



19th June 2019

Staffing update

Last week, interviews were held to find a teacher to cover for Mrs Lyall when she goes on maternity leave in September. Mrs Clara Hand was the successful applicant and will join the staff team for the duration of Mrs Lyall's maternity leave. Mrs Hand comes with a wealth of early years experience and is keen to get stuck in to life at Iron Acton working alongside Mrs Wood in Reception.

At the end of this year, we will be sad to see two members of staff leave us. Mr Williams will be moving on to new things as his fixed term contract comes to an end; we are very grateful to Mr Williams for the contribution he has made to the school this year. We will also be saying goodbye to Mrs Anstey, who has worked with us for 2 years as SENCO. Mrs Anstey has done a significant amount to improve the special needs provision at the school and she has now decided to reduce her hours in order to spend more time with her family. Recruitment for a new SENCO has taken place recently and Mrs Christine Wilson was appointed to work with us from September. Mrs Wilson is currently SENCO at Hawkesbury and will bring a wealth of experience and expertise with her.

The children will find out who their new teachers are in two weeks' time. This information will also be published in the next newsletter. In the meantime, we will be encouraging the children to remain focused on this academic year!

Health week

Last week was health week. Mr Brown sent out an email to all families the week before explaining that the focus this year would be on introducing the children to a range of sports, particularly ones they may not have tried before. Unfortunately, due to poor weather many of the activities were cancelled including sports day. The children did, however, manage to take part in sports such as tennis, Tae Kwon Do and netball. Mr Brown is attempting to reschedule some of the cancelled activities.

Sports day and Actonbury will now take place on Friday 12th July instead, beginning at 1.15pm. Please do come along and join in with this important event.

New classroom

The new classroom is now gathering momentum and plans are available. These will be displayed on the playground tomorrow so please do come and have a look. We have been assured by the architect and the council that the temporary structure will be in place on the field and ready to use by 1st September 2019. This will consist of 2 classrooms, 1 of which will be used by Reception and the other by our Year 1 and 2 children.

The permanent classroom will then replace the existing Reception/Year 1 classroom sometime around Christmas and be ready to move into during February.

This is a very exciting time for us as a school and will enable us to structure the school more effectively as well as to have the most suitable classroom spaces we can to enable us to do the best for the school. It would help the project significantly if you could take a look at the planning application on the South Gloucestershire website and add your positive comments in support of the project. Once this is released a text will be sent to notify you.

Playground markings

Have you seen our new playground markings? A selection of children helped choose the markings and we are impressed with the quality of the finished look. We hope this will continue to give children more opportunity to keep fit and healthy during break times, lunch times and as part of their PE lessons.

Sun safety

Should we be lucky enough to have some warmer weather before the summer holidays, the health and safety department recommend the following website to help you prepare:

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/sunscreen-and-sun->

School meals

In September the cost of a school meal for children in Years 3 – 6 will increase to £2.30 per meal. This is a decision made by our catering supplier, Integra.

In addition, the morning fruit from the kitchen will rise to 25p. The cost of a slice of toast with spread will remain at 10p.

Please note: if your child is moving into Year 3 in September, you will need to begin paying for school meals. The Government grant only exists for children in Reception, Year 1 & 2. If you feel you may qualify for means tested free school meals please speak to Mrs Parry in the school office in confidence or visit <https://www.southglos.gov.uk/advice-and-benefits/benefits/free-school-meals/>

First Aid

Eagles Class are currently learning the basics of first aid. We are pleased to be welcoming Nurse Practitioner (and former parent at Iron Acton) Annie King to deliver this series of sessions to the children.

INSET day

Our next INSET day will take place this Friday at Hawkesbury School. The staff will join together in order to continue to develop our outdoor learning provision. We will also be closed to children on **Monday 2nd September**.

Evacuation practice

As part of our Health and Safety requirements we will be carrying out a practice evacuation of the building before the end of term. As you will be aware, fire evacuation practices take place frequently throughout the year but it is now recommended that off-site evacuation practices take place from time to time as well.

This will all be explained to the children in an age appropriate way so as not to cause any unnecessary distress but so that the school has an opportunity to ensure it is ready to carry out this sort of procedure if it ever was necessary.

The church will be used to carry out this practice. We also have an agreement with several other local premises should the need ever arise.

School uniform

All school uniform orders need to be placed by Monday 5th August to be here in time for September

Please visit the website below to place any orders: <http://www.initiallyyours.co.uk/index.htm>

Healthy packed lunches

Our school council recently carried out research and delivered an assembly all about healthy packed lunches. Please see the healthy lunchbox ideas on the change 4 life website:

<https://www.nhs.uk/change4life/recipes/healthier-lunchboxes>

Languages – Hungry Caterpillar

Thank you to everyone who came along to find out what the children have been learning about in Falcons and Eagles classes. Apologies for the confusion around timings and rooms – this was as a result of knock on effects caused by the rain!

Maps

You may have noticed our amazing new maps in the corridor. If you haven't managed to see them please do pop in and have a look with your child after school. So far, 2 out of 3 have been put up and we are awaiting some plastering work before getting this one finished.

Book fair

Book fair arrives next Monday and will be available in the school hall on after school on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. We are hoping to have refreshments on one of the days too but this is yet to be confirmed. Please come along to have a look at the books; this work on commission so the more books sold, the more books the school gets. The children will have the opportunity to look at the books during the day time on Monday.

End of year performance

Our Key Stage 2 end of year performance will take place on Wednesday 3rd July at 1.30pm in the village hall. The children have all auditioned for their parts and are busily practising so they are ready to perform. Please come along and join us for this event. We have looked into providing an evening performance but unfortunately the hall is so booked up that this is not possible.