



Newsletter – September 2017

Dear Parents and Carers

What a busy month!

I would like to start by taking this opportunity to welcome new families to The Reddings. I hope you are all settling into the life and routines of the school.

I'm sure you would agree that the school has been a hive of learning activity. I thoroughly enjoyed the Key Stage 2 excursion to the seaside and I know that Mrs Cornish and Mrs Haswell had a great time at Lee Valley Park, especially as the children were treated to watching canoeing at the 2012 Olympic venue.

Following these visits, children have been using their experiences to enhance their learning. During our celebration assemblies on Fridays, we have been sharing writing that has been inspired by our Message in a Bottle curriculum theme.

Writing continues to be a whole school focus, and to be confident and competent writers children need to be able to read. Sharing a book at bedtime and 'doing the voices' is something children enjoy whether they are in Nursery or Year 6.

To support children to make good progress in reading and writing we have streamlined the day. Children in Years 1 and 2 have small group phonic sessions which commence at 9 am; children in Key Stage 2 (Years 3 to 6) have a spelling and handwriting session at this time. After break, the Teaching Assistants support children in Key Stage 2 during their guided reading (Key Stage 1 have a handwriting focus at this time).

The teaching and learning sequence is built up over the week which is why it is vital that children are in school everyday, and arrive promptly so they are ready to start learning following registration at 8.55 am.

It was great to see so many of you at the parent workshop and the welcome to new year group sessions. I'm happy that you found the session useful and that the new vision for home learning is enabling you to have a home learning/weekend life balance.

We are intending to hold a parental session at the start of each term with the Spring Term focussed on assessment.

Thank you for your continued support.

Tracy Prickett

Head Teacher Merit Awards

Several parents have asked me about our Head Teacher Merit award system. This is where children gain merits which enable them to achieve their Bronze, Silver and Gold awards. Children who achieve these awards are mentioned in the newsletter and their name is displayed on the 'Our Achievements' board in the hall. All our rewards are listed in our Positive Behaviour Policy which is available on the school website.

Staffing Update

Many of you may have noticed that Miss Smith is working as part of our PE team. She has been recruited to our team following Miss Broux's departure over the summer break. I am sure that you will give Miss Smith a warm welcome as she supports Mr O'Callaghan in delivering high quality PE.



Governance

Mrs Kirsten Beaven, our Chair of Governors for the last two years, elected to step down from her role at the end of the Summer term to pursue new opportunities. Mrs Beaven is now working in the education field within Hertfordshire and therefore continues to have close links with the school, which remains close to her heart.

During this period of transition, Mrs Cilliam Knibbs is our acting chair, and formal elections will be held at the Full Governing Body meeting.

I would like to thank Kirsten for all the work she has done on behalf of The Reddings. Her drive, commitment and passion for the role has evolved the Governing team and she has made a real difference in terms of leadership.

Head Teacher Merit Awards:

Bronze: Ali-Reza (Yr 4)
 Tia (Yr 4)
 Maliha (Yr 4)
 George (Yr 4)
 Mikaeel (Yr 4)
 Ibrahim (Yr 4)
 Dylan (Yr 4)
 Mckenzie (Yr 4)
 Aneeka (Yr 4)

Silver: Luca (Yr 4)

Ready to Learn focus of the term – 'we are here every day'

Smoking

Just a little reminder that when smoking outside the school grounds, please can you be considerate around the exit and entrances to the school, to ensure pupils and parents can access to the school safely.



Cake Sale

Year 4 raised over £26 with their cake sale on Friday 22nd September. This has been donated to Macmillan cancer support.

Lost Property

Unfortunately our lost property box is already full! The box is located in the link corridor. Please check this box as there are many items brought back from the trip to Clacton on Sea, including buckets and spades.

Please ensure you clearly label your child's school uniform to ensure lost items can be returned swiftly to the correct child.



School Council

The following children have been elected to represent their class on the School Council:

Year 1	Ayaan Natalia	Year 5	Caitlyn Taylor
Year 2	Chloe Xande	Year 6	Alex Isabelle
Year 3	Amelia Valeria	Senior Members	Kamron Kamile
Year 4	Aneeka		

Key Dates for October

10 th October 2017	Year 2 – Apollo Mission Workshop
11 th October 2017	KS2 Harvest Assembly at 9 am
12 th October 2017	EYFS and KSI Harvest Assembly at 9 am
13 th October 2017	Individual/Sibling Photographs
17 th October 2017	Kingswood Parent Meeting – 3.30 pm
18 th & 19 th October 2017	Parent Consultations – 3.30 pm to 6.30 pm
23 rd to 27 th October 2017	Half Term Holiday
30 th October 2017	INSET
31 st October 2017	PFTA Halloween Party

KS2 Trip to Clacton on Sea

It feels like such a long time ago that we visited Clacton-on-Sea, for the start of our whole-school Message in a Bottle theme week. KS2 had a fantastic day building sandcastles, playing in the sea and simply experiencing the traditional British seaside day out. The warm weather held on just long enough for us to grab a quick ice-cream before we returned home. All the children were superbly behaved and had everything they needed, so thank you and well done to all. We may even manage to do it again sometime!



KS1 – Lee Valley

On Friday 15th September, KS1 had a wonderful trip to Lee Valley. While we were there, the children enjoyed playing in the sand pit and had a walk near the lake. The sand pit allowed us to feel what it is like to be at the beach to link to our Message in a Bottle theme work. Standing by the lake gave us the opportunity to see different bird species and even an island. Throughout the walk, Year 2 were spotting different human and physical features and ticking them off on their eye spy sheets. Lunchtime was a real experience as we were able to sit beside the white water course (used for the 2012 Olympics) and watch the rafting and canoeing. The children shouted and cheered for the people heading down the rapids. We had a fantastic day and were delighted by comments from several people at the park about how well behaved the children were.

