

9th February 2017

Issue: 134

Upcoming School Events

Friday 10 th February	9am	Safer Internet Day Celebration Assembly
Friday 10 th February	Afternoon	Great Alfriston Spelling Bee
Friday 10 th February	3.30pm	End of Term – February Holiday Starts
Monday 20 th February	8.45am	Children Return to School
Wednesday 22 nd February	Morning	Jo & Hugo the Reading Dog
Thursday 23 rd February	Morning	Healthy Eating Workshop - Years 5 & 6
Thursday 23 rd February	Afternoon	Years 5 & 6 Sussex Cricket Competition
Friday 24 th February	9am	Swift Conservation Project in Celebration Assembly

Dear Parents/Carers,

Attendance

Our target is 96%.

Week Beginning	Attendances	Authorised Absences	Unauthorised Absences	Lates
30 th January 2017	96.43%	3.47%	0.10%	0.40%

Safer Internet Day Assembly

Tuesday was national 'Safer Internet Day'. We used this to emphasise safety when using the internet, however this is an issue that we constantly highlight. The theme for this year was *'Be the change: unite for a better internet'* and classes throughout the school have been considering how to be safe online through activities and discussion linked to this theme. Tomorrow, Friday, each class will present one area of their learning about Safer Internet Day in our Celebration Assembly at 9am. We would love to see as many of you at this assembly as possible.

Great Alfriston Spelling Bee

Tomorrow, 10th February, we will be holding our first Great Alfriston Spelling Bee, a spelling competition, organised by the House Captains. Children from all classes will be competing and earning points for their Houses. On this occasion, we will be inviting the whole school to watch but we hope to be able to make it a regular event so that, in the future, we will be able to invite parents, too.

Netball Tournament

On Monday the 'Alfriston All Stars' Netball Team took part in a netball tournament with other local schools. The tournament was for Years 5 – 6 teams and due to us being a small school our team comprised of pupils from Years 4 upwards! The team performed amazingly; they showed great professionalism in their play and truly worked as a team. They ended up winning 2 out of their 3 games and were only 1 point off being overall winners of the competition. I attended the tournament and was most impressed with the team, so congratulations to them all. Many thanks to our netball coach Ros Hannan who was also present at the event supporting the team.

RSPB Birdwatch Day

On Wednesday we were visited by Steph and Joe from the RSPB. They spent time with each class discussing the variety of birds we see in our local area and then they went outside with the children to take part in a birdwatch and count. The types and number of birds they saw will be recorded as part of the national RSPB Birdwatch programme. The children found this event most interesting and they really enjoyed it. It was lovely to see the children so engaged in nature. Thank you to Mrs Ottaway for organising it.

Swift Conservation Project

We will be holding 2 after school clubs for children and parents to help make swift nesting boxes which will be installed in the tower of Berwick Church along with a calling device to help attract the birds. The project will be introduced to everyone in an assembly on Friday 24th February with the workshops taking place on Thursday 9th March and Wednesday 15th March. A separate letter with all the details was sent home earlier this week. Please return the reply slips to the office by 24th February if you and your child/children would like to take part in the workshops. Hopefully following the RSPB's visit today the children are enthused and eager to join in with this project. **Please note that due to the nature of the workshop, an adult must accompany the child/children.** I'm sorry that this wasn't made clear on the original letter sent home; the point has only just been clarified to us.

Hugo the Reading Dog

We are really looking forward to having some special visitors here at school during the morning of Wednesday 22nd February. Jo, a member of staff from a local school, will be visiting us with her dog Hugo, to listen to the children to read. She will be joining us for assembly when Hugo will be introduced to the children and they will be shown how to approach him in a calm and appropriate manner. Then Jo and Hugo will visit each class for a story time/reading session and the children will have the opportunity to stroke Hugo afterwards. At break time Jo and Hugo will be out on the playground with the children giving further opportunity for the children to interact with Hugo. If your child/children has any allergies to dogs, or a fear of dogs, please do let us know beforehand.

Parent Consultation Evenings

Please remember to book a parent consultation session to see your child/children's class teacher. Appointments are available for either Tuesday 28th February between 3.45pm - 5pm & 6pm - 8pm or Thursday 2nd March from 3.45pm to 6pm. Clipboards are available on the playground at the start and end of the day to enable you to book a slot. We can only make appointments over the phone for minibus and taxi children.

Chartwells Meeting and Lunch

Yesterday, our school meals provider, Chartwells, held a meeting with parents, pupils and governors about school lunches and then parents stayed with us as guests for lunch. Parents have commented on how useful the meeting was and how interesting it was to see the organisation of the school lunch procedure and the variety and quality of food that the children are offered. Some of the attendees were surprised to learn that all food is made freshly on site daily with the exception of sausages, fish, chips, peas and sweetcorn, which are delivered frozen. Thank you to the Chartwells staff for attending the meeting and to Sarah from ESCC who also came along, as well as to the parents/carers and governors for attending the meeting and the lunch. Many thanks go to Alison, our school cook, and Sam, her assistant, for cooking and serving lunch for all of the extra guests.

We will be working closely with Chartwells over the next few months with lunch promotions, workshops with 'Mr Broccoli' and taster sessions.

We are sending home today a copy of the revised school lunch menu which takes into account the alterations that have been necessary to fit in with our Healthy Schools Policy. This sees the removal of chocolate from the desserts. The children will also be bringing home a bookmark that Chartwells kindly gave them yesterday.

Clubs

A separate letter providing all the details about the clubs on offer for next term has been sent out today.

Cross Country Tournament

The tournament organisers changed the date for this event and it will now take place on Friday 17th March. A new letter was sent home last week containing all the details. The course will be approximately 1.6km of flat terrain, with separate races for boys and girls. We would really like to see as many children from Years 4 - 6 taking part in this as possible. Please note that if you did return a permission slip for the original date, we will require a new slip for the revised date. Please can all permission slips be returned to the office by Monday 20th February.

News From The Friends of Alfriston School (FoAS) Email foaschool@gmail.com

Race and Curry Night – this will take place on Friday 10th March at 7pm in the school hall. Tickets are £10 each and will include a lovely homemade curry, and there will also be a cash bar. Tickets will go on sale after the February holiday. Please come, it'll be a great night out! (Sorry, this is an adult only event).

Have a lovely February break and I look forward to seeing you back at school on Monday 20th February.

Yours sincerely,



Lindsey Hudson – Headteacher