News from Cumnor School

Spring Term Newsletter **Number 7** **23rd February 2018**

Dear Parents,

I hope you all had a good and restful half term break and we're all back to school well, healthy and nit-free! We're getting very excited about World Book Day next week . . .

World Book Day

On Thursday 1st March we will be celebrating World Book Day in school. The theme this year is 'Share a Story'. We would like pupils to bring in a photograph of themselves sharing a story with somebody at home in an unusual place or in a creative way. There will be prizes (in the form of book vouchers to be spent at our book fair) for our favourite photos. Pupils should give their photos to their class teacher by Thursday 1st March.

The children have also been set a homework challenge that involves them having a look at the books inside their home and trying to find the oldest, smallest, thickest and most unusual books.

During the day at school pupils will have the chance to share a book with a buddy and the teachers will be sharing some of their favourite books - with pupils being given the chance to choose which one they would like to listen to.

As usual we would like to encourage everyone to dress up in a book themed outfit. We would appreciate a donation of £1 per child to be split between Book Aid and improving our own stock of school library books. Take a look at the World Book Day website for costume ideas that you can make at home: https://www.bookaid.org/support-us/world-book-day/world-book-day-dress-up

After the success of 'Books at Bedtime' for our Reception children in the autumn, this is being extended to all Key Stage 1 children. All of our Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children and their families are welcome to come back to school at 5.00pm on the 1st March to share stories, enjoy a hot chocolate and have an opportunity to ask questions about how to help your child read. We hope you can come.

Each child will receive a £1 book token on World Book Day that can be spent at our scholastic book fair which is being held the following week on the 8th and 9th March before and after school. If you would be able to help run the book fair, then please let the school office or Miss Jones know. **Half of the money made at the book fair is returned to us by Scholastic so that we can buy books for the school**, so please do come along and support this event.

Finally, as we are thinking about sharing and discovering new books, this would be a good time to have a bit of a rummage at home for any forgotten books that have been borrowed from the school libraries. Copies of some popular books that we have ordered in recent years (such as the David Walliams' books) seem to have been absent from our library shelves for a while now. It would be great if these could be returned for others to enjoy. Also if you have any books at home that your children no longer want then we would be very grateful for any donations!

Thanks for your support in helping us to celebrate World Book Day in school. It is a day that the children always enjoy and it provides a wonderful opportunity to talk and get excited about books.

From your PTA:
Our fabulous Bingo Night on Friday 23rd draws nearer! A brilliant night for family (and extended family) come along and get your dabbers handy. Everything you need will be provided, Bingo from 5.30 - 7.30pm with the bar staying open until 8.30pm so we can have a chat. Pulled pork baps and veggie pizza means you don't even have to cook.
As always, any help setting up the evening and clearing away is really appreciated. Last year so many stayed to help clear up we were done in 20mins!
The prizes for winners are all Easter themed, so if you have any Easter soft toys (bunnies, chicks etc) that you can donate, or chocolate eggs, we would be really grateful.

Afterschool Clubs
Please note that TMG club will NOT be running next week.

School Dinners
Recently we have been working with The School Lunch Company at ways to improve the quality of service that the company provide. One of the concerns we have raised with them has been over menu choices and portion sizes / availability. As a way to improve these two areas in particular, from Monday we will be asking the children during morning register to tell us which main course they would like that day. The hope is that if Carrieanne in the kitchen has a better idea of what she has to cook then she can cook the right amount of each option, guarantee that both options are available and not have to change portion sizes for fear of running out of food.
Please can you help us with this by talking to your children each morning about what they would like for lunch? If they have discussed it with you already, and then again with their class teacher, they will have a better chance of remembering what they wanted by lunchtime! There is a copy of the menu on the school website.

Carrieann will be serving the week 1 menu next week, so your children can choose from:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Turkey meatballs with pasta Or Cheese and tomato pizza	Sweet and sour chicken & rice Or Vegetarian cottage pie	Roast beef and Yorkshire pudding Or Roast Quorn and Yorkshire pudding	Chicken, bacon and potato pie Or Veggie sausage and pasta bake	Baked breaded fish fillet Or Spicy bean burger

Match Funding:
As you know the school's budget is extraordinarily tight and we are always looking for ways in which we can supplement it, or save money for the school but also for you as parents. We are becoming increasingly aware than many companies are willing and able to support schools, either by direct donations for specific events, or through match funding PTA events. Do you work for a company who may be able to help?
As part of their Corporate Social Responsibility programs, many companies encourage staff to get involved in PTA events, by offering to match any funds that are raised. It's worth asking your HR department if there's anything they do, it is often as simple as filling in one form!
Similarly some organisations will offer to pay for, or sponsor specific items, trips or visits. For example the Co-op paid for the Year 6 interactive whiteboard last year, the Environment Agency send out volunteers each year to maintain our forest school area and The Oxford University Classics dept. is helping to fund the year 5 visit to the Ashmolean Museum next week. Perhaps your company may be able to help?

So, please could you enquire at the company you work with and see if there's any support that they may be able to offer? Email Mrs Joyce in the office if you have any luck! office.3223@cumnor.oxon.sch.uk

Other Recent Donations:

Cumnor Players: The Cumnor players always do a fabulous job of putting on a village pantomime for us all each December. The profits from these performances are split between Matthew Arnold School and ourselves. We were delighted to receive a donation of £600 this year. Thank you to everyone involved.

Parish Council: Following the removal of an old horse chestnut tree in the village last year, the Parish Council wanted to replace it, and we agreed that the school site would be an ideal place to put one. The new horse chestnut tree has now been planted on the back school playing field and should hopefully bring enjoyment, shade (and ultimately a wind break!) for hundreds of years to come.

And don't forget about the Waitrose tokens in Botley's store – the more tokens that are put in the 'Cumnor School' box, as you leave the store, the greater the donation Waitrose will make to our school.

What has my child been doing this week?

Reception	Learning about Chinese New Year, writing fortune cookie wishes, learning the story of the Chinese Zodiac and cooking spring pancake rolls.
Year 1	Measuring length, weight, time and capacity, using exclamation marks and learning about dinosaur diets.
Year 2	Counting in 2s, 3s, 5s and 10s, introducing our Africa topic and learning some African songs.
Year 3	Studying place value in maths, checking punctuation and finding out where India is.
Year 4	Starting our topic on The Romans by learning about the founding of Rome and researching Roman Mosaics.
Year 5	Practising all 4 maths operations, writing newspaper reports and converting them into news reels.
Year 6	Painting our pyramids and shabti dolls, presenting information about the Egyptians to the class and working on stamina in long distance running.

Yours sincerely,

Ed Read