

## Newsletter 6

### Dear Parents and Carers,

We are looking forward to the week ahead given that we have two special events taking place with Y3 and Y4's production of "Puss in Boots" scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday, with pupils attending the Dress Rehearsal and parents, carers and family invited to the Wednesday shows at 1.30 and 4pm, followed by the SAPA Christmas Fair on Friday afternoon. The children are so looking forward to their show and I know that they have worked hard and really enjoyed the challenge of putting on a production - they are very young actually, with Y3 not long out of the Infants, so good luck to all involved. I am looking forward to watching them sing, act and share their many talents - some they didn't think they had!

The SAPA team are hard at work again preparing for the Christmas Fair on Friday from 2pm and as a letter has already been sent to publicise the event there is little I can add here other than to ask you to donate if you can and join in the fun. Thanks to Mrs Baines and her willing team of helpers - they are doing a great job.

Our Book Fair this week has been very successful thanks to the support of parents and carers across the community - many thanks to everyone who took the time to visit. Your fantastic efforts mean that Miss Carrahar can claim £700 commission, which we always take in books to boost class and school libraries. Reading is a clear strength of the school, very much so across KS1 as our results for the Y1 Phonic test and KS1 Reading tests show - we had a really excellent number of pupils achieving the higher level in the summer at both Key Stages, meaning that our pupils are getting such a good start on their reading for life journeys and a lot of this is down to the support you are giving your children by reading with them and enjoying books at home. Please keep up the good work as it really does make a difference. I and my KS1 colleagues each work with a Y2 reader every lunchtime and it is great to see the progress they are making at the minute.

Last year and this, we are making Mathematics progress and attainment our main curriculum area of focus and staff are working very hard on our adaptation of the Maths Mastery Curriculum. We have had a succession of challenging cohorts at End KS2 meaning that our results have dipped in Maths from the highs of 2013 in comparison with scores for Reading and Writing, though performance in 2015 was well above the national at both L4 and L5 and again last year with 86% of children achieving the Expected Level with the national at 70% and we would like to see both progress and attainment in Maths back to a high level in 2018. Given the impetus, the children may well discuss this with you as one of our aims is to dispel the myth that "some people just can't do maths"! This is not the case and we intend that all of our children are able to enjoy their mathematics learning and develop and grow in confidence week by week. We are also looking to see a more mixed ability and peer led and supported approach across every class to remove the "bottom table" syndrome, because we know that given the right building blocks, consolidation and example, that all pupils can progress and feel more confident about their mathematics work. Our support staff are working across the class now with clear intervention strategies, rather than always supporting one particular group of children and this is having a positive impact and reducing children's dependence and thereby increasing their independence. Peer support is working well also and enhances pupil confidence and enjoyment - pupil voice is such a powerful learning tool. These changes were introduced last year and are impacting very positively but will take time. Once embedded we all feel that this new approach will bear fruit and we look forward to seeing our children making faster progress and achieving highly. We are sure that this will be reflected in our 2018 results.

Part of the initiative sees a special Maths Creativity Day taking place this Friday - we will lose a bit of the afternoon to the Christmas Fair but otherwise it will be maths galore throughout the rest of the day and staff are already full of ideas. Ask the children how they did on Friday evening.

I look forward to seeing you as the week progresses.

Best Wishes.

Yours Sincerely,

[K J Smithson.](#)

Head Teacher.