

Spring 1, 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year from all of The Pilsley Staff Team

## Science Fairs

Once again we will be holding our Science Fairs for Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 this term as well as Foundation having a Science Day. The theme this year will be linked to the 'Polar Explorer Programme' and the new Polar research boat the 'RSS Sir David Attenborough'. We have received some resources from STEM Learning as we have been chosen to be part of a project promoting science in schools and we will be adapting these for our curriculum. We will let you know the dates for the fairs ASAP and the annual competitions once we have had our training from the STEM Polar Ambassador.

## Battery Recycling

We have also been asked to be part of the 'Big Battery Hunt', a nationwide recycling campaign supported by Duracell. We will have sent out the recycling boxes with this newsletter. The aim is for individual children and the school to collect as many old batteries as possible by Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> April. There are prizes on offer from Duracell for the most batteries collected by a school nationally but the main reason for the event is to help children understand the reasons behind recycling. Once collected the batteries can be brought in to school and placed in a 'school recycling' box.

## Attendance and Late Arrival

We will be sending out letters soon that will bring to parents attention if their child is **below** the 90% 'Persistent Absentee' benchmark set by the government **or is in danger of doing so** if they have any more absence. Please be aware that any child arriving after 9:20am will also be counted as 'absent' for this purpose unless an appropriate reason can be provided. Attendance at school is vital for pupils' educational and social development. The school understands that children may be absent for illness but we have a statutory duty to ensure maximum attendance possible for our pupils

## Free School Meal Entitlement

Your child may be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit\* (WTC) and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- \*You can get this help if you get Working Tax Credit and you are in the four week 'run-on' period where your WTC is due to stop because you have stopped work or reduced your hours
- Universal Credit

Children in Foundation 2 (Reception), Year 1 and Year 2 are able to have a universal free school meal by right, however if you are eligible for free school meals and your child is in these classes **we strongly advise** still applying. Your child would then have additional rights to financial support in school for school visits, and support with their work, etc. The website to apply is listed below. If you need any help applying please contact the school office.

[https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/education/schools/your\\_child\\_at\\_school/meals/school\\_meals/default.asp](https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/education/schools/your_child_at_school/meals/school_meals/default.asp)

**Alternatively** find the Derbyshire website at [www.derbyshire.gov.uk](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk) and search for **Free School Meals**.

## Reception Class September 2018 Applications

Parents should now be applying for a place for their child in our Reception class for those starting school in September 2018. The application process is open from now until 15<sup>th</sup> January 2018. Please remember that even if your child is in our Nursery, you will still need to apply for a Reception place. Applications are made through Derbyshire County Council at:

[http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/education/schools/school\\_places/default.asp](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/education/schools/school_places/default.asp)

**Alternatively** find the Derbyshire website at [www.derbyshire.gov.uk](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk) and search for **Applying for School**.

Please note that we have experienced a high number of applications from outside of the school nursery and catchment area over the last few years and the earlier we are aware of numbers the sooner we can plan for September 2018.

## Parent View – OFSTED

The school was last inspected in January 2014 and we are now waiting for a 'short one day' inspection, as it has been 4 years since our 'Good' outcome. The online Parent View survey is anonymous and gives the information OFSTED need. Many parents who are thinking about sending their children to our school also look at Parent View as well as the OFSTED report to gain more insight in to what the school provides. The more parents who complete the survey for us now the more likely prospective parents will take those views in to consideration.

Please register with an email address and a password at <http://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk>. Once your login has been activated, it only takes a few minutes to complete answers to some short questions about aspects such as behaviour, the quality of teaching, level of homework, etc. We have also placed the link on our school website for you at [www.pilsleyprimary.co.uk](http://www.pilsleyprimary.co.uk). We hope you will take this opportunity to comment and support the school.



## Diary Dates / School Events

10 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 3/4 School trip to Magna
16 <sup>th</sup> February	Last day of term
26 <sup>th</sup> February	Pupils return to school
1 <sup>st</sup> March	World Book Day
5 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 2/3 School trip to Chesterfield
12 <sup>th</sup> March	Parent Consultations
13 <sup>th</sup> March	Parent Consultations
22 <sup>nd</sup> March	Easter Service
23 <sup>rd</sup> March	Last day of term
9 <sup>th</sup> April	Pupils return to school
11 <sup>th</sup> April	Y1 school trip to Hardwick
18 <sup>th</sup> April	School class photos
7 <sup>th</sup> May	May Day Bank Holiday (one day – school closed)
23 <sup>rd</sup> May	Nursery (F1) & Reception (F2) visit to the Butterfly House
25 <sup>th</sup> May	Last day of term
4 <sup>th</sup> June	Pupils return to school
21 <sup>st</sup> June	Y1 school trip to Hardwick
22 <sup>nd</sup> June	Sports Day
25 <sup>th</sup> & 26 <sup>th</sup> June	Tibshelf Transition Days
6 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 1 & 2 School trip to Lea Green (Y2 pupils stay over to Sat 7 <sup>th</sup> July)
11 <sup>th</sup> -13 <sup>th</sup> July	Dukes Barn Residential
20 <sup>th</sup> July	Last day of term