

# Drayton CE Junior School

## Newsletter October 2020

Here we are, nearly half a term down and still going strong!

I'm pleased to inform you that as part of our commitment to keep the curriculum as broad as possible, during this time, we have now reopened our swimming pool so lessons can begin again. The groups will be smaller, and all children will come from the same bubble, but it is wonderful to be able to offer the children the opportunity to get back in the water.

Thank you for your support and patience during the first weeks of this very new way of running a school. Things are much more settled now as we all have become used to the new systems. As always, the children continue to adapt brilliantly to the new routines and have taken them all in their stride.

However, as the weather turns autumnal we are facing more challenges which will mean some tweaks will be needed to get us through the colder months. One of these will be having to keep the children on the field, so they can get to go out in their zones, during a time of year when we would usually have closed it off. With this in mind, you may wish to send a spare pair of old shoes or wellies into school for the weeks when your child is in a field zone. This will prevent them from spending the day in damp muddy shoes as well as help to reduce the amount of mud that is coming into school. There is no requirement to buy any shoes especially – outdoor PE shoes would be fine - just as long as they are able to keep them in school for that week.

We will also need to continue to keep windows partially open, to allow for well ventilated classrooms. Therefore, a hoodie or similar warm top would be a good idea to have in class so your child can slip it on if they are feeling the cold. Again, there is no need to buy anything in particular for this.

Finally, on the subject of a change in the weather, we will be trying to get the children outside as much as possible as they are currently required to spend a lot of their day in their classroom seat, as movement around the school to assembly, music studio etc is no longer able to take place.

Therefore, could you please make sure your child has a warm coat to wear when outside.

I hope all the children have a happy, safe and dry half term holiday.

D Oldham

### **Parent consultations**

Please do look out for an email, we will send out next week, asking you to book an appointment for our video parent consultations coming up after the half term break. These are running a little later than we would normally hold them due to some "issues" we had with the original providers of the video link service we had planned to use. Consequently, we have needed to go elsewhere to a company we feel can provide a better service, hence the reason for our delay. Let's just hope it all runs smoothly now!

Each appointment will be 10 minutes, after which the connection will break, and instructions to make the booking will be linked into the email.

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## **Volcanoes erupt in Drayton!**

On Friday my class, 3I, my class made volcanoes out of card as part of our Tremors Topic. We coloured them in using browns, oranges and reds. We used these colours to make it look like it was erupting. Afterwards we cut them out and glued the two ends together to make the shape of a volcano. At that point I was collecting equipment to make an electric circuit. I needed 2 crocodile clips, 1 lightbulb and 1 battery pack.

Once my circuit was connected I saw my lightbulb come on and this made it look like it was erupting. To add to the effect I wiggled the crocodile clip to make it flicker.

Meanwhile Mrs Butler was erupting the playdough volcano that Oscar S made earlier. This volcano erupted because there was a chemical reaction between the vinegar and the bicarbonate of soda. I later found out that this made carbonic acid which breaks down into water and carbon dioxide gas. This is why it becomes foamy.

By Oscar Mickleburgh 3I



## **Olympian visit**

Paul Evans is a unique person who visited us at school. When he came to our class he explained that he started to love running when he was 10 years old, like us. He joined a club and became better and better. Paul talked to us about the Olympics, he went to two different ones - Barcelona in 1992 and Atlanta in 1996. He told us about all the marathons he had done and how he wasn't always fully prepared for them. So he would go away and train harder to try and improve. He finally won his first marathon, the Chicago marathon in 1996.

After he had finished telling us his inspiring story, we went outside to do some running. First we had to run about 50m but in ten seconds. He talked about saving your energy for longer distance running. Then we did relays and saw how many times we could run in 3 minutes. My group got 70 laps done. He gave us lots of good advice to me and my class about running.

Mia Van Minden, 6F

## **Thank you**

We would like to thank J Medlar Building Merchants for their kind donation of slabs which have been used to make pathways into the Year 5 classrooms whilst the grassed area is muddy. A particular thanks should also go to Mrs Lambourne who took the time to get in touch with them in the first instance.

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## **Mobile phones reminder**

The school has a clear policy, available on our website, that mobile phones are not allowed for safeguarding reasons. Any child found with a phone in school will have that phone confiscated until a parent can come and collect it.

If you have worries about your child arriving or getting home safely due to work commitments, then I would suggest contacting Fairview after school and breakfast club, to see if they have places, in the first instance.

## **Diary Dates**

### **October**

Wed 21<sup>st</sup> Last day in school before Half Term

### **November**

Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> First day back in school

Fri 6<sup>th</sup> Flu Immunisations in school

Mon 9<sup>th</sup> & Thurs 12<sup>th</sup> Online Parent Consultations – information to follow shortly

Wed 11<sup>th</sup> Individual School Photos

### **December**

Fri 18<sup>th</sup> Last day of term