



The 4 C's Co-operation, Consideration, Courtesy and Care

Dear Parents/Carers,

I can hardly believe that we have reached the end of our first half-term. The children have settled in beautifully to their new year groups and both Nursery and Reception have quickly settled into school life.

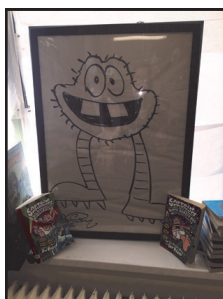
Premises update and buildings work

With the increase in demand for school dinners due to the universal infant free school meals, there is a requirement for the current school kitchen to be expanded.

We envisage the work to commence after half term, and will last a number of weeks. The work can progress safely during term time, however, as the car park will be affected, the gates at the back of the premises will need to be locked (this procedure will be in place after half-term). We recommend that if you have siblings, you drop/collect the eldest first at the start and end of the day via the KS2 playground and walk back via the front of school if you need to enter the KS1 playground.

We hope all children who are entitled to **Universal Infant Free school meals** have taken up the offer. Please see the office if you have any questions. For children in Juniors taking school meals the cost for the half-term is £71.75—this must be paid online in advance. Please encourage Junior children to bring a piece of fruit as a snack for break time.

The Author Dav Pilkey, of *Captain Underpants* fame visited school last week and shared his enthusiasm for both writing and illustrations. He read a section from a book that's due for publication in 2 years time!



Handsworth news

HOLA—We are delighted to have been joined by Alicia and Xavi our Spanish students from Valencia University. Our students are here with us until 10th December and have been teaching Spanish across the school. They are bringing an extra cultural dimension to school life which has been wonderful.



Year 6 at PGL

Our Year 6s have embarked on their residential journey to PGL on the Isle of Wight. Do log on to our website in order to follow their progress and share their exciting adventures. The School is very quiet without them!

Take one Picture— You are invited to join us for an Art Exhibition on Friday 21st November to celebrate our creative arts fortnight. Each year group will focus on a different artist/piece of artwork and be linked to the 'Ten Pieces' BBC music project. The KS1 exhibition will be in the small hall and KS2 in the Main Hall from 3.30–4.00pm.

Handsworth is **getting creative with classical music**—Over the coming year the children will be focussing on the BBC music project 'Ten Pieces'. Please see the BBC 2 website for more information <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p01vs08w>. They will learn about each piece of music and composer. We are hoping to be visited by professional musicians—watch this space as Handsworth might also get it's own Orchestra.



As you will be aware the school was inspected by Ofsted on the 3rd and 4th June 2014. We have queried the inspection report and frustratingly it has not been published some 20 weeks after the inspection. Whilst the Governors and I are unable to give any further information, rest assured that there are absolutely no concerns by Ofsted regarding any aspect of the school and as soon as the report is published we will of course notify you.

Parents evenings are on Tuesday 18th, and Wednesday 19th November. Letters will follow after the half term break. Do book an appointment so that you can share your child's achievements, progress and next steps of learning.

We are holding an open evening for Prospective Reception 2015 parents and carers on Wednesday 12th November from 4.00-6.00pm.

With the change in weather soon to be upon us, please ensure that your child comes to school in full correct school uniform which is all clearly labelled. In the event of adverse weather, do access the school website for information. We would however, endeavour to keep the school open at all times during term time. (Please do have shovels, if required, to the ready!).

A polite reminder—please do not tether dogs to any of the railings on the school perimeter. We have received complaints from passers by and parents.

Children who do not attend Handsworth should only be on Handsworth Premises if collecting a younger sibling, not to accompany a friend or meet a parent. Thank you for reinforcing this as we are trying to reduce unnecessary congestion within the playgrounds.



FOH FRIENDS OF HANDSWORTH
FOH have once again been organising some great events. The Macmillian coffee morning raised £295. Thank you so much for supporting. The children are looking forward to the School Disco this Thursday. The Christmas shopping evening is on Friday 28th November, Casino night on Saturday 6th December, Father Christmas visit Monday 15th, Tuesday 16th December, Christmas Tea and Cakes Friday 19th December (school closes at 2.30pm on this day). We hope you are able to come and support these great events. See the FOH tab on the website for further details.

Have a fabulous half term break and we look forward to seeing you on Monday 3rd November 2014 at 8.50am.

Jill

Dates for your Diary

Friday 24th October— Inset Day

Friday 7th November—Year 3 Wow day

Wednesday 12th November—Open evening Prospective Reception 2015 parents - 4pm-6pm

Friday 14th November—Children in Need (non-uniform)

Tues 18th & Wed 19th November—Parents Evening

Friday 21st November—Art Exhibition

Thursday 27th November—Year 5 Assembly

Thursday 4th December—Book Fair

Wed 10th & Thurs 11th December—KS1 Nativity

Thursday 16th December—Year 4 Trip Ragged Museum

**End Of Term—Friday 19th December 2014
at 2.30pm**

Monday 5th January 2015—Inset Day

Tuesday 6th January 2015—Start of Term

