

# St John's Walworth Primary School

## Monthly Newsletter – February 2019

*Dear St John's,*

We have had a busy February as we continue improving and developing opportunities for the children to learn at school. Please read on to see some of our news for this month and some dates for future events.

### Foyle Foundation Funding



In the Autumn term we submitted an application for funding for our new library. We are now delighted to announce that we have been awarded **£3,000** from the Foyles Foundation to spend on new books. The books will

be reading age colour banded so that children can choose a book which is the right level of challenge for them and covered in plastic jackets. We hope to see the books delivered and available for children before the Easter holiday. Developing the library, by offering children a wide range of reading materials, will help us to raise the children's interest and passion for reading.

### Book Hut

When the children returned from the half term break they found a 'book hut' in the rear playground. The small wooden hut is stocked with well cared for second hand books, which the children can take home and read or read in the playground. We were initially



provided with enough books for every child in the school to take one book home and keep. The purpose of this charitable initiative is to encourage the children to read and to share books with each other. In assemblies we explained to the children that they were welcome to take a book home and

keep it, and **if they obtained their parents' permission** they could donate a book that they had finished reading to the hut. The hut will remain in the playground for the rest of this half term. We hope that the children participate and that lots of book sharing happens.

### Parent Governor Recruitment

On Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March a letter and nomination form was sent home in every child's book bag. We encourage any parent who is interested in representing the community on the governing body, to stand for one of the two parent governor positions that are currently vacant. If you did not receive a letter, please ask at the school's office for a copy. The closing date for applications to be submitted to the school office is Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March. If there are more nominations than vacancies, we will hold a ballot which will close on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2019, and you will be sent a voting paper in due course.

### Breakfast Club

Our new Breakfast Club began on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February. The children who attend arrive at 7.45am and go to their classes at 8.45am. From 8.45am until 8.55am all children are welcome to come to the hall and enjoy a free, freshly cooked bagel with jam or some cereal and fresh milk. These free breakfasts are funded by the Magic Breakfast. All of the children who have arrived at 8.45am have found that they have long enough to eat a proper meal, whereas children who arrive after 8.50am only have time to take a plain bagel. The remaining bagels are then taken to classes, so that children can enjoy them during the morning break. We hope that this initiative ensures that all of the children are full of energy to learn.



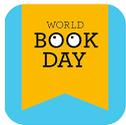
### Parent/Teacher Meetings

This week, on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> February, teachers held meetings with parents to discuss their children's progress from September 2018. These are

very important meetings which we hope all parents can find the time to attend. If you were not able to attend on either of those dates, then please speak to your child's teacher to arrange an alternative date.

Mr Isaac, our Year 3 teacher, has contacted parents to arrange appointments on an alternative date, due to his absence last half term. Ms Oben, our Year 5 teacher, will contact parents when she returns to work.

### **World Book Day**



This Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March we are celebrating World Book Day, an event that has been running since 1995. The day is intended to unify children across the world, (children in

over 100 countries take part) to highlight the importance of reading and sharing ideas in their written form.

At St John's we are inviting the children to attend school dressed as their favourite character from a book that they have read. Prizes will be given for the most original costumes that are made at home. Additionally throughout the week we will be taking each class to WH Smith's near Elephant and Castle station, where every child will be able to use their World Book Day token to purchase a book from ten selected titles.

### **Red Nose Day**

On Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March the country celebrates Red Nose Day. At St John's we will invite the children to wear something red and to make a small donation so that we can collect for the charity. Red Nose Day

started in the UK in 1988 on the BBC, and has since raised over £1bn globally. It is an event that takes place every two years. We hope that the children can take part and we look forward to sending any money that we collect to the charity.

### **Harrison Catering**



Harrison Catering worked hard over the half term to prepare the kitchens and provide the school with equipment. Food prepared from the new menus is being received well, the portion sizes and the quality of

the food has been very popular with the children and adults alike. Sonia Redhead, area manager for Harrison, has been training our catering staff to ensure that the quality of prepared food is in line with the company's expectations. A new head chef has

been brought in from another neighbouring school, and we feel confident that the quality of food will be maintained. New tables have been ordered and the children are already enjoying the new plates, bowls, glasses and jugs. We hope that the dining experience that we are creating will support the children's understanding that eating together in a calm and friendly environment is an important social experience. We also hope that a good healthy meal at lunchtime will help the children to grow strong and succeed in every endeavour.

### **Term Dates 2019-20**

Term dates for the next academic year have now been released along with our five INSET days. Please see below:

#### **Autumn term**

- Monday 2 September 2019 - Friday 18 October 2019
- Half Term Monday 21 October 2019 - Friday 25 October 2019
- Monday 28 October 2019 - Thursday 19 December 2019

#### **Spring term**

- Monday 6 January 2020 - Friday 14 February 2020
- Half Term Monday 17 February 2020 - Friday 21 February 2020
- Monday 24 February 2020 - Friday 3 April 2020

#### **Summer term**

- Monday 20 April 2020 - Friday 22 May 2020 (May Day Bank Holiday will be taken on 4 May)
- Half Term Monday 25 May 2020 - Friday 29 May 2020
- Monday 1 June 2020 – Tuesday 21 July 2020

#### **INSET DAYS**

- Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2019
- Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2019
- Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020
- Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2020
- Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2020

Thank you for your ongoing support!

*Matthew Velada-Billson*

(Head Teacher)