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April Newsletter 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

What a month March was in terms of enrichment experiences for our children! Here are some pictures to celebrate many inspiring moments.

South Downs National Park – Ambassador School



Just before the COVID Lockdowns, we were bestowed the honour of being the first Ambassador School (one of only two in the whole of the national park!) for the South Downs National Park. This is in recognition of our curriculum; links to the national park; our enrichment opportunities and commitment to developing our outdoor spaces for learning and play. We are also the only school that has invited other schools, from outside the SDNP, to use Droxford for a base of learning and camping onsite.

For more information on how the National Park has promoted us this month, please see the article below.

<https://mailchi.mp/3b4db5671a0a/lots-on-offer-across-the-south-downs-national-park-6125623?e=86fe05774a>

Spring Dig Day

Another successful day. We have planted two new ornamental Cherry trees at the front of the school to match the rest that we have. Volunteers grafted away preparing the soil in the planters on the playground and then planted many new pollinator friendly plants. The staffroom was repainted as was the main storage shed in the carpark. A lot of weeding, pruning and other planting was achieved ready for Spring / Summer growth. Thank you all for helping out!!!



Easter Fair



The children have been very excited about the Easter Fair (it is also the last day of term so that might explain the heightened excitement for everyone!). Well done to all those who ran stalls and contributed to these – parents included. Thank you to FODS and Miss Barnett for organisation and co-ordination. The enterprise and enthusiasm has been inspiring!

Ross Montgomery (author) – Roving Books – Parents Evening

It was seen as one of the most popular author events we have ever had. Ross Montgomery enthralled and entertained all day long. Children bought books and got them signed and enjoyed another day in a real (in school) bookshop! You helped to raise £200 in commission as the children spent over £1200 at the bookshop on the day and also used their £1 World Book Day vouchers.



Books to Africa / Fundraising

Since 2020 – between the National COVID Lockdowns I have twice taken unwanted library and school books to a charity in Canterbury. Books2Africa then send these books to distribution centres that then send the books on to schools that would really benefit from them. So far our books have ended up in Uganda and Nigeria. I recently took more books to Canterbury with the hope we can make a difference to those schools in villages and townships in Africa.



We were also extremely impressed with the children in school with their fundraising endeavours for families in Turkey and Syria (following on from the devastating earthquake) and red nose day. The children raised over £430 for these good causes.

Year 3 / 4 Southampton Art Gallery trip.



Our children continued their field work – comparing our village to the city of Southampton – in their 'Contrasting Localities' Geography topic. They also had a fantastic experience at the city art gallery learning about all the exhibits and famous art works there. The children also took part in creating self portraits in wire – all linked to our school curriculum.



And finally...



As you are probably aware, our site manager, Mr Vardy is leaving us to go and work at another school in Hedge End. Very sad news, he does so many important tasks in and around school and we will miss his positivity and cheery personality very much. I have worked with him for over 12 years and I know the value of dedicated, capable and friendly staff. We have advertised for a site manager on the Hants job website – if you know anyone who would be

interested in the role please see the advert below.

<https://hampshire.education-jobs.org.uk/Vacancy/Details/107079/L1ZhY2FuY3kvU2VhcmNoUmVzdWx0cz9yZXRyaWV2ZUZp bHRlci10cnVI>

His road crossing role is separate and organised through the Local Authority. They (the LA) have said they won't be able to replace him as it is not a high risk road (?!).

Therefore, I will do the crossing in the morning (this may not always be possible as you can appreciate) and staff will do it at the end of the day. I am not asking staff to do it at the start of the day as they have so much to do and some are on the playground in the morning anyway. If anyone has a solution for the mornings to help the situation I'd be most grateful to hear. It's not ideal – we will discuss safe crossing with the children in school – please could you also if your child does cross at this junction at the bottom of school.

Finally, finally....

To all our staff and children who have worked so hard this term – thank you! You are all amazing! Take it easy for two weeks. Bring back the sunshine when you return

Best wishes

Matthew Dampier
Headteacher

Vision: 'Equipping our children with the knowledge and skills to navigate life successfully'.

