

Dear Parents and Carers,

SATS

We would like to congratulate all the pupils for their efforts in the Year 6 SATs last week. We are sure you have heard in the news about some of the controversy over the tests, especially the difficulty level of the Reading Test, however our pupils gave their best throughout. We understand, as we are sure you do, that education goes beyond that which is tested in the SATs. However we also believe that children need to be prepared for the challenges they face in life with tests being one of them. It is the support and preparation that we provide that enables our children to focus and believe in themselves.

We are also proud of the Year 2 pupils who have also undertaken SATs over the last few weeks. They have approached these with a real mature attitude. It also must be said that many were totally unaware they were doing them and were asking when they were starting!

Phonics

During the week of 13th June Year 1 pupils will be engaged with a Phonics Check activity. This provides a comparative check about what the children know and need to learn next. Though this is a government 'test' we integrate it in to our yearly routine assessment and the information is valuable to your child's progress. It is also fun and carried out 1 to 1 with the teacher.

Science Week

As part of the work we are doing to develop our curriculum we are having a week to focus on Science in School. During this week, and the run up to it, the pupils will be involved in specific investigations and problem solving activities. Our aim is to present these to parents for Y3 to Y6 pupils after school on the 15th June and for Y1 and 2 on Friday, 17th June. We will write closer to the date to confirm timings.

Foundation pupils will be holding a Science Day on Tuesday, 14th June when parents will be able to come in with their children and carry out some experiments.

On Thursday, 16th June we will be hosting a Space Dome in our Sports Hall. All the pupils will have an opportunity to experience the 'wraparound' effect the dome can provide and the feeling of being in space.

We will also be holding in the same week two competitions - one for Young Scientists in Y1/Y2 and another for Young Scientists in Y3-Y6. The aim is for the competitors to make/produce something at home that we can test in school against each other. For the younger children this will be a Balloon Rocket Challenge and for the older pupils a Balloon Buggy Challenge. We will provide a help sheet and the winners (those that travel the furthest) will receive a prize.

New School Website and Facebook Page

The school has revamped the website over the past few weeks. This is now live though some documents do need updating. It can be found at www.pilsleyprimary.co.uk. Please have a look and any feedback is appreciated.

We will also be trialling a Facebook Page after the half-term break. This will be used as an information source where hopefully parents can get notification of updated information once the page has been 'liked'. We will write nearer the launch date when the page goes 'live'.

PTO

Class Photographs

Just a reminder that class photographs will take place of Friday, 27th May.

School Field/Dining Room Roof

It has come to our attention that once again we have some damage to our dining room roof caused by footballs. As stated before the costs for repair come out of the school budget and directly affect how we support all pupils in school. We would ask once again that if your children do play football on the field then they must play against the far fence and not the Dining Room wall. Anyone found doing so will regrettably be reported to the PCSO as we simply can't continue to pay out for repairs.

Uniform

Just a reminder that the very last day for ordering uniform for September will be the 10th June. We have asked for orders, if possible, to be in for the 20th May. Remember that the school is happy for pupils to wear uniform that does not have the school logo as long as it matches the school colours.

2015/16 Dates

18th or 19th and 20th May – Futures Activities with Y6 including Job awareness and a visit to West Notts College
 23rd May – Foundation visit to Sundown
 27th May – Class Photographs
 27th May – Break Up for Half Term
 6th June – Return to school
 8th and 9th June – Rowing to Rio Challenge (in school)
 Week beginning 13th June – Science Week
 14th June – Foundation Science Day
 15th June – KS2 Science Fair
 16th June – Space Dome in school
 17th June – KS1 Science Fair
 17th June – Y4/5 Violas visit to Halle Orchestra at Derby
 23rd June – Foundation Sports
 24th June – Sports Day
 30th June – Y1 and Y2 at Lea Green
 1st July – Y2 at Lea Green
 4th, 5th and 6th July – Morning Transition to new classes
 5th and 6th July – Tibshelf Transition Days
 8th July – Provisional date for reports to be sent out.
 13th July to 15th July – Y6 at Duke's Barn
 19th July – Circus Sensible Golden Day
 21st July – Hardwick Run (tbc)
 22nd July – Break Up (Monday, 25th and Tuesday 26th July are INSET Days – school will be closed)