



PALACE WOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Happy New Year

I hope everyone was able to enjoy a lovely Christmas break, and I am sure that we are in for another prosperous year in 2019. I know it is very much a cliché, but time really does go by so fast, it is important sometimes to take a step back and look at some of the achievements that have been accomplished. For example, you may have already forgotten that since September, we have embraced the new uniform, relaunched the houses, won two Green awards and continued to run amazing fund-raising events through the Friends (who are now a registered charity). I wonder what the Spring term will hold!

Parent Governor Election

Yesterday, your child (or one of your children if you have more than one at school) will have brought home the Parent Governor Election form. There are some explicit instructions on the letter about how to vote, and we have provided all of the necessary stationery (thank you Mrs Smith!) for you to submit your votes. Please make sure you follow the instructions carefully or your vote may not be able to be counted.

Walking to school

Why not make one of your New Year Resolutions to walk to school more? Both the Global Gladiators and the School Council have got together and they have decided that they want to promote walking to school more as part of a healthy lifestyle. Rather than run it by class, this year, it will be run as a house competition weekly- totalling up the number of children in each house. To make sure it is as fair to all children, they have come up with the idea that we do it on different days each half term. This term will begin from Monday - called **March on Mondays**.

One of the main reasons for relaunching this initiative is to encourage the children, and

the parents, to embrace a healthier and greener life. Over the next couple of weeks, we will be sending out further information to emphasise the importance of parents parking away from the school and walking in. The reasons fall broadly in to three categories:

- 1) Healthy benefits for children - time to interact and get the blood flowing
- 2) Safety
- 3) On the back of data from clean air campaign it is frightening the level of poor quality air around schools. To this end the children/parents will be asked to park away from the roads near the school entrances on Talbot Road, Maple Avenue and Ash Grove.

Kent and Medway Training Ofsted Report.

Both last year and this year, Palace Wood have been fortunate to support trainee teachers. The school provide the placement for the student and the course itself is run through Kent and Medway training. Like all establishments, they are subject to Ofsted inspections, and have just had their report published, which makes extremely positive reading. We know how much hard work goes in to the training and are grateful for their support. Next stop for them will hopefully be Outstanding, just like us! You can read the report attached to the newsletter.



Superstar Corner

Christine (Zebbras) was awarded her 10 Kyu yellow karate belt on 9th December in Tunbridge Wells.

House Captains' Corner

Year 6 inter-house football competition

On the last Monday of term, Year 6 played in an inter-house football competition, run by the Louis Lawlor football academy who have been coaching Y5 and 6 since September. It was a hard fought competition but lots of fun. Well done to Hawking who were crowned the champions.

Whole School Road Safety competition

Last term we learnt a lot about road safety, especially about crossing the road. After Miss Ridout's assembly, everyone designed a road safety poster showing what we had learnt. We enjoyed looking at all the posters. It was really, really tough to choose the winners from each house and the overall winner. The winners from each house were announced in assembly today. Well done to the overall winner of our first inter-house art competition, Cooper (Tigers) from Hawking. This means that Hawking have won a non-uniform day next Friday, 11th January.

Palace Wood's Got Talent

Can you sing? Can you dance? Can you play an instrument? Do you have a special talent? Then this is for you....

Palace Wood are very excited to announce that we are holding a new house competition, Palace Wood's Got Talent. It is our version of Britain's Got Talent. The auditions will be held in the next House Meetings (afternoon of Monday 14th January) and the top two auditions from Acorns and Oaks will go through to our whole school final which will take place on the afternoon of our first House Day - Friday 25th January 2019. Acts can be solo or a group but if they are a group, all pupils must be from the same house. Auditions need to be approximately 2 minutes long.

Our First House Day - Friday 25th January 2019

We are really looking forward to our first House Day. It will be on Friday 25th January. All pupils are encouraged to wear their house colours.

Good Luck Mr Stock

Mr Stock leaves us today having worked at Palace Wood for 7 years. He is taking the opportunity to work in a secondary school and we wish him all the best and I'm sure you will join me in thanking him for all of the hard work he has done over the years helping to keep the school up and running even in the most severe of circumstances!

And finally

I spoke to the children in assembly today about challenge. It is one of the most important parts of the Growth Mindset culture that we want to embed in school. Did you know that researchers in America found that, on average, around 25% of children said that they did not feel challenged about their work! Carol Dweck, who literally wrote the book on Growth Mindset said 'It is crucial that no student be able to coast to success time after time; this experience can create the fixed-mindset belief that you are only smart if you can succeed without effort.'

Challenge is at the crux of growth mindset; without it, we don't get the opportunities to take risks, learn to fail, and figure out how to pick ourselves up again.

We will always try to set high expectations for our children. Sometimes, we too make mistakes, and we need the children to tell us when something is too easy for them so that we can make sure they are challenged appropriately.

I found this quote, which I loved, as I think it summarises this brilliantly!

If you aren't in over your head, how do you know how tall you are?

T.S. Eliot

Mr Chatley

Letters home this week:

All Parent Governor Ballot

Dates for your Diary (new dates in red)

Fri 11 Jan	Non-uniform day for Hawking
Mon 14 Jan	PW's Got Talent auditions
Tues 15 Jan	Deadline to apply for primary school if your child was born between 1.9.14 & 31.8.15 – even if you already have a child at Palace Wood!
Weds 23 Jan	3.20 Book Look
Fri 25 Jan	PW's Got Talent Finals
	Children to wear house colours
Fri 1 Feb	Young Voices (Yr5&6)
18-22 Feb	School Holidays
Thurs 7 Mar	World Book Day
	Reading Evening
Weds 13 Mar	Parent/Teacher Consultations
Thurs 14 Mar	Parent/Teacher Consultations
Fri 15 Mar	Red Nose Day
Weds 27 Mar	Year 3 Easter Performance
8-22 April	Easter Holidays