



Newsletter April/May 2017

Inspire, Believe, Achieve

Our aim is to inspire and encourage our children to believe in their ability to succeed through learning. This vision will enable them to achieve and succeed in reaching their full potential and beyond, now and for their future. Within our school we work very hard to create a team of teachers, non-teaching and support staff that will support each child in reaching their potential. Many who visit us comment on the strength of our 'staff team' and their shared commitment to help every child in the school achieve their best.

School Value

Our school value for this half term is PERSEVERANCE. You should have received your child's values newsletter at the start of term.

Head teacher update

Well done to Y3/4 for their wonderful performance of "Hansel and Gretel." We look forward now to the Y5/6 production during the Summer term. (Dates to be arranged.) Well done to the Worship Council for their organisation of our Easter Church Service at the end of the Spring term. It was lovely to have so many parents and carers to share the service with us. We thank Mrs Christie, one of the church wardens, for leading the worship.

Y6 and Y2 are working hard in readiness for their SATs. These tests are reported and form part of the judgments on the school's progress whilst comparisons to other schools form the basis for the 'league table'. It is important that the children have good attendance to support their attainment in these tests. The Y6 tests take place the week commencing Monday 8th May 2017 to 12th May 2017 inclusive and Y2 will be assessed during the month of May. It is vitally important they are in school. Y1 will complete their phonic screening during the week commencing 12th June 2017 and can only be tested during these dates.

Academy

Our application to become an academy as part of LAAT has been successfully passed by the Head Teacher Board. The school continues to complete its due diligence and governors have unanimously voted to become an academy. We hope to complete all relevant work and to become an academy as of the 1st July 2017. We are very excited at the prospect and looking forward to being part of the LAAT family of schools. We will continue to keep you informed of our progress towards this goal.

School Parliament

The School Parliament have been very busy fundraising throughout the month of March. The first event the School Parliament arranged was 'Time for a cuppa' which was held on Friday 10th March from 9:00 - 9:30. This event was successful in helping to raise £46.00 towards Dementia UK. We would like to take this opportunity to thank parents/carers for any support towards this event including attending and in providing cake/biscuit donations. The School Parliament also opted to support Comic Relief, through children paying a donation of £1 towards dressing down and wearing red items of clothing. This enabled us to raise £338. Our final fundraising event of this busy month was held on Friday 31st March, we opted to support Brain Tumour Research. The children were invited to pay a donation of 50p to wear a hat alongside their school uniform. From this event we raised £80. This means the grand total of our fundraising activities from this month was £464. We would once again like to thank you for supporting us in our fundraising efforts.

Fundraising is not all that the School Parliament are concerned with. On Monday 20th March, the School Parliament alongside the JPCSOs held a meeting including a school governor to discuss safer parking. The children alongside a number of parents/carers have been concerned about parking near the school site around picking up and dropping off times from school. The School Parliament and JPCSOs have decided to start some safer parking initiatives, initial ideas include: safety awareness posters and polite notices on any vehicle parked unsuitably.

Finally, we would like to welcome our latest representative of School Parliament, Taran Pinnick from Year 5, who has just joined our team.

Farmers Market

A huge thank you to everyone who supported our Farmers' Market in March, especially year 6 and all the friends and families who worked tirelessly or gave donations to make this event happen. The total amount of money raised was a brilliant £238.33. This will be put to good use creating memorable moments for our children.

Headlice

Please check your child's hair regularly for these unwelcome visitors. We have some very frustrated parents who are having to repeatedly treat their children because other families are not treating nits. We have notified parents/carers when headlice have been noticed and stress the importance of all pupils being checked and treated regularly.

Attendance

Attendance data for the school year from September 2016 to March 2017 is at 95.79%. In order to comply with national safeguarding procedures, we operate a 'first day call' when children are absent. If your child is absent from school, please telephone and let us know before 9.30am (close of register). If we have not heard from you by this time, the school office will contact you. We ask parents and carers to contact school every day a child is absent. If we are unable to speak to you, we will call every day of the child's absence, for up to five days. During this time, staff may visit your home to ascertain the well-being of your child. If, after five days, we have not been given a reason for the child's absence, the child will be reported as a 'child missing education'. These attendance procedures have been put in place to ensure the safety and well-being of all pupils.

Medical Changes

If your child has a change in medical circumstances, please notify the school office so that we can keep our records up to date and ensure that all our staff are aware of each child's conditions.

Parking Reminder

Please remember that only emergency vehicles and school buses can park on the zigzag markings. Please could parents and carers not pull onto these when dropping off and picking up pupils to school, or from after-school clubs.

Safeguarding

We believe that safeguarding is an important part of the work with children and young adults so will keep this reminder in all of our newsletters. Please remember that safeguarding is the responsibility of all of us. If we are concerned about the safety of any child, we should let somebody know. Mrs Flack is the designated safeguarding person in school. In her absence, contact Mrs Adie who has now also been trained as a designated safeguarding person.

FSM entitlement

If your personal circumstances change, your child/children may be entitled to Free School Meals. Please complete the LCC Free School Meal Checker Form (available from the office) then your details will be checked for eligibility and you will be notified accordingly.

Dates for your diary

19 th April	Children back to school
24 th April	Swimming starts for all classes
1 st May	Bank Holiday
8 th May	Y6 SATs all week
22 nd May	Y6 Hilltop Day visit
23 rd May	Y4 to attend Spalding High/Grammar School
24 th May	Elloe East celebrations Y4 at Gedney
During May	Y2 will be sitting their KS1 formal assessments and teacher assessments will also be completed.
26 th May	School breaks up for half term
5 th June	Children return to school for remainder of Summer Term
12 th June	Y1 phonic screen this week
29 th June	EYFS trip to Sealife Centre, Hunstanton
9 th July	Summer fair with the swimming pool committee
18 th July	School disco
19 th July	End of Term