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**Newsletter No.16**

Dear Parent/Carers Friday 13th January 2017

**Diary of Dates**

Sorry, there were a couple of mistakes on this term’s Diary of Dates so it is being reissued with this newsletter.

**New Head Teacher**

With this newsletter you will also receive a letter from Mrs Smith, our Chair of Governors, informing you of the appointment of our new Head Teacher.

**Clubs**

Clubs start next week, your child should know which club(s) they are in but if you are unsure please see your child’s class teacher as they have a list.

**Cinderella at the Tobacco Factory**

The children really enjoyed this brilliant performance and were, as always, a credit to the school. **Thank you to the PTA for paying half the cost.**

**Science Week**

Next week is science week at Ashton Vale and we will be focussing on fossils and dinosaurs. There are some exciting activities planned including the opportunity for children to re-enact an archaeological dig to discover more about the past and on Monday, Bristol University will be in school with their Dinosaur Project.

**Lantern Parade**

Saturday 21st January is the new date for the lantern parade. The parade starts by St Francis Church in North Street at 4.30pm and ends at Compass Point School where there will be refreshments. This year the parade will be accompanied by a Samba Band and dancers, a marching band, The Ambling Band and Professor Rhinestein and the Hosen Ones. We will be just in front of the marching band and behind the samba band towards the front of the parade.

**Football**

The Year 5/6 football league starts next Thursday after school. This year we are entering two teams, good luck to both.

**Nuts**

This is a reminder that children should not bring nuts into school due to the risk to children with allergies. Please could you bare this in mind if your child has packed lunch. Thank you.

**Community Café and Art Hub**

The Art Hub and Community Cafe will be open at the Community Centre 10am - 12pm this Saturday. £1 per child for the art session and the Community Cafe will be serving refreshments.  Our local Councillor will be attending as normal for anything you would like to chat about.

**Chickens**

Great news, the chickens have recovered from their annual molt and are now laying again. If you would like to help at weekends or in the holidays please sign up in the office.

**Thank you to everyone who helped over the Christmas Holidays.**

**Music Hoodies**

I am sure you have seen children proudly wearing their Sports Squad hoodies in school. We feel that children who are active in music at school should have the same status and opportunity so we are introducing Music Maestro hoodies. If your child learns an instrument in a small or individual group or sings in the choir you can order one of these special hoodies for £12.50. Please order them through the office as you would our normal school uniform.

**Children’s University**

If your child is a member of The Children’s University please remember to put your child’s hours on the website. All our after school clubs are registered plus many more in the local community. The sports and dance clubs at Ashton Park are now also registered as well as their holiday clubs.

It is important to also get your child’s passport stamped so please bring it to school every so often and we can stamp it for you.

If you would like your child to join it is just a one off payment of £5.00 and then they are on the road to graduation. Please see me for more details.

**Weather**

In the unlikely event that the school has to be closed due to bad weather we will send out a text message, contact the local authority who will put it on their website, contact local radio stations and also put it on our website. The decision has usually been made by 7.30am and a good indicator is that if the buses are not running then school is very likely to be closed.

Hopefully this will not happen in 2017.

**Nits**

There has been reported incidents of nits and head lice in school, please could you check your child’s/children’s hair this weekend and treat them where necessary. Thank you.

**Inclusion At Ashton Vale**

At Ashton Vale we believe in supporting all parents with the often challenging task of being a parent and I know many of you support each other. I am sure you are all very much aware that not all disabilities can be seen and also children go through a variety of phases in their journey to becoming an adult. If at any time you need support please come and let us know as we may well be able to help or put you in touch with someone who can.

**Attendance**

This week’s figures are:

**Penguin 97.3% Robin 97%** Flamingo 92.8% **Crow 97%**

**Falcon 98.3% Kingfisher 98.3% Blue Jay 98.2%**

Yours sincerely

Ms V Champeney

Headteacher