News from Cumnor School

Summer Term Newsletter Number 4 **19th May 2017**

Science Day

We were delighted to be able to welcome Dr Sarah Bearchell for the day on Wednesday. Dr Bearchell ran workshops for all our children from Reception right through to Year 6. The focus was on the properties of solids, liquids and gases and involved lots of dry ice! It was a fabulous day with lots of fun and practical hands on learning. I hope your children came home talking about it. Many thanks to Julie Pottle for arranging the day.

Chess Mega finalists

Last weekend 6 of our chess mega-finalists joined the other 200 best chess players in the county for the Oxfordshire 'Mega-finals'. Eddie, Jay, Ashwin, Toby, Luke and James played really well and really savoured the atmosphere; playing a huge sports hall with 100 other games going on around them. It was a great day and they should all be really pleased with their achievements.

Chess Club

There will be NO chess club next week as I have a prior commitment.

Governor News – Budget Cuts

The school governors met last week. The main topic for discussion was our budget allocation which came through in April. You may have seen in the press and on the news recently an outcry from schools over budget cuts and a new funding formula. Although the new funding formula has been put on hold for another year, the cuts to education are still impacting on us this year. Oxfordshire is traditionally a very poorly funded county. Last year's budget for Cumnor School, for example, was just over £100,000 lower than the average 7 class primary school in the country. The new budget for 2017 / 2018 is approximately £40,000 short of our allocation last year. This reduction is as a result of many different areas including a reduction of grants, additional statutory expenditure demands and a reduction in income. As a result, the governors explored many different budget scenarios but all agreed that our priority had to be to maintain the quality and diversity of our school staff. School equipment, resources and buildings have become the main areas on which we have needed to focus our cuts on. You and the children shouldn't see too much

of a difference to the school on a daily basis, but it does just mean that over time it will become harder to replace resources, books, ICT equipment etc. We also noted that the new funding formula for schools is due to come into place next April, and if it is unchanged from the original formula Cumnor will have an additional budget cut of around £20,000 next year. We are obviously thinking creatively about ways in which we can maximise our income as well as reduce our expenditure, so if you have any views or ideas that may help, please do get in touch.

From your PTA:
Tonight's the night for our Quiz Night! Everyone is welcome, even if you haven't booked, please do turn up clutching your £5 and we will find you a place in a team and the fun will commence! There is a cash bar and snacks and of course our debonair compere Mr Cooke. Cumnor Old School 7.30pm.

Also we raised a brilliant £66 at our recent school uniform sale. Worry not if you cursed yourself for forgetting your purse that day, there's plenty of uniform left and we will be holding another sale (everything £1, it's like Poundland!) on the afternoon of Sports Day.

	What has my child been doing this week?
Reception	Thinking about how we grow, taking away and using microscopes!
Year 1	Writing fossil poems, working with ½ and ¼, working as a team.
Year 2	Making, testing and decorating gliders, enjoying a science workshop and evaluating our hot air balloons.
Year 3	Multiplication and division, internet research on Indian animals and learning an Indian song.
Year 4	Multiplication strategies, finding out about uses of rivers and enjoying tennis coaching.
Year 5	Fractions, decimals and percentages, noun phrases and investigating climate zones around the world.
Year 6	Writing persuasive letters, researching different biomes and creating maps of Cumnor.

Next Week:

Tuesday 23rd May	All day	Year 2 class visit to Winchester Science Centre
Tuesday 23rd May	All day	Year 1 class visit to Woodstock and Oxford
Friday26th May	9.00am	Year 3 class assembly, friends and family welcome
W/B 29th May		Half Term Break
Monday 5th June		INSET Day

Yours sincerely,

Ed Read