

Rook's Nest Academy Newsletter

Issue 14—5th February 2016



We are always happy to speak to parents and offer any support we can. It is important to remember that your child's teacher will only be available before or after school as they are busy teaching and I will not allow for this time to be interrupted. The class teacher needs to be parent's first port of call if you have any concerns about your child's education or matters that have arisen throughout the school day. If, after speaking to the class teacher, you still require further support or information you should then contact a member of the Senior Leadership Team or Pastoral Team – depending on your needs. At the moment I am receiving an almost overwhelming proportion of parent's questions and concerns that have not, in the first instance, been addressed with the class teacher. As you can appreciate this requires a lot of my time being diverted from running the Academy which is not necessarily fair on the 380 students that we cater for. I have always had, and will continue to have, an open door policy but I would urge parents to have tried all the appropriate channels first.

EYFS Leader – Mrs Smith

KS1 Leader, Assistant Head, Attendance Officer, Designated Lead for Safeguarding and SENCO – Mrs Cooke

KS2 Leader – Mrs Harper

Deputy Head – Mr Milfull

Learning Support Mentor – Mrs Hampshire

Associate SENCO – Mrs Corscadden



Young Voices

On the 20th January, Year 6 travelled to Sheffield to attend the Young Voices Concert. After a gruelling 3 hour rehearsal, the lights finally went out and the show began. It was an amazing night where we got to perform with an incredible 6000 other children and a host of exciting famous faces. The children sang their hearts out and we all had a wonderful, albeit exhausting, night.

Mon 15th Feb—First day of half-term

Fri 19th Feb—EYFS Parents' Meeting 3:30

Wed 24th Feb—KS1 Visit
Pontefract Castle

Thu 4th Mar— Rook's Nest
Celebration of World Book Day (Not for parents to attend)

Mon 7th-Thu 10th Mar—
Scholastic Book Fair (3:30-4:00)

Wed 9th Mar—Music Concert
2:30pm (Invitation Only—for parents of musicians performing)

Thu 10th Mar—Upper KS2
Roman Feast (Parents from 2:45 onwards)
Foundation Enrichment Day
11:15 and 3:00

Mon 14th Mar 3:30-5:30—
Parents' Evening

Tue 15th Mar 3:30-6:30—
Parents' Evening

Wed 16th Mar— Sports Relief
"Road to Rio" - Children to dress in sports wear appropriate for weather

Thu 17th Mar—Lower KS2
Egyptian Fashion Show 2:15 onwards
School Breaks up for Holidays

Fri 18th Mar—INSET Day

Mon 4th Apr—First Day of Summer Term



Years 5 and 6 had a Roman Visitor

The children were involved in defending Rome, singing roman songs and dressing up. They were transported back to a roman village

Years 3 and 4 Trip to Leeds Museum

We had two lovely days at Leeds Museum looking at Egyptian artefacts and taking part in workshop activities. We even learned how to mummify.



Learning Support Mentor

We are very lucky to have a full time Learning Support Mentor in the Academy. Mrs Hampshire works very hard with children and families and her time needs to be directed to a variety of different learning and support opportunities throughout the day. She has always had an open

door policy but this is impacting on the rigorous timetable we have in place for her. In order for her to continue delivering her invaluable services I need to request that any meetings you may need to have with her in future are restricted, where possible, to after 3:15. Appointments can be made with Mrs Hampshire by contacting the Academy office with some indication of the reason behind the meeting so a suitable time can be allocated.

Changes to Foundation for next year

We are in an exciting position where we are able to offer a new strengthening to Early Years Provision. Research, and our own evidence, has shown how powerful it is to expand the Early Years pedagogy into KS1, especially in the transition period of the first term. We are looking to make some changes to classroom layout and grouping of children for next year that will make this position even more tangible. In a restructuring for next year we are looking to run 3 closely related classes – Reception, Reception/Year 1 and a Year 1. We would like to offer Foundation parents the opportunity to hear about this exciting development by attending a meeting when we return after the half term holiday. The meeting on Friday 19th February at 3:30 onwards will allow staff to discuss the changes that we are so excited about. This meeting will only be for the parents of Upper and Lower Foundation children.

Lost Property
Next half term we will be having a charity “rag” collection. Any long term lost property will be added to this so if you have lost something, come and get it soon!

School Library
We have had a good response to our request for book donations. It really does help the children to have a wider variety of books on our shelves so keep them coming!

Tomorrow's World
Thank you to everyone who came to the Esafety talk last week. We received a lot of interest in finding out more information on how you can help your children to be safe online. We have an expression of interest form at the bottom of this page. If you would like us to put on a 1 hour after school session in which we can give more detailed advice, then please fill in and return the slip (include in comments specifics you would like covered). With enough interest we will be holding this event

Art Gallery
During the parents’ evenings you will have the opportunity to enjoy an art gallery with work created by the pupils. Items of art will be for sale so bring your wallets and funds raised will help support future art projects.

Esafety Evening

I would like to express my interest in attending an Esafety after school meeting.

My child _____ in class _____

Comments: _____
