



NEWSLETTER MARCH 2013

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Welcome back after a very cold half term. It is lovely to see the evenings beginning to get lighter and the bulbs starting to come through. Let's hope Spring arrives soon!

I hope you have had a chance to notice the ongoing improvements to the school. During half term the windows in the library and computer areas have been replaced, and the large stair windows into Years 3 and 4. As you will note we are continuing to enhance our environment, and hope to tackle the entrance that the pupils come into school next. If you, as parents, have any ideas for further improvements to the school please do let us know. We value your opinions.

Mrs Hanks

Head Teacher



Easter competitions

As usual we will be running our egg-citing EGG decorating competition for Key Stage 2 pupils this year. We are always stunned by the creative and ingenious ideas that come through, so get your thinking caps on as to how to make yours really stand out. Please bring the completed eggs into school on Thursday 28th March so that winners for each class can be awarded. Key Stage 1 and EYFS pupils will have an Easter bonnet competition. Again, we are always impressed by how inventive these creations can be. Please bring completed bonnets to school on Thursday 28th March also. A child from each team will win a prize.



Dates for the Diary

EASTER HOLS—29 March— Fri 12 April
Year 6 SATs Week Mon 13 May—Fri 17 May
HALF TERM - Mon 27 May—Fri 31 May
SUMMER HOLS—Fri 19 July

Forthcoming events

In the build up to Easter, please be aware that there are lots of events including **Red Nose Day**, **Mother's Day tea and our first Breakfast Reading Café**. Separate letters with more information will be coming out to you, so please keep checking children's bags.

School Rules:

Our school rules were devised by School Council and state:

RESPECT YOURSELF, OTHERS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Sainsburys Vouchers 2013

We are collecting the Sainsbury's vouchers for the "Active Kids" again this year. Please start collecting them and ask family and friends to collect them for us too.

The more vouchers we collect the more equipment we can get for our children at New Hall.

Year 1 Phonics

Thank you to the parents who attended the Year 1 Phonics Reading Check morning on Tuesday 26th February to support your child. Parental feedback suggests that you found the session informative and useful. Thank you to Mr Boyce for this.

Grandparent Lunch

It was also lovely to see some new faces in school for Grandparents lunch on Wednesday 27th February. Again we have received excellent feedback for the quality of the food choices available. Special thanks to Mrs Galbraith and her team for always working so hard in the kitchen, to make the lunchtime experience a good one. Watch out for further Grandparent events.

Lost Property

We seem to have a mini mountain of lost property within school. Can we please urge you to ensure that all items are named, as these can easily be returned to pupils then. On Monday 11th March all unclaimed items will be recycled, so if you have lost anything please come and take a look prior to this date.

We have been asked to pass on some information for you from West Midlands Fire Service:

West Midlands Fire Service is committed to making the West Midlands safer, and part of our promise to our communities is to offer free Fire Safety Advice. The service is a tailored approach which is flexible enough to deliver to the needs of the most vulnerable individuals in our community, whilst maintaining our emphasis on Fire Safety. Our aims are:

- Identify and engage with vulnerable members of our community
- Target our services in the community to reduce the risks and improve safety, health and wellbeing
- Engage with community groups, to make our communities safer
- Empower our communities to make decisions about their safety

We **may** be able to offer a FREE Home Safety Check or send information on Fire Safety in the Home by calling our Freephone telephone number 0800 389 5525.

Visits will be made on an appointment only basis and will be arranged at a convenient time for the householder. The Home Safety Check will take about half an hour and WMFS personnel will check your home to ensure there are no immediate fire hazards, give fire safety advice and also fit free smoke alarm(s) if required.

phone helpline: 0800 389 5525. WMFS personnel will usually be wearing uniforms but will be carrying Photographic Identification Cards. Before allowing WMFS personnel into your home always ask to see the Identification Card, and if you require confirmation, telephone the Free phone helpline on 0800 389 5525

Home Safety Checks are free - your safety is our concern. For further information please call the Free phone helpline: 0800 389 5525.

KS2 recent events

Year 5

I would like to say a huge thank you to Year 5, who over half term completed an amazing project on the River System. The resulting displays were truly fantastic - the amount of time, effort and imagination used highlighted just how talented our pupils are and how committed they are to their learning both in school and in home. Well done to Year 5!

Year 3 and 4

Years 3 and 4 have had a fascinating trip to Birmingham Museum on Friday 1st March - this was linked to the topic 'Walk like an Egyptian'.

Year 3

Well done to Team Palmer for their class assembly based around the Egyptians.



Years three and four have recently been writing about Egyptian Pharaohs in the style of their favourite history magazine, 'Horrible Histories'. Mrs Palmer e-mailed the editors of the magazine at Scholastic Books and they agreed to read the children's work. This week we have received a very exciting reply from the editors to say that they were extremely impressed! They loved the children's questions to the reader and their use of alliteration. They also wrote that they often approve text for licensed products that is written in the Horrible Histories style and all of the children's work that they read was better than some they've seen! Well done children!

POTS OF GOLD CLUB

You are invited to **POTS OF GOLD CLUB** if you have lost someone close to you through death or your parent's break up. If you have lost a parent, brother, sister, grandparent or best friend. At Pot of Gold Club kids aged 6 - 11 help each other learn to cope with their sad feelings by playing games, listening to stories, and doing some art work. If that sounds good to you please join us at St Johns Church, 4 Walmley Road on Monday evenings from 6.30-8.00pm starting from 11 March during school term time. A warm welcome awaits you.

To Book please contact church office on 0121 313 0413, or email on

office@stjw.org.uk, www.growingthrough.org.