



Newsletter – June 2017

Dear Parents and Carers

Where is this academic year going? One minute it is September and the next the end of June!

We started this half term with our Out and About week. The weather was rather inclement, however this did not prevent us from being outside and getting to know our local area. I know the children thoroughly enjoyed the range of activities, and a big 'thank you' needs to go to Mrs Fleet for organising and preparing a significant amount of resources to make this week a huge success.

June continued to be busy with the phonics tests for our Year 1 (and some Year 2) children, a Financial Audit, the PFTA Annual General Meeting and a visit from the Hertfordshire Improvement Partner to monitor the school's progress against the action points from the Ofsted Report.

I'm sure you'll be really pleased to hear that the feedback from the Improvement Partner was extremely positive with the action points identified all currently being actioned. The impact of this will be the data outcomes in phonics, end of Key Stage 1 and end of Key Stage 2 – these will be available in July. Early data indications are showing improved outcomes across the school, especially in Key Stage 1. The whole school team has worked incredibly hard, often going the extra mile, to ensure we provide the best learning opportunities for all the children at The Reddings. I would like to take this opportunity to thank my team as they have made a real difference.

I do hope the parents who managed to attend the grammar workshop with Mr Rawes found it useful.

The focus of our parent/headship team network meeting was to gauge further parental opinion about home learning. The general consensus is that weekly reading, spellings and times table activities are expected and parents would also like handwriting practise to be included; MyMaths is also proving popular. I would like to thank the parents for a frank and open discussion, which will feed into school practise from Autumn 2017.

For me, this has been quite a challenging year following the Ofsted judgement, so your support and feedback has been fully appreciated.

Thank you for your continued support.

Tracy Prickett

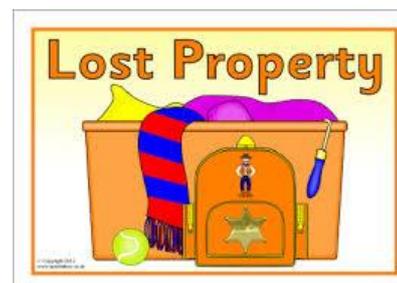
Staffing Changes

June was a bit of a sad month for The Reddings community; Miss Prentice our Higher level Teaching Assistant, moved onto pastures new having spent 7½ years supporting, nurturing and teaching our children. Austin often shares his very fond memories of Miss Prentice and we all have stories to share. Miss Prentice was a caring, dedicated and hardworking member of the team who will be a very hard act to follow. I am sure you will join me in wishing her every success in her new role.

I would like to inform you that Mrs Mather has resigned and left the school on 30th April 2017. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Mather for all she has contributed to The Reddings School and the PSB over the 12 years she has worked there. I know you would want to join me in thanking Mrs Mather for all she has done and in sending her our very best wishes for the future.

Lost Property

The lost property box has now been relocated to the link corridor. Please ensure all clothing worn to school including coats, is clearly marked with your child's name. If your child leaves behind an item of clothing this can be returned to them if it is marked with their name. Unclaimed lost property is disposed of at the end of each term.



Greek Workshop

Year 4 had a fun packed day at our Greek workshop this term. It started off with a real Greek Solder coming to life before our eyes! We discovered that many words we use today originated from the Ancient Greek language as well as what it was like to try on a suit of Greek armour. We learnt what some of the Ancient Olympic sports were, and had the opportunity to play some everyday games played by the Ancient Greeks. We also acted out some of the Greek myths to bring these stories to life!



Fundraising Events

Thank you for supporting the ice lolly sales. To date we have raised just over £100, with all funds going towards the cost of coaches/in-house events for our 'Message in a Bottle' themed week, commencing Monday 5th September.

It was great to see so many of you at the Sausage Sizzle at Bunnings on Saturday 17th June. We certainly had the weather for it and the cooks did an amazing job in what can only be described as a sweltering hot tent. All sausages were sold! Thank you to Mrs Lewsey, Mrs Cuppy, Ms Thomas, Mr Kent, Mrs Beaven, Mrs Simon, Mr Battersby, Mr Hodgkinson and Mrs Gill for your hard work to ensure the event was a huge success.

If you have any fundraising ideas, please speak to Mrs Lewsey (Adam in Year 2) or Mrs Cuppy (Jack Yr 3, Alex Yr 2, Sam EYFS2), or e-mail the PFTA your idea at PTFA@reddings.herts.sch.uk.



Out and About Week

The first week back after the half-term was Out and About Week. It was a fantastically busy week in school, with all of the children participating in many and varied activities, including: gardening, orienteering and creating art using natural materials.

We also had our own mini general election, voting for policies decided by Year 6.

Thank you to all of those parents who were able to come to our open morning. We hope that you had as much fun as the children did.

Mrs Fleet



National Clean Air Day

This month we successfully took part in the National Clean Air Day for schools. CONGRATULATIONS to everyone who took part in a wonderful day, proving that the children of The Reddings have given extra special thought to our environment and making the air we breathe as pollution free as possible.

The week kicked off with the children learning about the contributing factors to air pollution, reducing this pollution in our environment, what simple steps we can make to reduce pollution in the air, team work when out and about and of course the revival of our Walking Bus which many children took part in on Thursday 15th June.

Mr Hodgkinson, Mr O'Callaghan, Mr Battersby and Mr Rawes took up their old posts as Walking Bus Station Leaders and could be seen in their fluorescent "green" jackets at four different corners of the local area. There was a BRILLIANT effort from all the children and great fun was had on a beautiful summer's morning walking to school wearing green items of clothes and enjoying the fresh air.

The children proudly wore green items of clothing and pledged to consider making changes which could promote this environmentally friendly outlook. The pledges from each class will finally be displayed in the link area of the school, encouraging our parents and carers to take time to read and follow the children's pledges and ideas. On Friday we ended the week with a wonderful assembly celebrating all our participation.

Overall it was a fantastic week, helping everyone to stop and think on their journeys to school and creating a healthier environment for all involved. Thank you to everyone who helped and participated.

Remember – "Walk Green – #KeptClean – Turn your key – Be idle free!"

Keep safe!

Mr Hodgkinson



Year 6 – St Albans Outing

Following the unfortunate events in London, the Year 6 British Heritage sightseeing trip to the capital was changed to a treasure trail around the St. Albans conservation area.

We still got out and about using the public bus, and enjoyed the beautiful (mostly) sunny day developing our observational skills. We saw lots of wildlife, including goslings and baby moor hens, wondered why a pavement needs to be a metre off the ground, and even had time for an ice-cream and some exercise in the park.

The children had a great time, were very well behaved and I am very proud of them. I would also like to thank the other staff who came on the day, as their help was invaluable in keeping the children safe.

We have one more day trip planned for Year 6; further information is to follow.

Mr Battersby



Dress like a Pirate day

Tuesday 18th July is 'dress like a pirate day' to raise money for our Autumn term theme of Message in a Bottle. Please come dressed like a pirate, and pay £1.



No swords or cutlasses allowed, but well trained (and stuffed) parrots are ok!

Purple Mash

As you may be aware, some of our learners are using Purple Mash within their computing lessons, where they are able to email characters or practise their word processing skills. When the children email these characters, they receive an automated response; this is set up within Purple Mash and is not from an actual person. We have established security settings within Purple Mash, which ensures all correspondence between pupils is monitored for appropriateness of content by class teachers, before being sent out. Security settings have been set so that children are unable to email each other.

If you have any questions about this, please speak to your child's class teacher.

Ready to Learn focus for Summer term 2 : attending school everyday

Sports Day

On the 27th June we had our school sports day. Early years went first and took on a number of different field events and then ran in some closely contested races. The scores from the field events all exceeded 800 points! Well done to all of the children, who took an active part in their sports day.

Then it was the turn of KSI children who had to tackle seven different field events, including a basketball throw, a speed bounce and a race on the hoppers! Children performed fantastically well with all of the houses scoring in excess of 1000 points! The races followed, where some children showed their outstanding speed over 60 metres. A really big thank you goes to the sports council leaders, Lacey and Krystal, who were exemplary throughout the morning.

Once the children and parents had finished their picnic lunch, we moved onto the KS2 sports day. Children took on the field events in slightly adverse weather conditions, but performed to the best of their ability throughout. Luckily the weather decided to shine down on the Reddings, allowing the races to go ahead. Children showed great determination and showed a real school spirit when Early Years and KSI came out to watch.

The winning team for both KSI and KS2 was Joshua house, for Early Years Ennis Hill team was victorious.

I would like to give a massive thank you to: all the parents who came to support and cheer on their children, the Year 9 sports leaders from Longdean School, who were incredibly helpful and ensured that the day ran smoothly and the PFTA for running their drinks stall.

Roll on Sports Day 2018!

