

CAGE GREEN NEWSLETTER



February 2017

Dear Parents/Carers and Children,

Welcome to the February edition of the Cage Green Newsletter. Christmas now seems to have faded into the distance and we're looking forward to Spring and all that it brings - in particular the warmer weather!

I would like to begin this month's newsletter by introducing two new members of staff that started in January, Mrs Zoe Bridge And Mrs Fiona Ashton who are both working as Teaching Assistants in Year R.

As many of you know Mrs Middleton, our Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCo) is pregnant and is expecting her first child in mid February. Therefore Mrs Middleton started her maternity leave last week and will hopefully return by the end of the academic year. The school has been very fortunate to be able to appoint a very experienced SENCo while Mrs Middleton is on maternity leave. Ms C Wickham will be working three days a week (Monday to Wednesday) and will take over all Mrs Middleton's responsibilities. One of these areas is attendance - a small selection of parents have received letters to meet with Ms C Wickham regarding attendance but inevitably, many of you have approached Miss J Wickham in the playground (our Year 1 teacher) enquiring about the meeting. Therefore I do apologise for this confusion since I was waiting for this newsletter to formally introduce her. I know Ms C Wickham is looking forward to working here at Cage Green and will be a huge asset to the school.

As reported in the previous weeks bulletins there have been many events happening in and around the school ranging from sporting fixtures to the Year 6 attending the Young Voices Concert, to the children having the opportunity to learn from Steve Clifford who is an author of many successful books. We also had a very successful Indian Festival Day in school which Year 1 and 2 particularly enjoyed since India was the chosen topic this term. I've included a few pictures on the following page.

On the 26 January Theatre ADAD came in to school to perform their play about drug awareness entitled 'Wasted'. One of the children in Year 6 was asked to write a short commentary on the play:

"They showed us how dangerous drugs are to you. After the play they asked us if we knew any drug substances. Lots of pupils of Year Six knew illegal drugs and how bad they are to your immune system. They re-did some parts of the play and we had to try and figure out: how they felt, what they were doing, how they were responding. The main character was Ryan. He took drugs to impress his friends, but it went over the top. Then we had a discussion about who made Ryan have the drugs. Some people said it was the drug dealer, but other people said it was Ryan's own fault".

I have included a link to the website below which details what the play was about so parents/carers can have further discussion with their children if they so wish.

<http://theatreadad.co.uk/drugsandsubstancemisuse.html>

I had the delight in joining 5CH on their last two visits to Tonbridge Boys School as part of their four week Science enrichment sessions. The children were asked to think of a way to protect an egg dropped from the first floor of Tonbridge School. They were given a set amount of money and had to purchase the materials they needed to make their design. As you can imagine many eggs were harmed in the making of this experiment but a few did survive! The children were able to test their knowledge of gravity and air resistance as well as their mathematical skills.

Parent Consultation Evenings

A reminder that Parent Consultation Evenings will be held on the 14 and 16 March (please note change of date) where you will be given the opportunity to discuss your child's progress as well as the next steps in his/her learning. It will also be an opportunity to ask any individual questions regarding the terminology in assessing children. We will be using the same online system as before and this will go live on **Monday 27 February**. Any issues with booking appointments please speak to the School Office. On or after 27 February, please click on the link below to access the booking system. Only one appointment per child please - if a further appointment is needed please speak to the Class Teacher.



<https://cagegreen.parentseveningsystem.co.uk/>

Safer Internet Day

This year Safer Internet Day was on 7 February and all classes took part in activities teaching them about keeping safe online. Even though we have an Safer Internet Day this is an issue that is embedded into the Computing Curriculum - the influence technology has on our lives today is huge and teaching children about keeping safe online once a year wouldn't be sufficient. The day was used to embed those messages and the 'do's and don'ts' when online. Look out for the 'Digital Parenting' magazine that we will distribute in April and the links below contain useful advice for parents and carers:



<http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-and-resources/parents-and-carers>

<http://www.vodafone.com/content/digital-parenting/learning-and-fun/digital-parenting-magazine.html>

**World Thinking Day**

On Friday 24 February we will be celebrating 'World Thinking Day'. The day has been celebrated since 1926 and is a day of international friendship and speaking out on issues that affect girls and young women as well as fundraising for Girl Guides and Girl Scouts around the world. Mrs Emerton and Ms Doyle (Brown Owls at local Guide groups) have kindly offered to host an assembly explaining all about the Guides and Scouts. With that in mind could I ask that all children who are members of Guides, Brownies, Rainbows, Scouts, Cubs, Beavers, Girls Brigade and Boys Brigade wear their uniform to school on Friday 24 February. This will be a great opportunity to celebrate these groups.

2L Indian Festival Day



5CH Science Enrichment
at Tonbridge School

World Book Week

Finally, don't forget World Book Week starts on Monday 27 February. Please send your child(ren) to school dressed as a book character on Thursday 2 March.

This concludes the February newsletter - I hope you all enjoy the break next week and will look forward to seeing all the children on Monday 20 February.

The next newsletter will be published on Friday 3 March 2017.

Yours sincerely

G Garthwaite
Headteacher

Dates for Diary

WC 13 March	Science Week
14 and 16 March	Parent Consultation Evenings
31 March	Cage Green Autism Awareness Day

Academic Year 2016-17

Term 4	Monday 20 February — Friday 31 March
Spring Break	Monday 3 April — Monday 17 April
Term 5	Tuesday 18 April—Friday 26 May
May Break	Monday 29 May—Friday 2 June
Term 6	Monday 5 June—Friday 21 July

Academic Year 2017/18

Term 1	Monday 4 September—Friday 20 October
Autumn Break	Monday 23 October — Monday 27 October

Monday 30 October 2017 to Friday 3 November 2017— Staff Development Days

Term 2	Monday 6 November —Wednesday 20 December
Christmas Break	Thursday 21 December — Wednesday 3 January
Term 3	Thursday 4 January—Friday 9 February