**John Scurr Newsletter APRIL 2016**

**BE THE BEST THAT YOU CAN BE**

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to you all after a lovely long Spring Break. Thank you to everyone who has supported their child with the Half Term Homework – I have seen some fabulous examples of families learning together and our Homework Heroes will be receiving their letters home next week.

At the end of last term we held a Parents Forum where you were invited to share your views and ideas to help move our school forward – can I thank everyone who came and contributed. I will be feeding back to staff your suggestions and together we will keep celebrating our successes but look for ways to ensure that we are all being ‘The Best That We Can Be’.

Thank you also for your response to the questionnaires. We will combine together the information from the forum and the questionnaires to create a special newsletter for you later this term.

I was particularly pleased to see that you all really liked the presence of the Senior Leaders and support staff out at the front of school at the beginning and end of the day. This is my favourite part of the day and made even more enjoyable by your cheery ‘Good Mornings’ and ‘Good afternoons’. Please come and find any of us – if you have any concerns or comments you wish to make, or if you need us to pass information to the class teachers.

Heres to a bright, sunny and full term ahead.

Mari Kemnagth

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**THE BIG PEDAL 2016**

**What is it?**

The Big Pedal is a national competition which encourages children and their parents to cycle to school each day.

It’s simple! All we need to do is cycle or scoot to school for the next 2 weeks, starting Monday 18th April.

**Who can take part?**

Any child, parent or staff at John Scurr School.

Each day, our Year 5 bike crew will count up the bikes and scooters and enter our daily score online. We are aiming for 100 per day!

PLUS: There will be a Golden Lock prize everyday for one lucky bike or scooter owner.

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**A Shakespeare Masque**

by Poet Laureate Carol-Ann Duffy and composer Sally Beamish

Thirty Y5 children have been selected to perform at the Milton Court Concert Hall, London on Thursday 12th May with the Ex Cathedra Choir. The piece has been specially written to celebrate Shakespeare’s 400th anniversary. We are very excited to be part of this World premiere. Watch out for information in the national press about the performance.
Congratulations to us all for an amazing effort with Sport Relief at the end of term.

We raised £960. Which is a 50% increase on last year! What a great day we had and it was full of fun, activity and reflection.

Suitable Footwear

Our school uniform includes wearing suitable school footwear and we ask that children wear black or blue shoes or trainers – please do not send children to school in open toed sandals or slip on pumps that easily fall off. We have had a number of accidents in the playgrounds as a result of children wearing unsuitable footwear.

We would kindly ask that you do not smoke outside of the school gates or in view of our pupils as part of our continuing drive to promote a healthy lifestyle.

School Gates

Our front gates open at 3pm every day or when the playground has been cleared of pupils after a PE session. Thank you to everyone for waiting patiently whilst we put the safety needs of the school first at the end of the day.

School does not finish until 3:15pm and we would recommend that you do not arrive on the premises until 3:10pm if at all possible. If you have parked outside of school – please ensure that you do so legally and carefully and with due regard to the safety of our pupils and their family.

Parent lunches

This term we will be giving the opportunity for one family member of our Year 2 - 5 children to enjoy a free meal within school on Thursdays. Each of these classes have been given a date when the lunches will take place, so please look out for the invitation in your child’s school bag. We will upload the menu to the school website, and are asking if you would like to attend, to have the forms returned to school on the Monday before so that the kitchen can make the relevant arrangements. We hope that you will enjoy the food we offer to your children on a daily basis.

Years 2-5 Parents Thursday Lunch Dates

April - Year 4
21st - Ganges
28th - Yangtze

May - Year 5
19th - Caspian
26th - Aegean

June - Year 2
9th - Danube
16th - Rubicon

July - Year 3
14th - Zambezi
29th - Amazon

Year 6 will be in September.

School Improvement Priorities

We are developing:
* Writing and Reading
* Speaking and Listening
* Independence

Help us with our drive for Improvement.

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NOT a spoonful of sugar

We are all now much more aware of the health benefits of reducing the amount of sugar and fat we eat. I have asked the ice cream van to reduce his range to take this into account and I ask you as parents to not bring sweets, crisps or unhealthy snacks or drinks onto the school grounds at the end of the school day.

The ice cream van is not affiliated to the school in any way.

Philosophy Group Visit

In the last week of term 25 pupils from Y5 and Y6 went to visit the University of Winchester for a day to find out what life would be like studying there. The children had a tour of the campus, a look at the library and they took part in a dance workshop and a lecture and had lunch in the canteen.

It was a great day and as usual our pupils ability to reflect on their learning and life amazed all the lecturers and students.

I hope that many of these pupils go on to think about studying to a higher degree level and they know they will be welcomed at Winchester.

Thanks to Mick and Luthfa for accompanying us on the visit and thanks to all the parents who picked us up after our long day.

Father’s Football Winners

John Scurr Dads took part in the spring Father’s Football Tournament comprising of 10 teams.

They have been training hard and working together week in week out on a Thursday afternoon. After 4 matches John Scurr finished top of their group. The final was a very close game, and we came out on top with a 1-0 victory and were crowned winners. Adam’s dad, Zeki made an outstanding save in the final which gave him the trophy for the “Best Goalkeeper”. Another dad, Abdul, being a true sportsman kindly stepped in for Bigland Green as John Scurr had 13 players.

A very proud and memorable day for John Scurr Primary School Team.
**Term Dates**

**APRIL**
- 11th Apr - Term Starts
- 28th Apr - 30 Children to Manor Field School - rehearsal (am) for performance on 12th May

**MAY**
- 5th May - London Mayoral Election - SCHOOL CLOSED
- 5th May - Govs Finance meeting
- 9th May - SATS WEEK YEAR 6
  - 12th May - Yr5 Milton Court music performance
  - 13th May - National Den Day
- 16th May - Penzance week - Yr 4
- 17th May - Yr3 Rehearsal for music at Columbia School (am)
- 18th May - CPD: moderation
- 19th May - FULL GB and Curriculum meeting
- 23rd May - Yr3 rehearsal for music performance at Brady Centre
- 23rd May - Y6 Swimming Week at Mile End
- 24th May - Y5/6 Cricket Competition
- 27th May - End of Term sharing assemblies

**27th May** - Half-term STATS. Nursery closure

**JUNE**
- 6th June - Term 6 starts
- 13th June - Money Week
- 13th June - Phonic screening - Yr1-2
- 14th June - Yr3 Performance at St Leonards, Shoreditch 6-7pm
- 16th June - Oomph Brass Band Day at the PDC
- 20th June - Fathers Week
- 23rd June - EU Voting Day SCHOOL CLOSED
- 30th June - Y6/Y3 performance rehearsal at York Hall

**JULY**
- 4th July - Big Dance Week
- 7th July - Eid CLOSURE
- 11th July - Spanish Week
- 11th July - Performance for Y3 & Y6 at The Barbican 7-9pm
- 12 July - Parent learning Conference
- 13th July - Y6 Graduation - Morpeth School
- 14th July - Full GB/ Curriculum
- 15th July - Yr6 Chessington Trip
- 15th July - Summer Disco
- 18th July - Olympic Week

**20th July** - End of Term