



Parent Link

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Issue 35
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2024



Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you all had a wonderful time over the Christmas holidays, and are able to stay warm now the weather is turning colder.

As you can imagine, we have had a busy start to the term. One of the best part is that we are now able to get more classes swimming again. Our wonderful pool is a fantastic resource and our amazing staff have worked so hard to ensure we are fully compliant and keeping everyone safe. Mikey (swim instructor) and Janine (life guard) are enjoying getting to know more pupils across the whole school.

The new topics are well underway in the classes for this term and it is wonderful to see so much happening around the school and in the community. At our Downley site, we now have a fantastic display as you walk in to the school showing some examples of the pupils involvement in the community.

We have had some year 10 pupils come from Alfriston School this week to work with Deer Class in the garden. This is a long term project that they will be working on this term.

On Wednesday, a group of students from both Downley and Cressex sites took part in Young Voices at The O2. They had a wonderful time and represented the school really well. A huge thank you to the staff who took them.



Finally, I would like to remind you about the Transitions Fayre and Valentines Quiz coming up in February.

Rachel Chapman



Calendar dates

Spring Term: 5th Jan 24 – 24th May 2024
School Holidays: 12th Feb – 16th Feb

Parent Volunteers

Every Thursday (from 15.09.22) 9-10.30am

Attendance reminder

We continue to focus on good attendance for all our pupils and request that holidays are not booked in term time.

Newsletter Dates 2023-24

Please note the dates for the newsletters being sent out this year are:

- September - 15th
- October - 13th
- November - 17th
- December - Tuesday 19th (end of term)
- January - 19th
- February - 23rd
- March - Thursday 28th (end of term)
- April - 26th
- May - 24th
- June - 28th
- July - Tuesday 23rd July (end of term)

News from around the school

Little Wings

Hi all, As some of you may have been aware, I have decided to take a career break to go travelling. I am so sad to leave you all but on the same note, I am so lucky to have been able to work with you all and with your children. I will also like to take the opportunity to let you know that Sam, Rainbow Department Lead will be taking over Little Wings department. she is working really closely to me to have a very smooth and great handover so she can keep supporting all of you in all levels. Best regards, Patri

Rainbow

Welcome back to a new term, it has been lovely to see all the children back and settling into their routines. I hope you all had an enjoyable Christmas break with your children. Please do send in photos of any wow moments from the holidays to your child's class team if you haven't done so already. Our topic this term is 'Around the World.' Children have already enjoyed lots of fun and engaging activities linked to this. Given the current drop in temperatures, please ensure your child comes to school with plenty of warm clothing and wellington boots if they tolerate these. Sam

Treetops

Welcome back to a new term, it has been lovely to see all the children back in school after Christmas break. Our topic this half term is 'Road safety and travel'. Children have already enjoyed lots of fun and engaging activities linked to this. Wishing you all a fantastic term ahead. Please send photos of any WOW moments to your class teams. Have a lovely weekend everyone. Magda

Coppice

Hello everyone and Happy New Year! In the Coppice Department we are facing 2024 with lots of ideas and enthusiasm in order to continue supporting our students through their learning journey. This week, some of the pupils in Deer Class joined the Gemstones Department to perform in the Young Voices concert in London. In Squirrel class everyone has been very busy learning about money using real coins and our sixth formers became real journalists and spent the first couple of weeks designing, researching and writing their own class magazine 'The Fox Gazette'. The first issue will be shared soon... Exciting! Sarai

Woodland

Happy New Year to everyone, we hope you all had a lovely couple of weeks with your families. Everyone seems to have returned to school refreshed and ready to go. We are thrilled that the swimming is now getting into full swing after a huge amount of effort and training, we know how much all the students have missed it and we thank you for your on-going support whilst we have worked through this. I have seen some lovely ideas and ways to delve into our topic of countries this term across the department and it looks to be a really exciting time of experiencing lots of sights, smells and sounds from other parts of the world. Kara.

Coral

Welcome back after the holidays, I hope you have a restful one and enjoyed the festivities. Spring term is quite a short one and we have a lot to squeeze into it! This term our topic is Colour and Light and we will be exploring this through lots of fun, messy and creative activities. This term Coral team and the SALT are working closely with the learners to get them to use their communication systems to express their preferences on whether they like or dislike the sensory experiences with colour and light. Just a reminder as it gets colder, please pack extra layers of clothing and a warm coat. Thanks, Izzy

Gemstones

Dear all, Happy New Year! I hope you all managed to have a wonderful, well-deserved break. It was great welcoming the pupils back and we are already fully engrossed in learning and experiences within the department. As always, there are many things planned for this term: Echoes, Red Nose Day, World Book Day and for some classes, swimming! Please do check Dojo frequently as this is where we will post events and updates about the WOW days and class activities. **WOW moment:** On Wednesday this week, a few pupils from the department took the stage at the London 02, singing in the Young Voices choir. The pupils were absolutely fantastic and we were ever-so proud of them. Going to London is a big step for some of our students, and to think they stood up in front of 80,000 people makes the memory even more special. A huge congratulations to all children that participated. Have a great rest of your week, Sara Andreopoulos.

Staffing Update

January Staffing Update

It is with great sadness that we say a fond farewell to the following staff this month:

Goodbye to:

- Kathryn
- Dacia
- Pippa
- Paula G
- Patri



I'm sure you all join me in wishing them all the very best for the future.

And also leaving to begin their Maternity Leave – we have:

- Kirstie
- Hannah V
- Abi E

We wish you all the best as this next chapter unfolds for your families.

Finally, congratulations to Brittany who gave birth to a son on 23rd December.

Amy J

News from Governors

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you all had a lovely Christmas break and that it is not too late to wish you Happy New Year!

I was in school last week and it was lovely to see the children and young people back in school and engaged in the classrooms.

Before Christmas, Claire Long and I visited Coral department. We saw some of the pupils engaged in the classroom working on different activities but others were taking part in swimming when we made our visit. It was lovely to see the same pupils in a different setting and how the water allowed them to have a greater freedom of movement and the confidence they displayed. We could see the enjoyment on their faces. In the water it was 1:1 adult/pupil and there was also a lifeguard and a spotter on the side of the pool. There was a swim teacher and the classroom staff have also been trained so that the pupils are well supervised. The pool brings many benefits to the children; changing, showering and dressing are all preparation for adulthood. Claire is now the link governor for Coral Department.

I am looking forward to this being another good term.

Best wishes

Ann Waterman

Chair of Governors

PARENT EVENTS

SPRING TERM 1 2024

Week commencing	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8th Jan	Parent Support Group Theme: Post-Christmas Self Care 10am-12 at St Andrew's Church run by SPACE Buckinghamshire			Parent Volunteers 9-10.30am at Cressex site run by Parent Ambassador	
15th Jan		When Dreams Change Parent Course runs for 4 weeks from 9.30-11.30am Venue: tbc Run by our Parent Ambassador & SPACE Buckinghamshire		Parent Volunteers 9-10.30am at Cressex site run by Parent Ambassador	
22nd Jan		When Dreams Change Parent Course runs for 4 weeks from 9.30-11.30am Venue: tbc Run by our Parent Ambassador & SPACE Buckinghamshire	Puberty Coffee Morning for parents of Girls 9-10am at Cressex Run by Wendy Taylor	Parent Volunteers 9-10.30am at Cressex site run by Parent Ambassador	
29th Jan		When Dreams Change Parent Course runs for 4 weeks from 9.30-11.30am Venue: tbc Run by our Parent Ambassador & SPACE Buckinghamshire	Puberty Coffee Morning for parents of Boys 9-10am at Cressex Run by Wendy Taylor	Parent Volunteers 9-10.30am at Cressex site run by Parent Ambassador	
5th Feb		When Dreams Change Parent Course runs for 4 weeks from 9.30-11.30am Venue: tbc Run by our Parent Ambassador & SPACE Buckinghamshire		Parent Volunteers 9-10.30am at Cressex site run by Parent Ambassador	
12th Feb	Parent Support Group Families Event 10am-12 Venue: tbc run by SPACE Buckinghamshire	Half Term			

External Training to check out:

My Family Coach classes book at www.myfamilycoach.com/parenting-classes

SPACE events book via www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/space-hertfordshire-2915520957#collections

Newbold Hope Training - www.newboldhope.com

Parent Ambassador Update



Growing
HOPE

WHEN DREAMS CHANGE

A 4 week course for parents and carers exploring:

- What happens when dreams change and how we process & adjust our expectations to our child's additional needs
- The impact of stress and strategies to combat it
- The importance of good social networks and how to improve them
- How to "be real" with friends and family about the difficulties
- Who you are - your identity and skills
- A chance to make new dreams

On: Tuesday 16th, 23rd, 30th
January and 6th Feb

From: 9.30-11.30am

Venue: tbc in High Wycombe

Facilitated by Liz, Chiltern Wood
School Parent Ambassador & SPACE
Buckinghamshire Facilitator

To book a place, e-mail
lwebber@chilternwood.bucks.sch.uk

Loads of questions about:



PARENTING BOYS THROUGH PUBERTY

PUBLIC

PRIVATE

**Puberty Coffee Morning
for Parents of Boys**

**On 31st January 2024
from 9am at our Cressex site**
(open to parents from both sites)

Come along to find out more about:

- What we teach in school about this
- Books and resources for you and your son
- A chance to hear from one of our parents about their experience with this
- And a chance to ask your questions!

Loads of questions about:

PERIODS & PUBERTY



Puberty Coffee Morning for Parents of Girls

On 24th January 2024
from 9am at our Cressex site
(open to parents from both sites)

Come along to find out more about:

- What we teach in school about this
- Books and resources for you and your daughter
- A chance to look at different period products
- And a chance to ask your questions!



Should I keep my child off school?

Yes

Until...

Chickenpox	at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over
Diarrhoea and Vomiting	48 hours after their last episode
Cold and Flu-like illness (including COVID-19)	they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. Follow the national guidance if they've tested positive for COVID-19.
Impetigo	their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics
Measles	4 days after the rash first appeared
Mumps	5 days after the swelling started
Scabies	they've had their first treatment
Scarlet Fever	24 hours after they started taking antibiotics
Whooping Cough	48 hours after they started taking antibiotics

No

but make sure you let their school or nursery know about...

Hand, foot and mouth	Glandular fever
Head lice	Tonsillitis
Threadworms	Slapped cheek



SCAN ME

Advice and guidance

To find out more, search for health protection in schools or scan the QR code or visit <https://qrco.de/minfec>.

If your child has had a temperature of **37.8 and or above** they can return to school after they've been **fever-free for 24 hours without antipyretics**.

Antipyretics are medicines such as liquid paracetamol (Calpol) and liquid ibuprofen (Nurofen).