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—enjoyment—engagement—growth—

13th March 2017

Newsletter 7
Academic Year 2016/17

Cross Country

Following a very wet few days Saturday 4th March dawned fine and dry for our annual inter schools cross country event at Lowndes Park. We had a total of 500 young athletes running throughout the morning and a superb team from Ley Hill representing us. Well done to all the children who wore the Ley Hill colours with pride! Our best result went to Jobe Gorst who won silver in his race; an amazing achievement.

Thank you to the one parent who supported by helping to marshal the event. It is always a challenge to organise these occasions so it is beneficial to have some parent support. Thank you to the staff members who gave up their Saturday to help me get it all set up and running smoothly. I'm already looking forward to next year!

Parent Consultation Evenings

Parents' evening this term will be on **Tuesday 21st and Thursday 23rd March 2017.**

Just to remind you that we have changed the timings in an effort to alleviate backlog where some meetings overrun the allotted time.

Both evenings will run from **3.30pm until 6.30pm**. The meetings will be arranged in four groups of four ten minute meetings with a 'buffer zone' of ten minutes between each group of four;

3.30pm/3.40pm/3.50pm/4.00pm - 4.10 - 4.20pm 'Buffer Zone'

4.20pm/4.30pm/4.40pm/4.50pm - 5.00 - 5.10pm 'Buffer Zone'

and so on.

This will allow for fifteen sessions per evening thus giving you an ample choice of meeting times. Hopefully the 'Buffer Zones' will have an impact on waiting times.

Residential Journeys

From academic year 2017-18 the school's residential journeys will be changing.

We have taken the decision to stop the Year 4 trip to Shortenills whilst retaining the Year 5 trip to PGL and the Year 6 trip to Normandy.

Over the past two academic years Year 3 has been involved in 'Forest School' provided by the excellent Chiltern Rangers. With this provision the pupils are able to get directly and fully involved in a long term study of habitat, land management, natural history and self-discovery through the carefully planned but child led activities which form the working policy of the Chiltern Rangers.

The Year 3 pupils love the Forest School experience during the twenty sessions they receive over three terms.

What we have discovered is that this approach to outdoor education provides much better academic and personal growth returns for the pupils than three days at Shortenills. So with that in mind we are to continue our working relationship with Forest Schools for Year 3. The school will be funding the Forest Schools by 50% for the first year (to be reviewed annually) thus easing the financial burden on parents over the three present residential trips in KS2.

The present Year 2 class will be receiving further information regarding Forest School in due course. In the meantime if you have any questions regarding this please do not hesitate to contact me.

Voice in a Million

On Thursday the 9th March Year 6 travelled to Wembley Arena to take part in the Voice in a Million concert. The class have been very busy preparing for the event with Mrs Mortali and have worked extremely hard learning the 15 songs.

It was a superb event with 6000 children making up the choir. VIAM is an upbeat celebration of music and the Year 6 pupils wholeheartedly joined in with the amazing atmosphere in the arena.

Voice in a Million is organised each year in order to raise awareness regarding adoption in is organised in part by Adoption UK.

See <https://www.voiceinamillion.com/project/the-sse-arena-wembley-8th-9th-march-2017> for further information.

Seniors Lunch

Thank you to Sophie, Cora, Oliver, Harriet, Rhys, Lola and Louis who all volunteered to help serve at the Ley Hill Seniors lunch held in the village hall on Tuesday 7th of March. There was a lot of very positive feedback from the diners about the politeness and efficiency of the children so well done to them all.

Red Nose Day

This year Red Nose Day is on **Friday 24th March**. We will be joining the nation in fundraising for this important charity event with our Ley Hill Run A Mile Challenge.

The field will be set out with a 0.2 mile track so the children and staff will be aiming to run five laps for a mile. A minimum contribution of £1 will be collected in class during morning register.

It will be a Red Nose non uniform day, to include a Red Nose of course!
Please ensure your children have running shoes for the day.

www.rednoseday.com

Drum Workshop

On the morning of **Thursday 20th April** we will be hosting a drumming workshop for the whole school. The workshop will be led by Jeff Rich, who used to be the drummer with Status Quo.

The workshop is split into two sections and lasts for an hour and a half, which would be suitable for KS2, with a short break in the middle. Jeff can cater for up to 300 children in a workshop.

Section 1 (KS2) deals with the history of the drum, how it developed from Africa right through to the modern snare drum. Children are invited up to play different drums. This happens throughout the session. The whole workshop is hands-on.

Section 2 (KS1 & 2) deals with the drum kit, how it functions and how it is played. Again, children are invited up to play parts of the kit.

Jeff then plays a solo to show how versatile a kit can be. After the solo, children are invited up to play percussion with Jeff (up to 150 at a time). There are 200 pieces of percussion available to play in the workshop. If there's time at the end Jeff invites questions from the children.

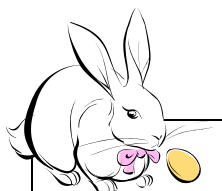
We have organised this event as a treat for the children reflecting their Outstanding grading for their learning behaviour during the recent OFSTED inspection. There will be no charge to the parents.

<http://www.jeffrich.co.uk/primary-schools>

Yours sincerely



Nigel Hoff
Headteacher



The **Nursery** will finish on **Thursday 30th March**.
The rest of the school will finish on **Friday 31st March**:

Years R, 1 & 2 will finish at 2.00pm
Years 3, 4, 5 & 6 will finish at 2.15pm

Inset Day on **Tuesday 18th April**.
Back to School at 8.55am Wednesday 19th April.

- **Half term: break up 26th May (normal times)**
- **Inset day: 5th June**
- **School starts: Tuesday 6th June**
- **Last day of term for Nursery: 20th July**
- **Last day of term for School: 21st July (2pm and 2.15pm)**

