



## PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

No 4 – 19<sup>th</sup> October 2018

### END OF TERM 1

How quickly this term has flown! 6 ½ weeks gone in the blink of an eye!

We are really proud of how the children have coped with the more challenging English and Maths curriculum that we have put in place, and how easily they have accepted the various changes that have happened so far this year.

The school has settled very well and our new routines are now ticking along nicely. Our focus next term continues to be ensuring that the children learn as well as they possibly can, whilst having curriculum experiences that excite and engage them. We will also be putting a new indoor and outdoor PE curriculum in place, so that we are well prepared for the various sporting events and competitions that will come up during the academic year.

If you have any questions at all about anything that your child is doing in school, or how we are moving the school forward, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

### WHAT A FANTASTIC OPENING EVENT!!!



THE PRESTON HEDGES ACADEMY TRUST



Thank you to those of you who managed to attend our opening event last Friday afternoon. Although the weather affected our plans, we still heard the choir sing beautifully and it was fantastic to see so many of you in the school. Thank you all again for your support this term – it's really helped us embed our ethos into the school, and helped us make a fantastic start!

## PARENT GOVERNOR ELECTIONS

We have a vacancy in our governing body for two parent governors. If you are feeling excited about the changes taking place in the school, and would like to play an active part in the school's journey, please do register your interest with the office.

If you would like a bit more information on what being a governor is like, please feel free to email me at: [head@parklands.northants-ecl.gov.uk](mailto:head@parklands.northants-ecl.gov.uk).

## ONLINE SAFETY



Although we love our technology here at Parklands, we recognise the risks that the internet can have for children, so we work hard to make sure our children know how to keep themselves safe online. This week, all our assemblies have been about online safety, and all of our children have had age appropriate online safety lessons. One of the things that most surprised our children is the age recommendations of many apps and websites – many of these sites are a minimum of age 13!

<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/> is a fantastic site for parents that explains the various apps and sites that your child might be using, and also gives that apps recommended age for using.

## PARENTS' EVENING

It was lovely to catch up with so many of you at our Parents' Evenings this week. I know that some of you had lots of issues with booking your child's meeting via ParentMail for this week's slots – thank you for persevering. Our next batch of Parents' Evenings will



be in the Spring Term and I am planning to move to a different online booking system for those dates that should be much easier for you to access, and better for booking linked slots when you have more than one child at the school.

I will keep you posted in the New Year when we are all signed up!

## PHOTOS



It's really important to us that we make sure we only use photos of children in a way that you're happy with. You would have given permission for photo use when your child joined the school, but we thought now that we are an academy, it was a good opportunity for use to share the different ways that we may use photos of your child and give you a chance to agree or decline this use.

Tonight, there is a letter in your child's book bag for you to do this. We would be grateful if you could fill it in and get it back to us by 31<sup>st</sup> October, so that we can update our records. As you have recently filled out a twitter letter, we will continue to put photos of the children who can go on twitter on the site based on those preferences until we receive the new form.

Please note that if you ever change your mind about how photos are used, you can update your approval sheet any time—just pop into the office and update your preferences with them.

## FRIDAY READERS

Just a reminder that from next term, we will be introducing Friday Readers to our Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 classes.

Starting from **Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> November**, we are inviting parents into KS1 from 2.45pm to read a book with their child. So if you are free on the end of day on a Friday, and have a child in Reception, Year 1 or 2, please do come and share a book with them!



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> October** – Term 1 ends

**Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> October** – Term 2 begins

**Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> October** – Year 6 Victorian Celebration Day

**Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> October (it's a busy day!)** – PTA Halloween Disco (3.30pm – 4.30pm for YR, 1, 2 & 3; 4.45pm – 5.45 pm for Y4, 5 & 6)

**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> November** –Year 4 Rainforest Celebration Day

Have a lovely and restful half term!!

Some images from the past couple of weeks to leave you with:

Year 1 & 2 Celebration Day







## Y3 Celebration Day



## Reception in the Great Outdoors!





A rainforest walk in Year 4

