



DIARY DATES
Diary dates for the School Year
2013-2014 can be found on the
school website.
[CLICK HERE](#)
to go to the calendar.

Please check regularly for any
new dates.

You will receive further infor-
mation about forthcoming events
nearer the time, as appropriate.

**Tuesday 11 &
Wednesday 19 March**
Parent Consultation Evenings



Thursday 20 & Friday 21 March
Year 5 Bikeability Course



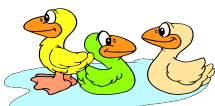
Tuesday 25 March
Grantham Church
Schools' Festival for
Year 4 children.

**Thursday 27 &
Friday 28 March**
Year 5 Bikeability Course



Friday 28 March
Year 1/2 Class Assembly

Monday 31 March
Nick Williams—
Living World
presentations for all children.



Tuesday 1 April
Team and Class Photos.

Wednesday 2 April
M&M Productions
present
Alice in Wonderland
for all children.



Thursday 3 April
High 5 Netball Tournament.

Friday 4 April
School Easter Service
and Reception Easter Hat
Parade.
Parents of Reception children are
invited to join us at 9.15am.
Term Ends



Dear Parents/Carers

What an exciting couple of weeks we have had in school! I am extremely proud to share with you some of our latest developments and achievements and am greatly looking forward to the next few weeks.

Mr L Batey
Headteacher



Events in School

A wonderful morning at the Colsterworth Music Festival!

On Friday 28 February, the 100 children who make up our Key Stage 1 Choir, Key Stage 2 Choir, and School Orchestra took part in the Colsterworth Music Festival, held at The Meres Leisure Centre, competing against other local schools.

Our children were, as always, a credit to themselves and to the school and we were absolutely delighted with the results:

- Key Stage 1 Choir—First in their class
 - Key Stage 2 Choir—First in their class (for the 3rd consecutive year)
 - Orchestra—Second in their class (a very special well done to our orchestra who have only been playing together since September!)
- And.... Our Key Stage 2 choir also won FIRST place for the best overall performance of the morning.

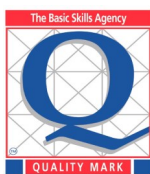
Well done to everyone who took part, and to Mrs Selby and Mrs Webster for their work with the choirs. Thank you also to all the parents who came as helpers on the coach, or to listen and encourage our children. You can find the Choir and Orchestra page on our website [here](#).



Bikeability

Courses in safe cycling have been offered to all children in Year 5, the first of which took place this week. You can find the permission form to bring a bike to school [here](#).

Basis Skills Award



I am very pleased to tell you that our Basic Skills Quality Mark has been renewed. An Assessor visited the school shortly before half term and was extremely complimentary about the standards in school and the work we are doing here. This award celebrates and supports continuous improvement in literacy and numeracy. It is awarded to recognise the standard of provision, practice and performance in literacy and numeracy, and is valid for three years. To attain the Quality Mark, a school must demonstrate a whole school approach to improving standards in literacy and numeracy, with evidence of the impact of its approaches.

Hot School Meals Survey

Thank you to those of you who completed our Hot School Meals Survey. We had 60 responses, representing 82 children (35%). If you haven't completed the survey, which you can find [here](#), please do, as we would still like to hear your views. So far:

For children in Key Stage 1, where there will be a statutory requirement for schools to provide a free school meal, respondents indicated that:

72% of children would have a hot meal every day

25% of children would have a hot meal some days, and a packed lunch on other days.

3% said they would have a packed lunch every day.

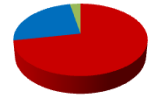


For Key Stage 2 children, if we were able to introduce a paid hot meal, respondents indicated that:

31% of children would have a hot meal every day.

62% of children would have a hot meal some days, and a packed lunch on other days.

7% of children would have a packed lunch every day.



If you said that you would only want your child to have hot meals on some days, we asked you to indicate how many days a week you would expect your child to have a hot meal each week in each term. These averaged out as:

Autumn Term 3 days Spring Term 2.5 days Summer Term 2 days.



Comments

Most of the comments made were in favour of hot school meals in general. There were also comments about:

- The benefits of a hot meal in the winter
- Increased convenience for parents, including not having to provide a hot meal for their child at home—however, other parents commented on the importance of eating together as a family in the evening.
- Children learning social skills, such as the use of a knife and fork.
- The need to keep cost down for meals in Key Stage 2.
- That their child's uptake of meals would depend on the choices offered.
- That parents would not be able to monitor how much their child had eaten



We agree that there are benefits for children having a hot meal at lunchtime, especially in cold weather, but hope that families will continue to share an evening meal together, as this is an important part of children's social development.

At present, the government is indicating that schools will be allowed £2.30 per meal for children in Key Stage 1. We are currently in discussion with several potential providers, although prices previously indicated to us were nearer to £2.50 per meal.

Some parents commented about the issues surrounding curricular and extra curricular activities which currently take place in the hall at lunchtime. Some commented that:

- Other schools offer hot meals, and are still able to offer lunchtime activities
- Clubs could take place in other rooms
- Children could eat in classrooms if food arrived ready plated, leaving the hall free.

We will of course do everything we can to minimise the negative effects of introducing hot school meals, however, unlike some other schools, we do not have another hall or large room which could accommodate all of our lunchtime activities. As you know, we have a very wide range of clubs, often two or three taking place in a lunchtime. Some clubs are too large to be accommodated anywhere else in school—such as orchestra, or our Key Stage 2 choir, which currently has 60 members. Lunchtime sports clubs which normally take place outdoors will not be able to run in poor weather, as we will not be able to transfer them to the hall, and we will also have to look carefully at the timetabling of indoor P.E. lessons.



The outside meal providers available to us in this area do not supply meals ready plated, so we will have no option but to use the hall for lunches. We understand that there are no plans to provide funding for this school to have a kitchen, or additional space for lunches.

We will continue to keep you updated as our planning progresses.

Staffing

Interviews for a Deputy Headteacher took place in school on Wednesday. Four candidates took part in a rigorous whole day selection process, which included teaching, data analysis, and a meeting with members of the School Council as well as interviews with school governors. I am very pleased to tell you that Miss Louise Sugden has been appointed. Miss Sugden has been Acting Deputy Head since September 2012. Our congratulations to her on her new appointment.



Secondary Liaison—Mathematics

Year 5 and 6 children are working with Mrs Vance, a Maths teacher from Priory Ruskin Academy on Tuesday afternoons. This is already proving to be a valuable addition to work done in class, and Mrs Vance has been very impressed with the high standards in our school, and the children that she is currently working with. We are looking at ways to develop and extend this link, to further increase learning opportunities for our children.

Sport

Inspire+ are again running sporting activities for children over the Easter Holidays— please click [here](#) for details and a booking form.

P.E. Kit

All children need their P.E. kit in school every day of the week. We do keep a few spare sets in school for children to borrow when kit has been forgotten— we will contact you via Parentmail2 if your child borrows school kit, so you can make sure that they have their own P.E. kit in school for the next day. As with all school uniform, and items brought to school, please make sure that everything is clearly labelled with your child's name!



ParentMail2 Messages

Very occasionally, parents report that they have not received a message through ParentMail2. We are always happy to check our records (these show the time the message was delivered, and read) to try to resolve any difficulties. Letters and newsletters are also posted on the school website for you to download. If there seems to be an ongoing problem, and we have checked that your registration is working, you may find it helpful to contact your service provider.



*Our School 100 Years Ago....
an extract from the Log Book,
March 1914*

March 4 Thirty nine children are absent today.
There are six cases of measles.

March 5 Forty six children are absent this morning.
There are eleven cases of measles.

Visited this afternoon by Dr Lowe, who ordered the school to be closed until March 30.

There are 50 children absent and of these 15 are known to have measles.

Average for the past week 112.6. Roll 145.

