



# Panshanger Primary School NEWSLETTER

5<sup>th</sup> January 2018

## Christmas celebrations

What a busy end of term we had with the productions of The Wiggly Nativity, The Littlest Fir Tree and Aladdin. The children all did so well learning their lines, songs and dances. From very generous donations after the performances we have raised £500 which the school council have agreed should be put towards the new activity trail project.

From their sale of refreshments before the performances the PTA raised £200 which is also being put towards the financing of the new activity trail.

## Activity Trail

On Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January work will begin on our new activity trail to replace the current trim trail outside year 5. For the next couple of weeks we will have workmen on site and may need to change access points to some of the classrooms whilst we have skips and new equipment on site. We will endeavour to keep parents fully informed as to the progress.

## Reception Places

If your child was born between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2013 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2014 they are eligible to begin full time education in September 2018 and by now should have received the necessary paperwork from Herts County Council. The deadline for the online application is January 15<sup>th</sup> 2018; please get in contact with HCC if you have not received this notification as they deal directly with the allocation of places and not the school.

## Nursery Places

From September 2018 the school is directly responsible for allocating the spaces in our 15 hour per week nursery class.

If your child was born between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2014 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2014 the application form and selection criteria can be found on the school website. Applications opened on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January and close on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> April.

## On line payment

Many parents have made use of our new online payment system through Schoolcomms which we hope is making the payment of dinner money more convenient. We are in the process of finalising arrangements for the next step which is the online payment of money for trips and for the electronic signature of consent forms. Please don't hesitate to call in and speak to Mrs Brenchley or Mrs Edgell if you need any help using the system. We will of course continue to accept cash / cheque payments in the office.

## Clubs

The clubs will start from week commencing the 15<sup>th</sup> January. The club form was sent home yesterday in book bags, if your child would like a place in any of the clubs mentioned for their year group please return the form by **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January**.

There is an additional afterschool club being offered by Mrs Reed which was not on the form - this will be a Homework club for children in Years 1 - 6 and it will be held on Tuesdays between 3.15 - 4.15p.m. There are a maximum number of 30 spaces available so if your child would like a place please write their name at the bottom of the form and put Homework club next to it, thank you.



### **Hatfield Swimming**

After much discussion we have made the decision to stop swimming lessons at Hatfield swimming pool from February half term. This means that Yrs. 4 and 6 will finish their sessions but that the other 2 KS2 classes will not start at Hatfield. We have been unhappy with the service offered for a while and have over the last few years been losing a considerable amount of money through non-payment by parents - last term alone this was over £800, this is money that the school could make use of in a more productive way. The PE National Curriculum states that the children at the end of Year 6 should leave primary school being able to swim 25m, as you are aware many of our children can achieve that in Year 3 if not younger. We are exceptionally lucky at Panshanger in that we still have our own swimming pool, enabling us to teach the children basic swimming strokes etc. We have always chosen to make use of another pool to allow the opportunity for deep water swimming and to help the children achieve the higher awards e.g. personal survival and the elite stroke badge. With this in mind we are negotiating with Monks Walk pool about the possibility of lessons being held there, as soon as we know more we will keep parents informed.

### **Dinner Money Charges for the Spring Term**

Please see below for this half terms charges:-

£64.80 for meals taken everyday

£14.40 - Friday Fun Lunches

£38.40 - for 3 meals per week

£28.80 - for 2 meals per week

Please ensure all meals are paid for in advance of the meal being taken via the Schoolcomms gateway or into the school office, thank you.

### **Bikeability Courses Level 1,2 & 3**

There will be an opportunity for children in years 4, 5 & 6 to take part in a Bikeability course (relevant for their age group) in March. Letters will be sent home next week with further information and payment details.

If you think your child would be interested in taking part in one of the courses please return the slip at the bottom of the letter **NO LATER THAN 19<sup>th</sup> JANUARY** so we can inform the trainers of numbers, thank you.

### **PTA future events**

Unfortunately the date for the PTA Disco has had to be changed, it will now be on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2018 (instead of the 19<sup>th</sup> January which is on the diary dates).

Sponsored event Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2018  
More information to follow.