

# NEWSLETTER

## Issue 603

Thursday 10 May 2018



**All pupils in Year 6 will take part in the KS2 SATs Tests NEXT WEEK!**

The pupils have worked very hard preparing for these tests, but parents have their part to play also. Please ensure that your child;

- ⇒ attends school every day
- ⇒ is out of bed and dressed early (not rushing at the last minute)
- ⇒ has a good breakfast (*Mrs Leslie will once again be organising delicious bacon butties and sausage sarnies for our Year 6 pupils who attend breakfast club next week as an extra special treat!*)
- ⇒ arrives at school by 8.55 a.m. at the latest – **don't be late**; if pupils arrive after the test has started they cannot sit the test.

Also, please remember to show an interest in what your child has been doing at school; children's aspirations are higher if they know that their parents are interested in their school achievements.

**We want every child to do their very best in the tests, please help us by supporting them.**

## KS1 SATS

The Year 2 children will be involved in the KS1 SATs tests over the next two weeks, however the majority of these tests will take place next week. *The tests are carried out as part of the children's normal work which reduces the stress on the pupils.* These are important tests so please support the children by ensuring that they;

- **go to bed soon - get up at a reasonable time**
- **have a good breakfast**
- **arrive at school on time and, most importantly, show an interest in your child's work.** Children love praise; they work hard at school and need lots of encouragement to perform at their best.



## iPads coming soon!

We will be introducing iPads into our classrooms shortly. iPads bring education to life. Children have endless access to valuable information such as a dictionary and thesaurus, which previously were only available in printed format. Interactive technology makes learning more engaging and memorable. An in-depth study carried out in Northern Ireland over a period of 2 years discovered that;

- The introduction of digital technology has had a positive impact on the development of children's literacy and numeracy skills
- Contrary to initial expectations, principals and teachers report that the use of iPads in the classroom has enhanced children's communication skills
- Children view learning as play when using handheld devices and are more highly motivated, enthused and engaged
- Boys appear to be more motivated when using digital technology, particularly when producing pieces of written work

You can read more about the benefits of iPads <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-40021187>



## Play & Learning

We are delighted to let you know of an exciting initiative which we will be implementing very soon that will help us to extend our already extensive outdoor learning programme. We have arranged to work with OPAL (*Outdoor Play and Learning*) which is an organisation whose basic aim is to enhance the opportunities for children's play in schools. Research shows that play contributes to children's physical and emotional health, wellbeing, approach to learning and enjoyment of school. Given the importance of play in children's lives and current concerns about children's health this programme gives us the opportunities to create imaginative alterations to the school grounds which will open up more possibilities for play, thereby increasing children's enjoyment of playtimes.

You can discover more about OPAL play at; <http://outdoorplayandlearning.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Oct-2017-OPAL-Booklet.pdf>

# Robin Wood Activity Centres **Assembly TOMORROW!**

We will be holding a special Robin Wood Assembly at 2.30 tomorrow (Fri 5 May). Parents and cares of pupils who joined us for this amazing adventure are welcome to attend. This invitation is also extended to parents/carers of other KS2 pupils who may be interested in joining us for this residential visit next year; we are sure you will be amazed at the opportunities the centre offers to the students.

## More dates for your Calendars

- Thurs 24 May – House Reward Day
- Thurs 14 June – Whole School Careers Day
- Wed 20 June – Year 4 visit to Rising Sun Centre
- Wed 4 July - Year 6 visit to Tynemouth Longsands for Hit the Surf Workshop (pm)
- Wed 11 July - Moving up day (children spend the day in their new class)
- Thurs 12 July - Nursery Graduation
- Tue 17 July – House Reward Day (pm)

Dates for the Diary:



Our School governors provide strategic leadership for the head teacher and the leadership team. They oversee the financial performance of the school ensuring that our money is well spent. They monitor educational performance of the school and its pupils and also ensure clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction. Our Governors give up their time freely to provide this vital service to our school community.

Our current Governing Body members are;

- Mr D Bavaird – **Chair of Govs** – Co-opted Gov'or.
- Mrs A Cochrane-Green – **Vice Chair** – Co-opted Governor
- Mrs K Burns – Co-opted Governor
- Mrs R Butler – Headteacher
- Mr J Easton – Local Authority Governor
- Mrs H Nelson – Parent Governor
- Mrs C Ewen – Parent Governor
- Mrs C Walls – Staff Governor

Governors take on the enormous responsibility of overseeing our school completely voluntary and we would like to take this opportunity of thanking them for their continued commitment to serving our school community.

**Parent Governor Vacancy** – We currently have a vacancy for a Parent Governor. If you feel you would be interested in taking on this interesting but challenging role, please pop into the school office to register your interest.

## Considerate Parking



We do try to be a good neighbour to the residents who live in close proximity to our school, but we need your support. **Could we please ask you to help us by parking considerately when you are dropping your children off at school or collecting them.**

- Please be careful where you park and make sure you don't obstruct people's garages or access points to their premises.
- Please try not to play your music too loudly while waiting for your child as it can disturb shift workers, elderly/poorly people or sleeping babies.

We believe that we have a good relationship with our neighbours and hope they feel we value them as part of our school community. **Please help us to continue to be a good neighbour by parking considerately.**

## Royal Wedding



Don't forget that next week will be our **BIG BAKE WEEK** in aid of St Oswald's Hospice and in celebration of the Royal Wedding. As mentioned in previous newsletters all the classes will be baking at some point during the week in preparation for our **BIG BAKE SALE ON the afternoon of FRIDAY 18 MAY**. At Lunchtime on that day (weather permitting) the pupils will have a Garden Party on the main playground complete with bunting, music, games, etc. No hot dinners will be available on this day. Our catering department will prepare grab bags for the children who wish to have a school lunch (of course you can bring your own packed lunch if you wish). We have issued a slip today which should be returned by Monday to ensure that your child receives the sandwich choice they prefer.

**At 2.30** our gates will be opened and parents wishing to join us for the Big Bake Sale should report to their usual collection point to collect their child and make their way to the school hall where the cake sale will take place. Parents will be requested to sign the children out. Children who are collected by their parent are welcome to leave after the sale. Any children NOT collected at 2.30 will remain in class and be dismissed at the usual time.



To make this an even greater celebration children (*and adults*) can come to school wearing **RED, WHITE AND BLUE** for a **donation of 50p**. All the money raised will be sent directly to St Oswalds.

Handouts this week;  
- Packed Lunch order form