

Dear Parents/Carers,

### April 2023 Newsletter

We have only been in school for 2 weeks of April and so this Newsletter will not be as 'full' as others often are.

April has brought us **Easter** and **Eid** and I know that a large number of our families have been really busy in their celebrations of late. Our thanks go to many members of our school Muslim community who very kindly provided Eid Gift bags to all of the children in school this week; we are grateful for their generosity and for the time it must have taken them!

It is hard to believe that we are now into the last term of the academic year. As I have said many times before, it is a really busy term and there are a lot of events scheduled and many deadlines to be met, some of which you will see at the end of this Newsletter in the **Diary Dates** section.

The KS2 SATs have been pushed back a day due to the **additional Bank Holiday on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May** in celebration of the **King' Coronation** on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May. In school we will be recognising this national event on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May.

There will be a bit of an in-school competition for EYFS-Y5 (not Y6 - it is their last school day before their SATs begin!) AND we are asking the children (Y6 can do this) - and staff - to add a little 'red' into their school uniform - as we already have the blue and some have the white. It is **NOT** a non-uniform day, it is an **'enhance your uniform day'** - replace the blue t-shirt with a white or red one, replace the blue sweatshirt/cardigan with a red or white one, wear red or blue socks, add a red/blue/white ribbon in your hair...as said it is NOT a non-uniform day it is a red/white/blue uniform enhancement day - less is more!! As a national event, and a moment in British History, we feel it should be acknowledged/marked in some way.

This does mean of course that **on the next 2 Mondays the school will be closed** (Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May being May Day Bank Holiday).

I know I have said what I am about to say many times before(!) but as we head into the Summer Term and the weather - hopefully - gets warmer and sunnier, please could I once again ask that all items of school clothing are named, most especially sweatshirts and cardigans that, when the sun comes out and the air heats up, are the first things that the children remove and often abandon. It is then nigh-on impossible returning these to the individuals if the items are unnamed and unidentifiable.

In addition, should the weather improve and sun hats/caps become the 'order of the day', could these please be named too – one blue baseball cap looks like any other!



Thinking of the sun and heat...

**Our school's Sun Safety slogan continues to be:**

**'WRAP, SPLAT, HAT!'**

**WRAP** up in a long-sleeved top/wear clothing that protects rather than exposes the skin.

**SPLAT** on some sun-cream – Factor 15+ (preferably much higher!)

Put a **HAT** on that protects your face, ears and neck.

**Our full school 'Sun Protection and Awareness Policy' can be found on our school website:**

[www.mountfieldslodge.leics.sch.uk](http://www.mountfieldslodge.leics.sch.uk) > **Key Information** > **Policies** > **Welfare Policies.**

Essentially, it states the following:

- \* Children are encouraged to **spend time in the shaded areas** in the playground/field during lunchtime play during the summer months.
- \* Wherever possible **school events are scheduled** to take place outside the hours when the sun's rays are most harmful
- \* **Outdoor events are postponed or cancelled** if the weather is exceptionally hot e.g. Sports Day
- \* **Children may be kept inside** during playtimes and lunchtimes if the weather is exceptionally hot and shade cannot be found ('exceptionally hot' is to be deemed by the HT/DHT and is a 'local decision' based upon 'current' weather conditions)
- \* **Children in the Foundation Stage** are discouraged from spending long periods of time in the Foundation Stage Outside Area and whenever possible are encouraged to stay in the shade
- \* When **planning outdoor visits** during the summer months attention will be paid to adequate control measures to reduce the risk of damage from the sun, and specific Risk Assessments may be drawn up to reduce potential damage by the sun.
- \* **The wearing of sun hats is encouraged.** All children are encouraged to wear a sun hat during playtimes when the weather is hot.
- \* Children are allowed to apply **sun cream** at lunchtime during the summer months (*if parents wish them to do so*) especially those children with sensitive skin and those who are at high risk of sunburn. Any sun cream bottles brought into school must be labelled and will be kept in a safe place in the classroom.



\* Staff **will not** assist pupils with the application of sun cream; parents should apply an application of the product before school and pupils should be taught, at home, how to apply a 'top up', should it be required, at school. **We find that for the vast majority of our pupils, a 'good' application of suncream BEFORE coming into school will suffice for the day, as long as the other precautions above are followed.** This avoids the unnecessary demand of pupils applying their own suncream in school!

\* As children's **sunglasses** have little protective factors in terms of sun protection they **are not encouraged in school**; they also have limited protection as a pollen filter/pollen block. Pupil's choosing to bring sunglasses into school do so at their own risk – loss, damage, personal injury. We do not ban sunglasses, nor do we advocate them as being 'of need' for the vast majority of pupils; there will, however, always be the 'exception' and we are happy to deal with each on a case-by-case basis.

\* **Water bottles** should, as always, be **brought into school on a daily basis** and the children will be actively encouraged to drink water at regular intervals during hot weather to prevent dehydration. These bottles will need to be taken home each evening in readiness for the next day's use (washed out and refilled).

All of this said, last Friday it was a matter of warm waterproof coats, umbrellas and wellies, the morning started so cold and wet, but we have to hope for a summery change!

**And finally**, a further reminder about **PE Kits** please...as reported in previous Newsletters, we have an agreed expectation for our PE Dress Code and therefore class teachers and those leading PE sessions, will be sending 'reminder slips' home with pupils *if* their PE Kit is noticeably 'away from' these expectations. The vast majority *are* 'on point' but some are still inappropriate for school and need to be 'revised'. Thank you.

Please do now read on to find out more about life in our school 😊.

Kind regards,

Michael Hoare, Head Teacher



## Scholastic Book Fair

We are pleased to welcome back the Scholastic Book Fair this year. The fair will be here 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> May and 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2023. Children will get chance to browse the books with their classes during the day, and then the fair will be open every evening after school in the main foyer for you to purchase any books. Books can be bought using cash or Scholastic gift vouchers, which can be bought online.

Please support our book fair as for every book bought our school earns free books for our school.

To learn more about Scholastic Book Fairs, or purchase gift vouchers, please go to <https://bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/parents>

See you at the fair!

## Year 5 Netball Team

On Tuesday 28th March the Year 5 Netball Team took part in the finals of the North Charnwood Netball Tournament. It was a tough competition, and a very cold couple of hours, but every member of the team played with determination and showed great team spirit. All teams played each other which meant 7 matches for the team. As the tournament progressed the team improved, and they should be very proud of their performance.

Well done to: Aaliyah, Aryahi, Baden, Flora, Harriet, Harry, Macey, Martha, Noah.

## Fun day at the Parallel Sportshall Athletics County Finals Competition

Following success in an earlier district Sportshall Athletics competition in January, 8 Mountfields Lodge children were selected to represent North Charnwood in the County Finals event at Loughborough University recently.

Eddie, Willow, Summer Josh, Tim, Isaac and Charlie were delighted to receive their representative T-shirts on arrival and couldn't wait to start scoring points on the 8 events which comprised different running, jumping and throwing activities. The children did amazingly well to finish 6<sup>th</sup> team out of the 10 best schools represented from all over the county.



As you can see from the photograph they were delighted to meet the event's mascot, 'Dazzle,' who visited the event to promote the Olympic values of determination, self-belief, passion, teamwork, respect and honesty. All of our children certainly displayed these qualities throughout and it was a pleasure to be there to supervise and cheer them on.

## Sing for the King

As part of our celebrations for the Coronation, there is to be a special Civic Service to be held at Loughborough's Historic Church of All Saints with Holy Trinity on 7 May at 4pm.

We would like to invite children aged 8 and over to form part of a special choir to sing in a piece especially composed for the occasion by Joanna Forbes L'Estrange entitled 'The mountains shall bring peace' which is being performed by many choirs over the country.

Interested children would need to attend at the two open rehearsals on the Fridays preceding the event - further details are on the attached flyer and from [music@allsaintsloughborough.org.uk](mailto:music@allsaintsloughborough.org.uk).



## Come and Sing for the King!

at

### A CIVIC SERVICE TO CELEBRATE THE CORONATION

Sunday 7 May • 4pm  
All Saints with Holy Trinity Church  
Steeple Row • Loughborough

Learn the music at 3 Friday after school workshops at All Saints with Holy Trinity Church, Loughborough

Friday 21, 28 April & 5 May

5:00-6:00pm for ages 8-15

plus rehearsal at 2pm on Sunday 7 May

FREE event – no charge to participate, all music provided

Music to include the RSCM Coronation Anthem  
*The Mountains shall bring Peace* by Joanna Forbes L'Estrange

further details and registration: [music@allsaintsloughborough.org.uk](mailto:music@allsaintsloughborough.org.uk)



## Attendance

**Illness** - Could all parents/carers be reminded that if your child is ill, please call the school voicemail no later than 9.15am.

**Attendance**



**Medical Appointments** - where possible, medical appointments should be advised to the school before the appointment, with medical proof provided for all appointments.

**Absence Requests** – could all parents please be reminded that all requests for absence must be made prior to the event. Absence Request Forms are available via the school website or from the School Office.

**Holiday Requests:** Please be aware, and most of you are, that holidays in Term Time are not permitted – only in VERY exceptional circumstances, and these really do have to be exceptional. ***We are especially tracking pupils - individuals and siblings - who suddenly 'fall ill' on the last day or two of a half-term or term ahead of a holiday period and home visits have been made where there is doubt about the validity of the illness.***

## Diary Dates Summer 2023

Date	Event
Monday 1/5/23	May Day: School Closed
Monday 8/5/23	Bank Holiday for King Charles III Coronation
w/b Tuesday 9/5/23	Y6 Test Week (4 days)
w/b Mon 15/5/23	Y2 Assessment Week
Monday 29/5/23 – Friday 2/6/23	Half Term Break ('Whitsuntide')
Monday 5/6/23	Y4 Multiplication Check (3 weeks)
Friday 9/6/23	Y5 Sleepout Under the Stars
Monday 12/6/23	Y1 Phonics Test Week (1 week)
Monday 19/6/23 Monday 26/6/23	EYFS Stay and Play
Tuesday 20/6/23	Y3/4 Sports 'Day' 9.30am
Thursday 22/6/23	Y1/2 Sports 'Day' 9.30am
Friday 23/6/23	EYFS Sports 'Day' 9.30am
Friday 23/6/23	Y4 Sleepout Under the Stars
Wednesday 28/6/23	Hobbies Afternoon
Thursday 29/6/23	Y5/6 Sports 'Day' 9.30am
Friday 30/6/23	Reports sent home
Saturday 1/7/23	PSA Garden Party
Friday 7/7/23	Transition Day in Mountfields Lodge
Tuesday 11/7/23	Leavers Performance 6.30pm
Wednesday 12/7/23	Leavers Performance 2.00pm
Wednesday 12/7/23	Y6 Leavers Picnic

***Although every effort is made to ensure dates are not moved, this is sometimes unavoidable and necessary.***

