



Friars Primary Foundation School



Newsletter - Volume 7 No.20 Friday 7th March 2014

Dear Parents,

Spring term parent consultations:

On March 11th and 12th parents will have the opportunity to meet class teachers to discuss their children's progress so far this year. Sign up sheets are available in the reception area as usual. If you are unable to make it into school to sign up for an appointment, please contact the office and they will try and find a slot for you. The arrangements are as follows:

March 11th – Y2 and Y3 am, YR and Y4 pm, all classes after school (3:40 – 6:30)

March 12th – Y1 and Y5 am, YN and Y6 pm.

PTFA AGM:

The PTFA will be holding their annual general meeting on Thursday 13th March 6-7pm - refreshments available.

All posts for officers and committee members are open for all parents who would like to be involved with the PTFA.

Nomination forms and letters will be sent out after the half term break.

World book day:

Yesterday we celebrated world book day. All children across the country received a £1 book token that can be used to buy specially selected £1 books or to reduce the cost of any other book/audio book by £1. Many children came dressed up as their favourite book characters. In addition all children in the school wrote about their favourite book on a special label which we attached to a bright red helium balloon. On the other side of the label was our school postal and email address asking for any labels found to be returned. I wonder how far they will get? Thank you also for helping to raise funds in support of Book Aid International. Your donation will enable the charity to send brand new books to libraries in sub-Saharan Africa. We managed to raise £105. Please look at our website for some fab photos!

SF Said Visit:

As part of our World book day celebrations Y5 and Y6 were very lucky to have a visit from the superb author, SF Said today. He wrote "Varjak Paw" and "The Outlaw Varjak Paw", two brilliant adventure stories about a brave and clever cat of the same name. They are firm Friars favourites and it has been used as a core text in Literacy for Y4. He talked about what inspires him to write and how he writes. The children were transfixed and he has really inspired them to be better writers!

Governor news:

Our Governing Body is responsible for the strategic leadership of the school and they support and challenge school staff to make sure our children's education is as good as it can be. We have just produced short biographies of the Governors showing their skills and experience and they can be seen on the Governors page of the school website. Periodically they will also be contributing to our newsletters to give you a little more information about their work. This week we have a contribution from Lara Akpojovwi, a partnership Governor:

We have been through a number of changes in response to the OFSTED recommendations regarding Governance in June 2013. There are now three focused Committees – Achievement, Resources and Premises. The Achievement Committee meets twice every term to review progress against the School Improvement Plan to ensure that children at Friars thrive and achieve their full potential. Resources and Premises Committees ensure that all other aspects of the school's work support pupils' well-being and achievement. The HMI monitoring visit of October 2013 noted that senior leaders and governors were taking effective action to tackle the areas requiring improvement identified at the recent OFSTED inspection. However, we are not complacent. We have had an external review to ensure that we are fit for purpose and demonstrate strong governance and we have written a Governing Body Improvement Plan. We have also had a number of training sessions to keep us up to date on the use of the pupil premium and understanding achievement data. We will continue having training. We have also been paying more regular visits to the school and have done lesson observations, observed leaders doing book scrutiny and attended parent meetings. Please contact Crispin Hunt, Chair of Governors through the school if you have any questions about the role of the GB at Friars.

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Have a great weekend!

Yours sincerely,

J. Burtt, Headteacher