Thursday 27 September 2018

Dear Parents



Castle Life

This week we have welcomed a new family to our school. Kian has started in Year 6 and Teegan in Year 4. Both children have settled in really well. Kendal Class had their second trip up to the woods this week. We were really pleased to have three parent volunteers who helped the children engage in their activities which included tree bark rubbing, mud painting and stick wrapping! They have another three sessions this term and I'm sure will enjoy every one of them. If you are able to help with any of these sessions please let the Kendal staff know.

2019 Secondary School Admissions

Bath and North East Somerset Local Authority have asked us to pass on to you the following information: Last year BANES introduced a new five preference system, this required parents to express five secondary school preferences instead of three. However, only a very small proportion of parents applying for secondary places in 2017 used all five preferences and this resulted in disappointment for a significant number of Year 6 children. This year they want to make sure all children are allocated a local school of their preference and this can only be achieved if parents used all their five preferences. All five preferences are considered equally against the school admission criteria. If a parent is unsuccessful in getting a place at their 1st preference, their 2nd preference will not be treated any less favourably just because they put it as number two. Again if they do not qualify for their 2nd preference we will look at their 3rd and this continues down to the 5th preference.

The Council has asked us to share the following YouTube video link with you to encourage parents to use all five preferences to strengthen the chances of getting a local school of your choosing.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z9n2MTnQVcA&feature=youtu.be

Parents will always be offered the highest preference school at which they qualify for a place so there is no reason not to use all of their preferences as it does not lessen their chance of gaining a place at their higher preference school.

School Parliament's Harvest Festival

Next Friday, 5 October, School Parliament will be presenting an assembly in support of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF), their last fundraising event in their year as our MPs. To raise funds for the charity, they have decided to create fruit/veg snacks which can be bought between 3.00 and 3.30 pm that afternoon for 50p a pot. Do please support this event – all funds will go to the JDRF as it works to cure, prevent and treat Diabetes. Well done to School Parliament for coming up with this brilliant idea!

International Space Week

Next week is International Space Week. We have a special themed meal for the children to enjoy on Thursday 4 October and we'd love all children to book in for this exciting meal using the Aspens website as usual. There will also be some activities related to the space theme in classes and assemblies.

Y6 Camp and Base Camp

As you know most of Year 6 are away on camp this week in Little Canada. All reports are that the children have been brilliant and have worked really well together as a team. They are having an amazing time and rising to all the challenges with great resilience – well done, Year 6! Meanwhile back at Base Camp, the children are also having a great time. They have been busy working on an art project with Mrs Nicholls which will soon be displayed in the dining room. They spent yesterday morning in the woods with our Kendal children and Miss Benson reported that they were excellent role models for our nursery children as well as having fun themselves.





Clubs

We have a wide variety of clubs on offer this term. All clubs are due to start the week commencing 8 October and will run for eight weeks. We will notify you by text if your child has a place at their chosen club.

YR Tapestry

For all our children in nursery and reception we have an online learning journal called 'Tapestry'. You will all have been given details on how to log into this. It's a great resource where you can see what your children are doing at school as well as adding contributions yourselves. If you are having any difficulties with registering please speak to Miss Jeffery in the office and she will be able to assist you further with this.

Gates

Dunster Road gates will be opened from 2.45 pm and locked at 3.30 pm (4.30 pm on Tuesday and Thursdays when clubs are running). This will be reviewed once the building works are finished.

Celebrating Achievements

Ella-Rose B (Edinburgh) - Royal Academy of Dance Merit certificate; Maisie H (Edinburgh) - Gymnast of the Day award; Luca C (Dover) and Lylah C (Edinburgh) earned their Blue Peter badges.

Pupils of the Week

Alfie B (Windsor), Louis D (Dover,)Bradley W (Arundel), Lottie A (Edinburgh), Junior T (Yarmouth), Michael L (Blaise), Kacey G (Monmouth), Max W (Lulworth), Isabella M (Corfe), Jack H (Kendal).

DUMTUMS

To help with presentation in books we have introduced DUMTUMS which I introduced to the children in assembly this Monday. DUMTUMS stands for date, underline, miss a line, title, underline, miss a line, start. It's just a simple way for the children to remember to present their learning neatly. I also asked the children to design a DUMTUM for me. It can be anything they want it to be - an imaginary creature. I have already had lots of responses that have really impressed me so a huge thank you to all the children that have already joined in! The deadline is next Friday, 5 October so please keep the entries coming in.

Teacher Changes

Date	Class	Replacement Teacher
Tuesday 9 October (am)	Pembroke	Mrs Nicholls
	Corfe	Mrs Haines
Thursday 11 October (pm)	Dover	Mrs Haines
Thursday 18 October (am)	Lulworth	TBC
Monday 22 October	Dover	Mrs Nicholls

Dates

Day	Date	Time	Event	Year Groups
Tuesday	2 October	2.30 to 3.15 pm	Meet the SENCo Coffee Afternoon	All SEN
		3.30 to 5.30 pm	Parents' Evening	All
Wednesday	3 October	am	Year 5 Visit to Bath Literature Festival	Year 5
		3.30 to 7.00 pm	Parents' Evening	All
Thursday	4 October		World Space Week Meal – book via Aspens	All
Friday	5 October	9.00 am	School Parliament Harvest Festival	All
		3.00 to 3.30 pm	Harvest Festival Sale – 50p per snack pot	All
Friday	19 October	9.00 am	Dover Class Assembly	Year 5
Tuesday	23 October	4.00 to 6.00 pm	High 5s Netball Tournament @ Wellsway School	
Thursday	25 October		Term 1 ENDS	All
Friday	26 October		CLOSED for Staff Training	All
Monday	5 November		CLOSED for Staff Training	All
Tuesday	6 November		Term 2 STARTS	All

