



May 2019 Newsletter



This month's Christian value is **Friendship** which is linked to the 'Hackthorn Way' value of **Kindness**.
'Encourage one another and build each other up.'
1 Thessalonians 5.11



Dear Parents & Friends

You will notice that this month's newsletter is a little late. There has been so much happening that we struggled to put it together. We considered missing this month's edition until we realised that we had too much to celebrate so read on to find out what we've been up to.

The month started with interviews to find Mrs P's replacement. There was a lot of interest in the position and we are delighted to inform you that Mrs Sarah Walker will be our new finance administrator. She will start officially on 01 July but will have a transitional period leading up to that.

The children have already had three swimming sessions at Gainsborough Leisure Centre. There is always an air of excitement every Friday morning before they go. The value of 'Nurture' really is evident on these trips as the older children take good care of their younger buddies when they board the bus and help them get changed.

Our Year 5 pupils completed their Playmaker Award and are now applying their leadership skills, creating games for the younger children to keep them active during lunchtimes.

Y2 and Y6 pupils made us extremely proud during their 'Milk and Cookies' and 'Toast Week' (code words for SATs). The whole school is affected by these national tests as the KS1 classroom is converted into two exam rooms so the younger children have a week of outdoor learning. Fortunately the weather was favourable.

You may have heard from the children that we had two Headteachers visiting our school to conduct our Peer Review. I am delighted to say that Mr Jackson and Mrs Simmons commented very favourably about our school. Here are the areas of strength that they identified in their report:

Strengths

- A strong school ethos which permeates throughout the school
- Exemplary behaviour
- Confident, happy children who love their school
- Subject leaders who believe passionately in new initiatives
- A strong staff team committed to the children and further whole school improvement
- Creative use of space and resources, including adults which ensures children's learning is not compromised by heavily mixed year groups
- Very positive atmosphere throughout all areas of the school
- Children who are engaged, keen to learn and confident to share their learning
- Staff who have embraced the new Maths policy and are working hard to ensure it is implemented well
- Practical learning opportunities
- A broad curriculum which provides many opportunities for children to play a part in the local community

Areas for Development

All peer reviews must also identify areas for development. We were advised:

- To further enhance the school's approach to Maths teaching by increasing and evidencing opportunities for reasoning.
- To ensure that learning in topic work provides children with purposeful opportunities to apply skills learnt in core subjects.

Mrs K Appleby, Headteacher

School Attendance Needs You!

Further to our recent communication about poor attendance, Hackthorn Governors have met to have a rethink about the school's attendance policy. We hope that by working with parents, carers, children and teaching staff the overall attendance rates can be improved.

Primarily, we appeal to parents and carers to be mindful of the impacts that avoidable absences (holidays in particular) have on children as well as the overall quality of education at the school. When avoidable absences do occur, it is not only the child who is removed from the educational setting who misses out. There are also disruptions to the rest of the children in the classroom and the teaching staff to be considered. One child's absence creates additional work for all. We ask that you make alternative plans to ensure your children have the maximum opportunity to attend, progress and achieve in their education.

In the coming weeks we will be releasing a revised attendance policy which strives to clarify our objectives and collective responsibilities regarding attendance. The Board of Governors recognises that there is no magic wand when it comes to getting it right with attendance so we welcome any thoughts and ideas from the school community that would help on this agenda.

Thanks in advance for your co-operation.

Will Payne (Chair of Hackthorn Governing Body)



May Day Dances - Thursday 23 May

We do hope that you will be able to join us tomorrow, Thursday 23 May, for our annual May Day dancing (weather permitting) which will be open to the local community. The children will also be performing some musical items.

FOHS will be serving refreshments from 1.30pm and organising a raffle. (All donations of cakes/prizes will be very gratefully received in school tomorrow morning).

School Website

Term dates for the 2019/20 and 2020/21 academic years are now on the school website.

Whilst visiting our website, don't forget to click on the Good Works Assemblies section to see photos of the children participating in some of the many exciting events and activities that we run.



DAY OFF!

Don't forget that there is **no school on Wednesday 19 June**. Originally this was earmarked as an INSET Day for staff and an opportunity for parents to attend the Lincolnshire Show (if they wished). However staff worked an additional day in January in order to update their First Aid training so they too will benefit from the day off.



23 May	May Day Dancing (pm)	03 July	Second Y6 Transition Day at William Farr School
05 June	Y6 at Church Schools' Festival	04 July	KS1 Trip to Chapel St. Leonards
06 June	Centurion Sports tournament (at Sturton)	12 July	Last School Swimming Session
13 June	FOHS Meeting at school (3.35pm) - all welcome!	15 July	Lincolnshire Music Services performance
18 & 20 June	KS2 Production	16 July	Centurion Sports Festival (weather permitting)
19 June	INSET Say	17 July	Sports Day (as above!)
01 July	KS2 trip to Lincoln Mosque	19 July	Last Day of Term (2pm Leavers' Service at Church)
02 July	First Y6 Transition Day at William Farr School (‘Move Up Day’ for rest of school)		