

Monday 30th January 2017

Spring Term 2017 – Newsletter 4

Dear Parents

Thank you to all who were able to make our Secondary Parents' Open Meeting last week. It was a positive and productive meeting with some good suggestions made that will feed into our future planning.

Home Learning

Now that SDL is underpinning the curriculum in Year 7 and 8 the challenge for pupils to manage their home learning has increased. Getting the right balance between completing specific tasks and working on their SDL can be difficult and needs good self-management skills.

There are all sorts of things that crop-up like conflicting deadlines, family commitments, unexpected events, technology issues, other pupils in a group being away etc. which throw a spanner in the works.

Often the key to managing things is communication. I would encourage pupils or parents to contact staff ahead of any deadline if there has been an issue which has meant that expectations may not be met. Teachers should then be sympathetic and supportive. If issues only emerge when a deadline has been missed the situation become much more difficult.

It is important that home learning is as positive as it can be rather than a huge burden that becomes unmanageable. We are currently monitoring home learning in Years 7 and 8 to ensure it is manageable and best supports the pupils' learning.

If you have a specific concerns regarding your child's home learning, no matter which year group, please contact their tutor so they can support.

FOCUS
SCHOOL

eSafety Parent Survey - reminder

As part of the Focus National Online Safety week (w/c 6th February) we are asking parents and pupils to complete a survey beforehand to help us plan our approach. If you have not yet done so please could use the link below.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/WTWBMDC>

Laptops for Years 9, 10 and 11

We have received the new laptops for pupils in Years 9, 10 and 11. Before they can be issued they all need to be formatted and set-up individually which takes a significant amount of time. Once this task is completed they will be issued to pupils.

The intention is that each pupil has a specific laptop assigned to them which they can take home to use for home learning, and other appropriate activities, and also use in school. At the moment our campus Wi-Fi is not up to the job of supporting all these additional laptops so they will only work off-line in school. However, an upgrade has been scheduled to address this.

The laptops will be able to connect to your home Wi-Fi so it will be important to be vigilant about what they are being used for and sites being accessed. Hopefully the eSafety week will support pupils and parents with this. I strongly advise that you ensure that your children only use their laptops in a family space where you can always see what it on the screen.

Key Stage 2 Stars of the Week

Kayla Tuffin: for working really hard in Maths even when the task was difficult.

Tiara Fry: for excellent progress in Maths and English despite being away from school.

All the girls in year 5 and 6: for their exceptional behaviour at swimming.



Calendar for the Week

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
	30 th Jan	31 st Jan	1 st Feb	2 nd Feb	3 rd Feb
Feb 2017		Staff INSET training 3.15pm		Intermediate Maths Challenge	

Best wishes

Toby Nutt

Toby Nutt
Head Teacher