Wombourne. 2 main meals at the Claregate pub. £15 vouchers from Grillit at Newbridge. Family Photo Shoots TLC Photography x 4, meal for 2 at The Firs pub Castlecroft x 2. £10 voucher for Newbridge chip shop. Cut and blow dry at Sensique Beauty opposite St Michael's School. Cut and blow dry at Nicholas Davies Hair and Beauty in Tettenhall Village. Free haircut at Dry and Cut in Claregate, £25 voucher for Dragonfly Hair and Beauty in Castlecroft. Family day pass for David Lloyd Leisure in Dudley for 2 adults and 2 children. Hail to the Ale voucher. Jump the Shark music EP. 2 free passes to Dudley Zoo. Staff hamper.

Thank you to all of those businesses for their kind donations! We will update Twitter if more prizes come in and if you know of businesses who can donate please get in touch!