

# GOVERNOR UPDATE

## Nursery off to flying start

Our new afternoon nursery 'Starfish Explorers' has gone from strength to strength since we launched it just eight months ago. We now have 16 children accessing the service across the week and we expect this to rise again in coming terms.

A lot of schools provide a nursery as it allows the children to get used to being in the classroom in advance of them officially starting school. This has a number of advantages:

- They get used to the routines so that when the do start Reception the time wasted during the day on basic tasks such as taking off their coats and settling down on the carpet is minimised.
- They have already started to learn phonics and numbers.
- They benefit from spending time with the older Reception children.
- They are already used to attending school so the trauma that some children feel when they start is reduced.



Children at Explorers have short lessons in phonics and writing as well as attending assembly and using the dedicated Starfish garden. They have also recently started baking with Mrs Whittles.

Ms Wolff said, "It has been lovely to

see the children develop in the short time they have been with us. "Our nursery children are amazing and gain so much from being with the older ones in Reception.



All of this means that the learning that takes place during the Reception year increases and the children are generally further on in their development.

"When we moved our Y1 out of Starfish and in with Y2 some parents were concerned that Reception children would be disadvantaged not having contact with the older year group but dedicated teaching in such a small class along with strong links and joint work with Y1 and Y2 has meant their progress has been fantastic. In addition, our Y1 have gained by being with Y2 and we are confident that we will have our best phonics screening results ever."

For more information on the nursery and availability of places please contact the school office.

# Exciting times ahead

You will know from the Friday newsletter that the coming year will see some changes in our teachers which will bring us some exciting new opportunities and fresh ideas. Having more full time teachers also offers us greater stability for the children. Read more about our plans for the coming year in the next newsletter.

**Hot off the press** - This year has seen some brilliant results in KS1. As well as our amazing phonics screening results, this year Y2's have managed to smash the national average scores in reading and maths which we have missed in previous years. They have also scored highly in SPAG (which isn't measured nationally) and only narrowly missed the writing target. These figures will set our children up fantastically for their entry into KS2. Well done to everyone involved, especially the children!

## Meet us in the pub!

Our fantastic Parents and Friends group is an amazing asset to the school and raises much needed funds to buy extra resources that a small school with a small budget would not be able to afford otherwise. This year alone their fundraising has allowed us to paint the lines and games on the playground, pay to decorate the school entrance and corridors, buy a portable PA system and an in-house theatre and that's just the start!



They are the dedicated force behind our summer and Christmas fayres as well as supporting a vast array of other events. The group are always on the look out for extra help either during the planning stages of events or helping on the day. They are also a friendly bunch and as a bonus their meetings are in the pub!

If Parents and Friends isn't for you, we are also always interested to hear from anyone who would like to become a governor. Not all posts require an election as we can co-opt people who want to work with us and have relevant skills.

The school benefits greatly from the time people offer. If you would like to get involved please contact the school office for more details.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### After School Club

Thank you for all your feedback on the After School Club. Our plans for September for our fantastic new club, including booking forms, will be sent to parents later this term.

### Waiting for Ofsted

We are still patiently waiting for our overdue Ofsted inspection. We fully expect this to happen before the summer and all parents will be offered the chance to give their views about our fantastic school. We will let you know as soon as we are notified that the inspectors will be arriving.



### Open all hours

Our school grounds are currently open after school hours and during the weekends and holidays for everyone in the community to enjoy. However, we are increasing coming across damage that has happened to school property out of hours. We really do not want to have to restrict access but also have to ensure that our property is protected and budgets are not wasted replacing damaged equipment. If you, your children or anyone you know uses the school grounds please can you remind them to take care and behave sensibly.

### Talk to us...

**We would love to hear what you think about this newsletter or any ideas you have for future content. Please speak to any of us at school or email us on [cofg@kirksmeaton.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:cofg@kirksmeaton.n-yorks.sch.uk)**