**Spring 2, 2018**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year from all of The Pilsley Staff Team

**Science Fairs**

The dates for the Science Fairs have now been decided upon. The Key Stage 2 Science Fair will take place on Wednesday, 28th February straight after school. The Key Stage 1 Science Fair will be on Friday, 2nd March again immediately after school finishes. Foundation will be holding their Science Day on the Tuesday, 27th February. There will be letters coming out for our competition for each year group which is based on ‘Snowball Catapults!’.

**World Book Day**

The Science Fair dates have affected when we can hold World Book Day. This has now moved to Wednesday, 7th March. We will be holding our usual Book Fair after school that week.

**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, 20th 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.

*Please note that we can only recycle standard batteries – not mobile phone or older style batteries. Children will need to have counted their batteries before bringing them in and any Lithium Batteries will need to be ‘taped’ up.*

**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>

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

**Social Media**

It is coming to our attention that more and more of our children are accessing social media – be this through Apps like Snapchat or Instagram or more generally available platforms like Facebook. All of these have an age expectation of 13 years and above and this is because of the responsibility required for safe use and the dangers from misuse.

Whatever your decision with regard to allowing your child access to social media we cannot emphasise strongly enough the need to ensure that privacy settings are as high as possible and that your child’s phone/apps are checked regularly.

The difficulty we all have as parents is that we assume it will not happen to us, our child or to anyone we know. We make the assumption that our children are too sensible and will make the right choices at the right time. However, those assumptions are very dangerous and there are known cases locally where children have been ‘groomed’ through social media with caring parents completely unaware of what’s happening.

We at Pilsley Primary School do not make that assumption. We teach your children about safe online practice, about privacy settings, and about how to make safe choices. When made aware of any online/social media issues with individual children we will speak directly to parents as well as talk to the children about making better choices.

However, as stated, we can not emphasise strongly enough that privacy settings on apps are as high as possible and that these are checked regularly to ensure they are still in place. Often updates to apps can change these. For further information please check the link below:

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/social-media-guides>

**Diary Dates / School Events**

16th February Last day of term

26th February Pupils return to school

27th February Foundation Science Day

28th February Key Stage 2 Science Fair

2nd March Key Stage 1 Science Fair

5th March Year 2/3 School trip to Chesterfield

7th March World Book Day

8th March Year 3/4 Assembly

12th March Parent Consultations

13th March Parent Consultations

22nd March Easter Service

23rd March Last day of term

9th April Pupils return to school

11th April Y1 school trip to Hardwick

18th April School class photos

7th May May Day Bank Holiday (one day – school closed)

23rd May Nursery (F1) & Reception (F2) visit to the Butterfly House

25th May Last day of term

4th June Pupils return to school

21st June Y1 school trip to Hardwick

22nd June Sports Day

25th & 26th June Tibshelf Transition Days

6th July Year 1 & 2 School trip to Lea Green (Y2 pupils stay over to Sat 7th July)

11th-13th July Dukes Barn Residential

20th July Last day of term