



Head's Update Michaelmas 1, Week 7, 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

It feels like a massive achievement to have reached half term this year. This is already the longest term and to have kept all children in school for 7 weeks is a huge accomplishment. Every day during my Head's forum meetings, I'm told about children being sent home due to positive cases of COVID. This morning alone, my local secondary school sent over 200 children home to self-isolate for 14 days and a Kettering Junior School sent an entire class of 30 home. Some may say that it's luck, but I'd prefer to credit our hard work and diligence.

Nursery

We have continued our love of nature this week and have explored a real bird's nest. We also enjoyed indoor activities, such as counting spiders on cobwebs and decorating cakes! We hope you have a relaxing half term. How about making some halloween decorations to put around the house, make toffee apples or carve a pumpkin? You could dress up and enjoy a chocolate hunt around your house and garden. Try playing with a torch exploring the darkness and the shadows, or enjoy some television such as 'Room on the Broom' or 'Meg and Mog!' Wrap up warm and go for a walk in the woods to hunt for spiders and maybe even bats! Whatever your plans are for this Halloween, which will certainly not be a normal one, please remain safe.

PTA - Quiz Night

Remember to sign up for the online family PTA quiz night which will be on 20th November. You can pay for your team to enter via ParentMail. It's sure to be an evening of family fun. It's £5 per family team and it will be hosted in a special PTA Google Classroom.

School Council & Eco Committee

Both the School Council and Eco-committee have now met and have been discussing some hard hitting issues. Some decisions have been made and they've all been tasked with thinking about future projects and events. The School Council has decided that Children in Need Day should be spotty, stripey, or bright! They have also requested that for every House Point that's earned, the school donates 1p to a charity of the childrens' choice. I loved this idea and have said that I'll honour this. That's what the child's voice is all about and I'm pleased that our children demonstrate a social conscience and want to work for charity as they produce excellent work in class. I also know that the Eco-committee are keen to start some campaigns and competitions across school from bug hotel designing to bird box building. I am so proud of their green enterprising spirit.

Half Term Highlights

Please find attached to this Head's update a pdf of the Half Term Highlights. We have some printed copies of this which are available on the gate after half term. We'll also publish this in all of the Google Classrooms. I hope you enjoy a snapshot inside of the school with some pictures from this last half term.



Contact with teachers

The use of Google has made it even easier for you to make contact with teachers, which is incredibly important during this strange time when parents can't 'pop in' to see a class teacher at drop-off and pick up. I have seen lots of positive uses of Google Classroom and GMail. 'Share your work' seemed to work incredibly well in Google Classroom and I personally enjoyed looking at all of the children's hard work. I'd like to make three polite requests:

1. Please remember to send all formal communications through the School Office. This includes uniform, medical, absence and formal letters. This will then be logged by the School Office and the relevant people will be informed. Don't send this information directly to the class teacher. Absences should be requested in advance via ParentMail.
2. Please send positive news back via Google Classroom and GMail. I know that the teachers really appreciate hearing positive things about what the children have done at home and their achievements. You are welcome to comment on their 'Share Your Work'.
3. Please be mindful that you won't get an immediate response from teachers, especially outside of working hours. Teachers will be in the classroom teaching throughout the day and may not have the opportunity to respond straight away. If you require a quick response, please send your question or concern to the School Office which is staffed from 8am until 3:45pm.

Final Flu vaccination reminder

Registration closes 7 days before the nurses visit on Tuesday 3rd November. For consent forms, please visit: <https://www.nhft.nhs.uk/flu>. Once the deadline closes you'll only be able to access the vaccination from a community catch up clinic. If you don't want your child to receive the flu vaccination you aren't required to submit the consent form.

Conker Championship

This afternoon was the eagerly anticipated 2020 Conker Championships. Children from Year 2 to Year 6 participated and the finals were watched by all on the playground at 2.30pm. Mr Holmes had a speaker to hand so 'We Will Rock You' could be heard around the school as the final bout was fought, between Year 4 and Year 5. Year 4 becoming the eventual winner with Joshua taking the title and trophy for this year. Well done!

The final Housepoint standings were close but the girls this half term have got the head start. It's a long time until the end of the year so the children need to keep demonstrating Excellent Effort, Excellent Behaviour and Excellent Achievement.

- Barnwell - 179
- Brigstock - 197
- Stanwick - 150
- Sywell - 209
- Boys - 330
- Girls - 405



Year 6 had the most Housepoints and they received a special treat today as a reward. Sywell were presented with the Conway Cup and the green ribbons have already been attached inside the trophy cabinet.

Have a restful week everyone. Wishing you a healthy and safe time with your family.

Regards,

Mr Thomas

Headteacher