

Dear Parents,

### MARCH UPDATE

Well its been a rather strange start to the month! Just when we were all thinking about spring being here, the weather gave us a sharp reminder of winter and the snow meant that, along with many other Derby schools, we were closed for two days. Still, hopefully the snow is now behind us until much later in the year and we look forward to a short, but fun-packed half term.

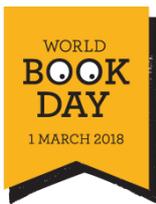
#### Lexia Monthly Challenge



The Lexia monthly challenge continues to be a great success and 316 certificates were achieved during February. The top three performing classes were Koala, Turtle and Tiger and they will all therefore be treated to a non-uniform day this Friday 9<sup>th</sup> March. Well done to them.

#### Library and Reading News

The library has re-opened this week with a big surprise for children. It has had a 'Narnia' makeover and looks absolutely magical. All children will have a chance to see the library display this week and are encouraged to borrow books to take home and read.



As the school was closed on the official World Book Day, we will now be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> March. We will be asking children to come dressed as a book character. We look forward to seeing the breadth of texts that our children are interested in. We will also be organising different activities throughout the day with each year group having exciting book-themed tasks for their children to complete. Finally, we plan to have a 'bedtime story' session when children, parents and siblings will be able to return to school (around 18:00) in their pyjamas and listen to a bedtime story being read whilst drinking hot chocolate!

We are pleased to have teamed up with Usborne Books to complete a sponsored read and this will enable us to encourage reading for pleasure amongst our children as well as getting some more books for our new library. More details to follow nearer the date.

#### Healthy Eating (and snacks in school)



Over the last term, we have been talking to children about different aspects of healthy living. In order to raise levels of physical activity at Osmaston Primary, we have increased the number of after school clubs that are available and Premier Sport also run lunchtime and breakfast club activities.

In January, 'Rammie' visited all the children in assembly, accompanied by Derby County Community Trust, to talk about taking part in Rammie's Daily Mile, when the pupils do as many laps of the playground as they can in 10 minutes. Many classes across school accepted the challenge and have been taking part in running activities throughout the week, in order to increase their fitness levels.

'Rammie' also spoke to the children about healthy eating and portion size. As part of our drive to support the children with these messages, we felt that we needed to review the snacks that the children are having for their morning break in KS2. We would ask that pupils bring only enough snack for themselves at morning break and that their snack is as healthy as possible.

Please could you help us by not sending sweets, chocolate or 'grab size' bags of crisps. This will help to support the pupils with their learning and encourage generally healthier habits.

We are currently working on plans to make our tuck shop healthier and will send more news of this soon.

### **Healthy Lifestyle Workshop**



Osmaston Primary School is currently taking part in the Rammie's Healthy Hero programme, which aims to increase physical activity throughout the school day.

There will be a workshop taking place at school on Tuesday 13th and Wednesday 14th March at 2-3pm. This will be a fun and interactive session, based around healthy eating and increasing physical activity outside of the school day in a fun and easy way. There will also be an opportunity to sign up to our free physical activity and adult healthy lifestyle programmes through Derby County Community Trust on the day. Everybody who attends will be entered into a draw to win a £10 River Island voucher.

### **Behaviour Rules**

Over the past couple of weeks we have had a focus within the school on encouraging children to be kind to each other. We are concerned that there remains a small number of children within school who are too quick to physically hurt each other. We have made it very clear to the children that this is never an acceptable response, even if another person has goaded them. Instead we teach them to "stop, talk and walk" (tell the other child to stop, explain that it isn't true and then walk away). We also tell them to tell an adult if the behaviour persists. Please back us up by explaining to your child that we will always take a tough line on pupils who are physically aggressive as this is not acceptable behaviour within school.

### **Staffing Changes**

We said goodbye at half term to Mrs McColl, head of year two, who is leaving us for a new position after working for many years at the school. She will be sadly missed. Mrs Dodd, who previously worked part-time with this class, will be taking over the class full time for the remainder of this academic year. Miss Bates will now take on the role of leading years one and two, along with Mrs Flint.

Mrs Rock has taken time off this half term, and possibly into the start of next term, to have a knee replacement. She underwent this surgery last week and is presently making a good recovery. In the meantime we have Mrs Hunt working with us Mon, Tues and Wed each week for the remainder of this term. Mrs Hunt is a very experienced school leader and will make a valuable addition to the senior leadership team.

### **Late Collection of Pupils**

We respectfully request that parents try and pick up their children on time at the end of the school day. If, for any reason, you anticipate being more than a few minutes late then please contact the school office to let them know so that we can make arrangements to look after your child.

Yours sincerely

*Wendy Baxter*

**Mrs Wendy Baxter**

**Interim Head Teacher**