



THE POCHIN SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

No. 36
23 June 2017

Dear Parents, Governors and Friends

STAFF CHANGES

Mrs Cooledge will be on maternity leave from the beginning of next academic year. We have interviewed and are very fortunate that Mrs Nicholls will be joining us to cover the maternity leave. She is an extremely experienced and talented teacher who will bring much to the life of The Pochin School.

FINANCES

The governors have been looking at the school's finances over the next five years. Unfortunately the projections are not positive and the school needs to begin making some changes in the next academic year. If we take this action now we hope that this will be sufficient in the long term to keep the school's budget balanced. Of course, there is no certainty in any of this, the world seems to be quite unstable politically at the moment and the school may need revisit this issue in the future. Unfortunately this problem of school finances is a national one and very many schools are grappling with similar problems. The government froze school budgets some years ago and plans to for the rest of this parliament. However, expenses are rising year on year through no fault of the school leading to an effective percentage budget cut year on year.

Therefore, the school will be making some changes from next academic year. Most of these will not be apparent to parents, but there are two that I need to bring to your attention. For some years now Classes 4 and 5 have gone to the library in Syston approximately every three weeks. Unfortunately this is not sustainable and will cease from the beginning of next academic year. The second is swimming in Class 3. This will continue but only in the summer term. The school will inform parents of children in Class 3 of the new arrangements during the spring term. It is very likely that the cost to parents will rise substantially, however it will be only for the summer term and therefore the cost spread over a year to parents will actually be less than it is now.

I'm aware that these changes are difficult but if we act now, over five years the savings mount up and hopefully this is all we need to do.

NON-UNIFORM DAY

Thursday 29 June will be a non-uniform day if parents want their children to join in. Please see the article from Class 3 at the end of this newsletter.

SPORTS DAY

We are all looking forward to our Annual Sports Day with great anticipation. It will be on Tuesday 27 June, beginning at 1.30 p.m. on the Cricket field. The children will need to wear their white PE kits, i.e. white shorts, white tops, plimsolls for the infants and trainers for the juniors. They also need to wear a badge in their house colour pinned to their t-shirts. These can be purchased through

the PTA and are being sold in the playground. Alternatively, they may wear a ribbon of their house colour.

SPORTS DAY PARKING

The car park adjacent to the club house on Cricketers' Hill will be open. It can accommodate approximately 40 vehicles and once full the gate will be closed. Overflow parking will be accessible from Beeby Road as usual. Please follow the directions given by our car park officials. Please do not park on the road opposite either entrance to the cricket pitch as it causes major congestion problems for other road users and parents leaving the field.

Could I also ask parents not to drive off the cricket pitch via the Beeby Road entrance until all the children have left the area as this can cause obvious problems with children and cars trying to exit through the gate at the same time.

The children will leave for their tea in the Village Hall after the races have finished. The raffle will then be drawn at the cricket pitch. After the children have had their tea they can be collected from their classrooms at 5 p.m. Cream teas will be available in the cricket pavilion until 5 p.m.

Everyone is welcome to attend and enjoy the fun. If the weather is too bad it will be held on Thursday 29 June with the same arrangements.

CLIMBING WALL

On Thursday 6 July and Friday 7 July we will be having the mobile climbing wall in school again. The children really enjoyed themselves last year and I'm sure they are looking forward to the challenge this year.

All the children in the school will be able to climb, from Reception to Year 6.

It will be supervised by two fully trained instructors. The children will be working on the apparatus in groups of no more than ten at a time and will be wearing the appropriate safety equipment. I feel that this is a real opportunity for the children and one which I am sure they will all enjoy. The PTA is funding all of this, so there is no cost to parents or the school. I would really like to thank the PTA, on behalf of the children, for funding this project.

The children will need their arms and legs covered, track suits are ideal. This is primarily because the surface of the climbing wall is quite rough, it gives the children grip when they are climbing, however it can cause grazes if they catch their elbows and knees.

NUTS

We have a number of children in school with a nut allergy. Can I remind parents not to send children to school with nuts as a snack or for lunch.

PUPIL PREMIUM AND FREE SCHOOL MEALS

You will tonight receive a form to complete if you think your child/ children may be eligible for free school meals, even if they're in key stage one and already receiving a universal free school meal. Only complete the form if your income is below the threshold mentioned.

As you will be aware, key stage 1 children are entitled to free school meals. In addition to a free school meal, SOME CHILDREN WILL BE ELIGIBLE FOR PUPIL PREMIUM FUNDING OF £1,320 TO SUPPORT THEIR EDUCATION. The only way we can obtain this funding is if parents complete the attached application form. If you are receiving any of the benefits listed on the form, please complete the paper form sent out tonight and return to

Mr Cotton, marked private and confidential. An electronic version will be attached to this email. If you prefer to complete it online you can email it back to me to print and come to the office to sign it. YOU SHOULD ALSO COMPLETE THE FORM IF YOU THINK YOU ARE ELIGIBLE FOR CHILDREN IN YEARS 3, 4 AND 5 as they too will attract a premium of £1,320 to the school's budget.

All information will be treated in the strictest confidence and only used to check eligibility. The children and lunchtime staff will not be aware of those in receipt of pupil premium funding.

CLASS 4 & 5 PLAYS

We have still not had ticket requests from all parents. They are available on a first come, first served basis from the office.

PLAY DVDs

Play DVDs will be available to order on the door when you come to see the plays. They will be £4 each.

Yours sincerely

S M Cotton
Headteacher

CLASS 3

On Thursday 29 June, Class 3 are raising money for the Multiple Sclerosis Centre in Leicester. We are doing a sponsored times table test to raise as much money as possible.

We will also be doing a non-uniform day for the whole school on Thursday 29 June for a minimum donation of £1.

Multiple Sclerosis is a disease where the lining of the nerve is scared. So it can't send messages to parts of the body., so you can't do things. You might not be able to move your legs or arms, lose your sight and often end up in a wheelchair.

We are raising money for the MS centre and giving money, so they can build new rooms. They will be building a gym room, three treatment rooms and a new lift, as the old keeps breaking.

The MS centre has to pay £100,000 a year just to keep the centre, as well as needing money for improvements.

There will also be a collection for parents before and after school on the gate, so please bring any spare pennies you can.

Written by Chloe in Class 3.