

DONNINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

SPRING TERM NEWSLETTER

15th February 2019



It seems only a few weeks ago we were all returning from the Christmas Holidays and yet here we are at the end of the first half term of the Spring Term. A great deal of learning has been achieved. There has been a fantastic array of Class Assemblies, workshops, including Internet online safety and also class trips throughout the half term.

The Class Assemblies have treated us with information ranging from Dinosaurs to the Stone Age and Chinese New Year. The wide range of knowledge presented by the children was outstanding and it was also a delight to see Year 6 singing along with Year 1, having remembered the song that they had learnt in Reception.

Thank you to all the parents who were able to join us for these assemblies. After each assembly I feel that I have learned something more about each topic.

Year 3 took part in a Tate Gallery Project which entails most Year 3 classes across London being photographed and used in an exhibition later this year. It is a once in a life time chance to be part of a major work of art that will be kept in the Tate archives. We will also take Year 3 (who will be in Year 4 when the exhibition opens) to see the finished work. I am sure they will all remember it for the rest of their lives.

Throughout the year we aim to promote healthy life styles and whilst the two 'Sugar Sense' assemblies gave all pupils a better understanding of the amount of sugar in food, sadly the Parent Coffee Morning to promote more healthy lifestyles was not attended by anyone. We had an external speaker who was due to present but sadly it did not eventuate. I hope in the future you

will be able to support the parent workshops we provide.

Our School Council has been meeting to make plans for our next events. I know that they have some terrific ideas and are planning to support a range of charities.

On Tuesday 12th February a letter was sent home to all Key Stage 2 families relating to the playing of online games. Sadly I understand that some of you will not have received this important letter as several were found thrown in the rubbish bins in the playground. We take Internet safety extremely seriously at Donnington. Please check your child's bag for the letter and should you not find one please contact the School Office for another copy.

Enclosed with this Newsletter is some important information for parents about changes to our texting system. Please read the letter carefully and once you receive the initial text, register with ParentMail to continue to receive messages from school.

ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY WINNERS

| <u>Week</u> | <u>Attendance</u> | <u>Punctuality</u> |
|--------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Week 1 | Year 5 | Year 5 |
| Week 2 | Year 5 | Year 5 |
| Week 3 | Year 4 | Year 1 |
| Week 4 | Year 6 | Year 6 |
| Week 5 | Year 4 | Year 5 |

Years 1, 2 & 3 have not yet been able to achieve a higher level of attendance or punctuality since Christmas. Please make every effort to ensure your children are in school and here on time.

ATTENDANCE

Our attendance rate so far this academic year is 96.60%. Unfortunately we will not achieve our aim of 97% or more as 25 pupils were kept at home on Friday 1st February simply because it snowed. I was shocked and incredibly disappointed at this response as many people travelled across London to be at work. Thank you to all our parents who ensured their children attended as normal.

SCHOOL IS ALWAYS OPEN UNLESS WE MESSAGE YOU OTHERWISE.

Please note that Unauthorised Absences are not permitted and will be reported to the Brent Education Welfare Officer.

We are however, extremely proud of the number of children who have achieved 100% attendance since the beginning of this academic year.

In order to recognise this achievement, and reward the children, there were two trips this week, one to the Tower of London and one to 'Flip Out'. By the excited looks on their return a great time was had by all.

You may have seen children proudly wearing a bronze star awarded for 100% attendance in the Autumn Term. Should they continue to achieve 100% through until Easter (Autumn and Spring Terms) they will then receive a silver star and a gold star should they achieve 100% for an entire academic year.

I would like to say thank you to all our staff for their continued hard work and dedication; to our pupils for their efforts in all areas of learning and to our parents for your continued support of your child's learning and our school.

I hope you all have a restful and safe half term holiday and return ready to begin another half term on **Monday 25th February.**

HEALTHY EATING & WELL BEING

As part of promoting Health and Well Being across the whole school we have become part of a 'Clean Air' Project. This began with test tubes being placed around the school to check the quality of the air. These test tubes have now been collected and once they have been analysed strategies can be put in place to try and improve the air quality.

One small step has already been taken. Two signs have been placed on the perimeter fence asking motorists not to idle outside the school premises. By following this simple request motorists can make a huge difference to the quality of air that all children in the playground breathe, especially at the start and end of the day.

PACKED LUNCHES

Thank you for your support in ensuring packed lunches are becoming more healthy. We will continue to politely ask children not to consume items, such as chocolate, crisps or biscuits. These items will be sent home and not consumed at school.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

18th - 22nd Feb Half term Holiday

Feb

- 25 Children return for the Spring Term**
- 28 Parent Consultation Evening**
- 28 Year 5 National Gallery Visit**

Mar

- 01 Reception Class Assembly**
- 04 Parent Consultation Evening**
- 07 Parent Consultation Evening (Year 3)**
- 07 World Book Day**
- 08 Years 3 & 4 British Museum Visit**
- 15 Red Nose Day**