

Spring 2017 (1)

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back. We hope you all had a good break over the Christmas and New Year holidays.

Science Week

Our Science Fairs were great fun last year and a wonderful learning experience for our children. However, with the Summer Term being so busy our staff have asked to move the Science Week to the Spring Term. We are therefore holding a week of Science Activities in the week of the 23rd January.

We will once again hold science based competitions with Years 1 and 2 taking up the Balloon Rocket Challenge again and with Years 3 to 6 taking part in a Rubber Band Powered Car challenge. We will be providing basic instructions and some materials for these challenges, but as in the previous year are open to a wide variety of designs and ideas! Winners will receive a Science Kit as a prize.

- Monday, 23rd January – The Mad Science Company will be in school providing fun and active science workshops throughout the school (from Nursery to Year 6). This has been paid for through your support for the PTA.
- Tuesday, 24th January – Foundation Science Morning (letter to follow)
- Wednesday, 25th January – Key Stage 2 Science Fair where Years 3 to Year 6 will be showing their science experiments in the Sports Hall from **3.00**. This is an opportunity for parents to talk with their children about their experiments as well having a look at what the other classes are doing. At around **3.30** we will then hold our Rubber Band Car challenge to see whose car travels the furthest on our Sports Hall floor.
- Thursday, 26th January - Years 1 and 2 will be holding their Science Fair from **3.00** in the Sports Hall. This is an opportunity for parents to come in and talk through the science experiments the children have undertaken as well as having a look at what the other classes have done. At around **3.30** we will hold our Balloon Rocket Challenge in the Sports Hall to see whose travels the furthest.

We hope that you will come along and support our Science Fairs and Challenges as engaging children in science is a great way to keep up their love of learning, perseverance and determination to understand the world around them.

Attendance

We wrote to you this time last year about the new government push on attendance and that a child falling below 90% attendance is counted as being a 'persistent absentee'. We will be contacting parents in February if their child is at this level to make them aware. It could be that if a child's attendance does not improve over time then we will begin requesting medical evidence for when they are absent. We do understand that some children have long term medical issues that affect their attendance and we will work together where this is the case.

Admissions for Reception Pupils Starting September 2017

Just a reminder that if your child is due to start school in September 2017 that you must apply for a place by January 15th – please do not assume that your child is automatically placed in their nearest school. Applications are through the website at www.derbyshire.gov.uk/admissions or by ringing Call Derbyshire on 01629 533190.

International School Award

We are pleased to tell you that our school has been awarded the British Council's prestigious International School Award in recognition of its work to bring the world into the classroom. We would like to thank the staff and especially Mrs Gooding for their efforts in achieving this award.



The International School Award is a badge of honour for schools that do outstanding work in international education, such as through links with partner schools overseas. Fostering an international dimension in the curriculum is at the heart of the British Council's work with schools, so that young people gain the cultural understanding and skills they need to live and work as global citizens.

The International School Award encourages and supports schools to develop:

- An international ethos embedded throughout the school
- A majority of pupils within the school impacted by and involved in international work
- Collaborative curriculum-based work with a number of partner schools
- Curriculum-based work across a range of subjects
- Year-round international activity
- Involvement of the wider community

Holidays / School Event Dates

17 th January	Guide Dogs Visit (all classes)
23 rd January	Science Week begins – Mad Science in School
24 th January	Foundation Science Workshop (morning)
31 st January	Fire Service Safety Talks (Years 2 & 6)
2 nd February	Foundation Chinese New Year (morning)
9 th February	PTA Disco
10 th February	Break up for half term (last day in school)
20 th February	Return to school
27 th February	Year 1/2 Hardwick Hall School Visit
3 rd March	Year 1 Hardwick Hall School Visit
7 th April	Break up for Easter (last day in school)
24 th April	Return to school
27 th April	Year 1/2 Hardwick Hall School Visit
27 th April	PTA Quiz Night
1 st May	Bank Holiday
2 nd May	Year 2 SATs month begins
5 th May	Year 1 Hardwick Hall School Visit
8 th May	Year 6 SATs testing week
26 th May	Break up for half term (last day in school)
26 th May	Tempest School Class Photographs
5 th June	Return to school
26 th & 27 th June	Transition Days for Tibshelf Community School
27 th June	PTA Fashion Show
30 th June & 3 rd July	INSET DAYS – school closed
8 th July	School Summer Fayre
12 th – 14 th July	Year 6 Dukes Barn Visit
13 th July	Years 1 & 2 – Lea Green School Visit (Year 2's return 14 th July)
20 th July	PTA End of School Year Discos
21 st July	Last day of the school year