



February 2016

Happy New Year..... Where did January go?!

New School

The new school is coming together nicely although I do believe the wet weather has slowed a few things down.

In January the School Council went over to the Morgan Sindall offices. The council met the Project and Site Managers. They explained that the building project was behind by a week due to the weather. The children asked questions that had been posted in the post box from the entire school. The Managers explained that the kitchen would have all new equipment and that there would be a separate dining hall.

Mr Cooke explained that they had chosen to have a separate music room rather than an ICT room as this would be more beneficial to the school. IT equipment is more portable than musical equipment.

Mr Cooke also explained about the colours for the new school, KS1 blue and KS2 green with communal areas being purple.

The new school will also have a new stage block and lighting system.

The School Council were then shown around some of the building site.

Nursery

The Nursery children have participated with Forest School. They have enjoyed learning in the great outdoors.

Forest School has enabled the children to access the outdoors with the support of adults.

The Nursery team have noticed how much the children have enjoyed going out to the woodland and we hope to make this a part of our learning journey throughout the year.

They have been making rope bridges, collecting wood for the fire and looking for bugs. They have made wands using real tools and by week 6 they had lit a fire and made popcorn which they enjoyed very much.

You are welcome to come and look at our forest school display which is located in the Nursery

Reception

A BIG THANK YOU to all the parents that came to the phonics workshops.

They had fun showing you how they teach the children phonics and the children were excited to see you being taught a phonics lesson just like them!

They were very encouraged by your positive comments about the workshop – especially how it will help you to work with us to support your child to learn to read and write.

“That workshop is very helpful for me - I enjoyed the phonics lesson.”

“Thank you for your help.”

“I will try my best to teach my son this at home too.”

They are planning to do some more workshops next term.

Year 1

Year 1 are taking part in a Chinese Workshop on Monday 8th February. They will be learning how to play Chinese drums and taking part in a dragon dance

Year 3 & 4

This term Year 3 and 4 visited the Whitworth Art Gallery and created their own screen prints, inspired by sculptures and portraits in the gallery. They also had a fantastic time at the playground!

They are hoping to use the work they created to make a wall hanging for the new school.

There will be free family evens including screen printing at the Whitworth Art Gallery in February half term, so why not visit and try it out for yourself?

You could also visit Manchester Art Gallery and try its free monthly 'Family Art Club' on Saturday 13th February from 1-3pm.

The Museum of Science and Industry has some fantastic free workshops and activities over the half term holiday. Have a look at Miss Cooper's blog page for links and information.

Year 5

Back in December Year 5 hosted the highly successful WoManchester Pop up Museum. All of the children in the year group researched 6 significant women in Manchester's history and campaigned for one of them to be immortalised as a statue in the city centre. Pupils from Years 3, 4 and 6 visited the museum where they were able to vote for one of the women using some impressive websites created by 5H. They also had many parents come to visit the museum after school and were certainly impressed by the fantastic work their children had produced. The woman who won Plymouth Grove's vote was Louise Da-Cocodia, an anti-racism campaigner. The overall winner of the regional vote was suffragette Emmeline Pankhurst.

Debate Mate

A huge congratulation is in order for the Plymouth Grove Debate Team! On Monday 1st February, the team attended the Urban Debate League at Claremont Primary School and won 6/6 of the debates! It was superbly exciting and rewarding experience for all involved. Bring on round 2 in March!

School books

A polite reminder of the importance of looking after school books – a number of which are being returned to school badly damaged.

We also have a number of books missing. Please can you check at home and return any books belonging to the school. Lost and damaged books carry a cost of £5 per book.

School Attendance and Punctuality

Regular attendance at school is crucial in raising standards of education and in ensuring every child can meet their full potential. Missing out on lessons leaves children vulnerable to falling behind. Children with poor attendance tend to achieve less in both primary and secondary school.

The Government expects:

- Schools and local authorities to:
 - reduce absence including persistent absence;
 - ensure every pupil has access to full-time education to which they are entitled; and
 - act early to address patterns of absence.
- Parents to perform their legal duty by ensuring their children of compulsory school age who are registered at school attend early; and
- All pupils to be punctual to their lessons and attend school regularly

We have a number of children who are late on a regular basis. All children should be in their classroom ready for the register to be taken at 8.55am. Children who arrive after 8.55am are marked as late and the minutes are recorded on their attendance records.

Parking

Parking is still a big problem at the start and end of the school day. If you are travelling to school in a car please be respectful of the residents by parking appropriately. Inappropriate parking puts the children's safety at risk and causes an inconvenience to the residence when their driveways are blocked.

Pupil Premium and UIFSM

You may be familiar with the words 'Pupil Premium' and 'Universal Free School Meals'. These two funding grants are different and play a very important part of your child's education.

Universal Free School Meals:

- All children in Reception to Year 2 are entitled to a free meal under this scheme regardless of your income. **Even if you are not entitled to any state benefits, you are entitled to a UIFSM (Universal Free School Meal)**

Pupil Premium:

- In the 2015 to 2016 financial year, schools received the following funding for each child registered as eligible for free school meals at any point in the last 6 years because they are in receipt of **Income Support or Child's Tax Credit:**
- £1,320 for pupils in reception year to year 6
- £935 for pupils in year 7 to year 11
- Further information on how they spend their Pupil Premium can be found on their school blog

In order for schools to receive the Pupil Premium Funding for a child, the family must complete a Benefits Claim Form (attached). We believe, because of the Universal Free School Meal, that many parents are not completing this form as their child is already receiving a free school meal. As a school, we are losing out on thousands of pounds worth of funding for your child's education.

What do you need to do?

They need all parents from Nursery to Year 6 to complete a form – even if you are not sure!

Forms are available online or from the school office. If you require help in completing the form or require any further information please contact a member of the school admin team who will be more than happy to help you.

Dates for your diary

- School is closed from Monday 15th February to Friday 19th February
- Book Fair in the Hall after school every night from Monday 29th February to Friday 4th March
- School Choir Young Voices at MEN Arena Wednesday 2nd March
- World Book Day Thursday 3rd March
- Right Click – e-safety parent and child workshop on Monday 14th March at 3.30pm