

Spring Newsletter 3

2018



THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

We have been overwhelmed at the support we have received from you all in response to our Easter Bunny Hop sponsored event. So far we have raised a massive £1500 which is quite remarkable. You will all appreciate the funding crisis in schools at the moment and this money will make a real difference to the work we do here at Crofton Hammond. I would also like to thank the whole of the CHIPS team for their tireless work, organisational skills and endless enthusiasm! Finally we would also like to thank Garson's Garden centre for kindly donating the plants for our Mothers' Day gifts free of charge.

GOOD NEWS!

This year Hampshire Local Authority have introduced new Education Awards to reward those people who go above and beyond in different fields of education. I decided to nominate John Mitchell, our long standing and very wise member of the governing body for the Governor award and I am delighted to tell you that he has been chosen to go through to the final three. He has been invited to an awards ceremony at the Great Hall in Winchester on 11th July where the winner will be announced. We are very proud of him.

We are equally proud to report that Lisa Noice (nee Dalglish) the Crofton Cluster of schools Family Liaison Officer was also nominated by the Heads of the Cluster schools and she too has made the final three. Those of you who have worked with Lisa will know what a difference her advice and experience can make.

John and Lisa will both be interviewed by the judges panel, so if any of you would like to write a contribution or even meet with the panel to support their nomination that would be wonderful.

ATTENDANCE

You will all be aware of the outcome of the Supreme Court judgement in relation to attendance, and the fact that strict regulations now apply around this subject. On the reverse of this newsletter I have outlined the most recent advice regarding attendance, including the imposition of penalty notices for holidays taken during term time. The last thing we want to do, as a school, is to fine parents for taking their children out of school, but unfortunately we now have absolutely no option but to issue a fine for any period of five days (10 or more sessions) in a row that is missed. For this reason I would urge any of you to come and meet with me before planning time out of school for a holiday. There is no doubt that any time out of school has a real impact on a child's learning - it can mean that they miss complete 'chunks' of learning, and with the best will in the world, this can be difficult to 'catch up'. Penalty notices can also be issued with regard to continued lateness so we do urge you to ensure that your child is here punctually at the start of the school day. Finally we also ask that any general appointments such as the dentist or optician are made after school or in the holidays unless in an emergency. Thank you.

AND FINALLY.....

We would like to wish you all a very Happy Easter and hope that you are able to have some family time together. I know that the staff here are all looking forward to catching up with their own families!



ATTENDANCE

Further to our previous Newsletters on Attendance, I would once again like to stress the importance of your child regularly attending school. Following the Isle of Wight Appeal Case, the Supreme Court delivered its judgement which states that “*regular*” means “*in accordance with the rules published by Hampshire County Council’s code of Conduct*” and not “*sufficiently frequently*”. Full details of this judgement can be found on the Supreme Court website: www.supremecourt.uk.

Once you have registered your child at a school it is your responsibility to make sure that she/he attends regularly and punctually. If you fail to do so the Local Authority has a statutory duty to consider legal action to enforce school attendance.

There are a number of legal measures that the Local Authority can pursue, these include:

- being issued a voluntary parenting contract - this could be following referral to an Early Help Hub or the Attendance Legal Panel (ALP)
- being included in the fast track system which means you will be given 12 weeks to improve your child's attendance
- receiving a penalty notice - this is a fine of £60 per parent/carer for periods of unauthorised absence such as holidays in term time, lateness, unauthorised absence or poor patterns of attendance/punctuality
- being prosecuted in the Magistrates’ Court - this means you could receive a community order, a fine of up to £2,500 per parent/carer or a custodial sentence.
- your child being issued with an education supervision order - this is an order where the child attends court and certain measures are put in place regarding attendance at school.

It is also important to note that parents/carers can also receive penalty notices/fines across different academic years and different schools, for example when a child transfers to a Junior or Secondary School. This is to ensure that parents/carers do not have a pattern of regularly taking unauthorised periods of absence.

REMINDER

In light of this advice we would like to remind you that we are taking two of our closure days in May consecutively, and tagging them on to the May Bank Holiday. This means that school will be closed on Thursday 3rd and Friday 4th May. Along with the Monday Bank Holiday this will allow for a five day break which could be used as a holiday.

The final closure day will be Monday 23rd July, meaning that the school year will finish on Friday 20th July. We intend to host another Family Disco on this day again and hopefully this year it won't be raining!