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March Newsletter 2024

Dear Parents

The Easter Fair is on the last day of term and is sure to be as successful as ever. The children enjoy running the fair as much as eating its content! Details of timings can be seen here and communications about stalls etc...have been sent out. The office are always happy to help if needed.

Please note this is the last day of term and school finishes at 3:30 when the fair will then start. Please ensure child knows how they are getting home on the day.

Please check e-mails from FODS as this poster has a 'live' booking link please information about the stalls and jarbola.

It's the final countdown to the first ever FODS Bingo night, here at school on **Saturday 9th March**. There are still a few tickets left so get in touch with events.fods@gmail.com if you, or anyone you know, would like to come - all are very welcome!



There are some great raffle prizes too: Southampton Boat Show tickets, Hambledon Vineyard tour, Victorious Festival tickets, and the raffle will be drawn on the night.

Friday 15th March: Red Nose Day... <https://www.comicrelief.com/rednoseday>



This will be a non-school uniform day – children can dress red and donate £1 for the Comic Relief charity please.

For 2024, Comic Relief proudly presents the funniest Red Noses yet, perfect if you've got lots of Noses waiting to Do Something Funny for Money!

There will be four fun characters to collect – as well as a 1 in 166 chance to get your hands on a limited edition Rare 'Gold' Nose! The Noses are made from plant-based materials meaning they can be recycled at home and are suitable for children aged 3 and above.

They're Silly, But Will Make A Serious Difference.

Fun-filled and full of laughter, there is a serious point to our iconic little Red Noses. The money raised from their sale can change people's lives. It's that simple. Year after year, our famous Red Noses remind us that even the littlest of things can make a huge difference.

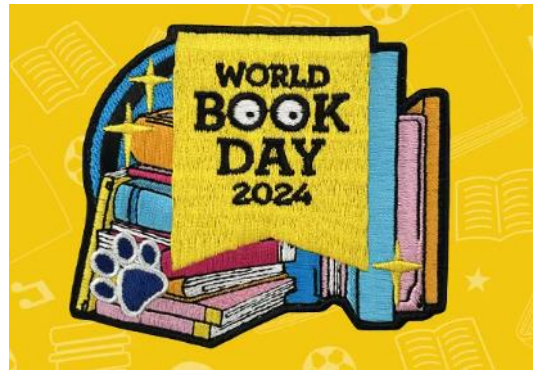
We will be selling Red Noses in school by the end of the week. They cost £2 each – we have enough for every child in school!



World Book Day 2024

Although the recognised World Book day is this week, as previously communicated our celebration of reading will be on Thursday 21st March. This is when The Roving Bookshop returns. We will have our own book day – a non school uniform day (but not football kits) with children wearing clothes they would read books in.....if children want to come in a costume they still ca.

Next week Miss Jones will lead an assembly on reading for pleasure and explain more about our special book day. More information about the bookshop will go to classes the week beginning 18th March.



We will give every child a £1 book token on the 21st March, which they can all use to buy special £1 World Book Day books at the Roving Bookshop on the day.

Amazon Wishlist



We have been completely blown away by your response to our new Amazon Wishlist project. The idea behind this, masterminded brilliantly by our Finance Officer, Mrs Sam Paine, is to help the school financially but in a targeted way.

As we know FODS organise large FUNdraising events for the children whereby the money raised goes back in to many enrichment opportunities for the children; music tuition for all; author visits; new computers; theatre company visits and books for the library to mention but a few. However, we still spend a lot of money on smaller resources in our wider curriculum.

By setting up this wish list, Mrs Paine has now given you all the chance to help in so many ways. As you can see we have been inundated! The list is almost empty (we weren't sure how successful it would be) so we are adding more as the list is constantly 'live'. You've really made a difference. For instance Miss Barnett has all the Science equipment she asked for. 'It's just like Christmas!' she said 😊 Please follow the link below to help wherever you can...

<https://amzn.eu/09G0kab>

Parents Evening

Just a reminder that Parents Evening bookings are now 'live' and can be booked through the Arbor App.

Wednesday 20th March 3:50 – 7
Thursday 21st March 3:50 – 7

Roving bookshop will be in school until 7 on Thursday 21st March

Spring Dig Day (date change)

Now...Saturday 20th April - anytime between 9 – 3pm

The next phase for the school grounds development needs some more parent support and muscle power. If you are available anytime between 9 and 3pm on **Saturday 20th April** (and yes you can drop in and out anytime that suits you) and are willing to do some gardening, wood work or painting in school, then we would be most grateful.

These events have been so successful in the past: a lovely way to catch up with people and meet new parents and help the school in a very community spirited way. Autumn Dig Day was a huge success. Myself and Mr Parkin will be in attendance all day to support.

Children are more than welcome to attend and help if that helps with child-care and we can also cater for them in terms of entertainment and food!

Lunch will be provided (midday) - free pizza (inc. vegetarian option), salad, coleslaw and cake. Tea, coffee, squash and biscuits will also be provided to keep people hydrated and happy throughout.

If you wish to help with planting / gardening; maintenance or painting on the day – at anytime, please let the school office know and we can start to plan for the day and also lunch.

Many thanks in advance and for your continued support.

And finally...



Last week, as you will be aware, Droxford Junior School had an Ofsted inspection. The first in 12 years and as Headteacher for 10 years at Droxford now, one I've been waiting for for a long while (even though I was here for the previous two). Being an Ofsted rated 'Outstanding' school, we were exempt from inspection for many years.

After the tragic death of the Headteacher Ruth Perry and subsequent enquiry, much has been discussed about the wellbeing of leaders and the conduct of inspectors and Ofsted in general.

I would say that last week was particularly gruelling and we felt we were under the microscope with the inspection conducted in an extremely forensic way. Both Inspectors were Secondary school based which added an extra layer of challenge as we really fought for our school to be 'seen' as the great school it is.

The children were incredible as always and staff worked tirelessly and expertly with great knowledge and experience as they always do.

When the report is released in April, we can share more detail. Thank you all for your kind words, support and completing the Ofsted survey – which really helped us.

Matthew Dampier
Headteacher

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

