



# Newsletter

11<sup>th</sup> October 2013

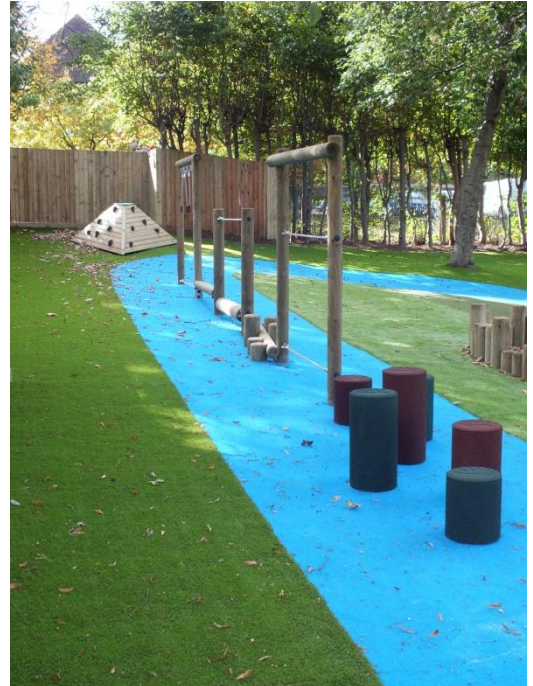
## New developments in Year R now finished!

It is very exciting that the work on the Year R playground is now finished. If you have not had a chance to go and look please do. The Year R playground now looks fantastic and is an amazing space for the children to play and learn in. It makes you wish you were four again!

Covering the bank with the artificial grass has made the area usable for the children all year round. It has also extended the amount of space the children have to use. The installation of the Trim Trail now gives the Year R children the same play opportunities as the Year 1 and 2 children at playtime. The new equipment is also a fantastic way for children to improve their physical development. There are stepping posts to navigate across, ropes to walk on, a rolling log to balance on and at the end is an amazing mini climbing pyramid.

The company we used were fantastic and the quality of the work is excellent.

Thank you for all of your patience while the building work was going on. A big thank you must also go to the Junior School for letting us use a section of their playground while the work was being done.



## Upcoming events

**23<sup>rd</sup> October 3:30pm to 6:00pm**

Parents evening

**24<sup>th</sup> October 4:00pm to 7:00pm**

Parents evening

**25<sup>th</sup> October 9:10am-9:45am**

Harvest assembly

## Parents Evening 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> October

Next week lists will go up in class for you to sign up to parents evening slots. The link between home and school is vital for your child's success and parents evening is one of the key ways for you in supporting your child. At parents evening not only do you get to see the fantastic work your child has already done but your child's class teacher will also share the areas we will be working on next with your child. We will run activities in the hall on the Wednesday for your child to do while you are talking to the teachers. We ask that children don't go into the meeting with you, this is very important as it allows both you and the teacher to talk in complete confidence.

If you have two children at the school I would recommend leaving between 10 and 20 minutes between your appointments as no matter how hard we try appointments do sometimes overrun.

## Year 1 at Laverstoke Park Farm

Year 1 went on a great trip to Laverstoke Park Farm this week. We did have a few coach problems which meant that the children were delayed a little going and coming back but it did not spoil the children's enjoyment.

The children had a lot of fun feeding chickens, planting their own salad gardens, exploring the orchard and even trying buffalo milk. This trip has helped to support the children's learning in their current topic and has already inspired some fantastic work.

Thank you to all the parents who came on the trip with Year 1. Without parent helpers we could not take children on trips like these.

### New Messy Play!!!

Come and have fun with your pre-school children at our new Messy Play Sessions starting Thursdays after half term.

The first session is **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November from 2-3pm** please come to the school office to join in with the fun!

### Teachers strike

Two of the teaching unions the NUT and the NUSUWT have balloted their members for strike action. At the moment the strikes are regional strikes with the possibility of a national strike later in the year. The strike date for our region is Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October.

At this time I am fully expecting the school to be open with normal lessons proceeding. If the situation changes I will inform you as soon as I know.

As long as school is open children will be expected to be in school even if siblings at other schools are off due to the strike action.

## Repair work on the Pirate Ship

Next week there will be some repair work to fix the big dip in the floor around one section of the Pirate Ship. The ship will be out of action until the repairs are complete. Please do not let your children play on the Pirate Ship before or after school while repair work is going on. Thank you

I hope that the new spelling sheets we have been sending out have helped you to support your child learning their spellings better. Spellings at this young age is a very fine line to walk. The most important thing for young children learning to write is having the confidence to write. Most of the children will spell words phonetically, exactly how they sound, so often 'was' becomes 'wos'. How and when we start correcting these mistakes depends very much on the individual child. For many words we don't correct children as the quality of the language they use is more important at this stage than spelling the word correctly. For more frequently used words like 'was' we will correct at the appropriate point in their learning. Your support in helping your child to learn the words or the sounds we are sending home is vital in helping your child to succeed. The English language is very complex and children need a lot of practice at learning words that logically do not make much sense.

Matt Greenhalgh  
Headteacher