

Summer Term 2, 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

OFSTED and the Pilsley Staff Team

At this moment, we are unsure whether the OFSTED letter that states our outcome will be ready by the end of the term. If this is the case, we will not be allowed to inform you of the outcome until the beginning of the new term. This also includes not being able to inform the staff!

Whilst we await that outcome, the governors would like to thank the Pilsley Staff Team for their efforts not only in the run up to OFSTED but also their work day in and day out in our school. No school is perfect but our staff team strive to do the very best they can for your children despite the limits our building and the budget place upon us. We could not ask for a more dedicated and caring team. This is reflected not just through our academic success, but by the level of happiness, wellbeing and self-belief, we strongly believe all children have the right to have. To that end, whatever the outcome of OFSTED, we will always listen to the views of our parents and children first and foremost.

Y6 SATS tests

We shared the SATs test outcomes with parents within the reports last week. These outcomes are once again very good and above national outcomes. They reflect the hard work and dedication to learning the children have put in over their whole time in school. Mrs Aldread is the first to acknowledge that it is only with the groundwork started in Nursery and built up through each year that the children have the firm foundation to achieve as they do. We consistently focus on a 'depth' to our pupils' learning and understanding. We know that pupils can learn facts by rote and repetition but this does not mean they can apply these outside of tests. By ensuring depth to our pupils' understanding, we are enabling them to apply skills in real life situations – including on in to secondary school. Where pupils need further depth we ensure it takes precedent over any test. We want our children to be successful lifelong learners and this, for some children, takes time.

What can parents do to help?

You will have noted on the reports we include a section on what you can do to help. In these sections, we may highlight specific curriculum issues, sometimes times tables or number bonds for instance. However, the ultimate key to success in school is reading – the more you read with your child the more successful they will become. The more you talk about what they have read the more understanding they will have. The more you discuss new words together the greater chance they will have of remembering that word later.

The reason we have brought this up is that we have seen a drop off in the frequency of our children reading at home. We know how busy you are as parents but we can not underestimate the value of reading with your child and the long-term impact it has on self-belief and academic success. As a gentle reminder, please read and share books with your child over the summer and on return to school please read with them as regularly as you can – you will be amazed what little and often can achieve.

Books, books, books and cake

On Monday, we are holding a book sale courtesy of Gemma Books in Chesterfield. The books are heavily discounted. We are also holding a cake sale and a tombola or two to raise funds for books in school. Everyone is welcome after school until around 4.30pm in the school sports hall.

School Uniform

It is with regret that we have to inform you that as of 20/07/18 our school uniform prices will increase. As you will be aware, we have not increased our school uniform prices for a considerable time. However, unfortunately due to supplier price increases over the last couple of years, we are now in a position where we make a loss on uniform purchased and therefore we will be increasing the price we charge, in line with the price our supplier charges us. Prices will be updated on ParentPay from 20/07/18.

Dates and School Events 2018/ 2019

11 th -13 th July	Yr 6 Dukes Barn Residential
16 th July	Book Fair and Cake Sale after school in the Sports Hall
17 th July	Golden Day – Junk Orchestra
19 th July	Hardwick Run
20 th July	Last day of term
3 rd September	INSET DAY
4 th September	INSET DAY
5 th September	Back to school
19 th September	Choir at Grassmoor School
26 th September	Choir at North Wingfield School
27 th September	Individual School Photographs
3 rd October	Choir at Tupton Hall School
10 th October	Choir at Tupton Hall School
11 th October	Year 3 trip to Creswell Crags
17 th October	Choir at Winding Wheel
25 th October	School Immunisation Team at school for Flu Vaccinations
29 th Oct - 4 th Nov	Half Term
24 th Dec – 6 th Jan 2019	Christmas Holidays
18 th Feb – 24 th Feb	Half Term
15 th March	Red Nose Day
15 th April – 28 th April	Easter Holidays
6 th May	Bank Holiday
27 th May – 2 nd June	Half Term
14 th & 15 th June	Lea Green Trip/ Residential (Year 1 to go for the day on 14 th , Year 2 to stay overnight)
23 rd July	Summer Holidays commence

3 further Inset Day dates to be confirmed

Have an amazing summer from all of us on the Pilsley Staff Team