



Newsletter

For all parents, staff, governors and pupils
Tuesday 4th December 2018



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www.dilkesacademy.org.uk

Dear Parents/Carers,

Over the last few weeks we have been continuing our work with replacing the tired boundary fencing. The main playground and the front of the school were part of phase 1. Phase 2 has involved the field to the west side of the school boundary, here the hedges and small saplings, many of which were in a poor condition, have been removed. The new fencing is much more secure and also has the added benefit of privacy panels in a number of areas. We feel that this will help improve the security of the school premises.

We are fast approaching the Christmas period and the pupils are busy rehearsing their performances. Many thanks to many of you who have already purchased tickets for the performances using ParentPay. Any remaining tickets will go on general sale tomorrow lunchtime (Wednesday 5th December). Tickets will be given out in class and will be numbered. Don't forget to bring your ticket to the performance as this also acts as a raffle ticket into our main draw. We look forward to welcoming you to these wonderful performances.

Thank you to all those who attended Parent Consultation days. I hope that you found it a useful opportunity to discuss your child's progress and how you can further support them at home. We had an overwhelming number of parent questionnaires returned. This is a really useful way for us to measure how we are doing as a school. A letter will be sent out this week detailing a break down of your valuable feedback.

I am pleased to share that the school have been successful in securing funds to build a MUGA (Multi Use Games Arena) pitch on the school site. This will not only bring many benefits to the school but to the community as well. Construction is due to start late spring 2019 and we are excited about the possibilities that having an all year round facility will bring. We are extremely fortunate to have secured these funds and we will update you on progress as we move through the year with the aim to open the MUGA for pupils early summer 2019.

Mr R. Latham
Headteacher

ATTENDANCE:

The class with the best attendance for the week of 19th November is **5P** with **100%**.

The classes with the best attendance for the week of 26th November is **6G** with **98%**.

Whole school attendance for the last two weeks is 94.9% which falls short of our school target of 97%. Attendance is closely monitored.

Please support your child and the school by ensuring that students attend every day and on time.

All students have been set a minimum attendance of 97% and we urge you to resist the temptation of arranging family holiday during term time.

We strive to improve overall attendance and poor attendees will be contacted accordingly in line with school policy.

BUILDING LEARNING POWERS:

The Building learning power for the week commencing 3rd December is:

'PERSEVERANCE'

The Building Learning Power for the week commencing 10th December is:

"SELF-KNOWLEDGE"

BIG QUESTION:

Year 1—Which animals make the best pets?

Year 2—What and why do people celebrate?

Year 3—Why are some people scared of spiders and snakes?

Year 4—What if humans lived underwater?

Year 5—Where do dreams come from? Do they mean anything?

Year 6—What if fossils didn't exist?

WELL DONE TO...:

Sophia in 2NS who achieved two 1st places and one 2nd place in her first dancing competition.
Harry in 5R who won two trophies in a sailing event.
Aubree in RP who achieved her Bronze merit award.
Well done to all!

ATP TOUR FINALS 2018—O2ARENA:

On Friday 16th November 2018, 8 pupils were given the wonderful opportunity to attend this years ATP Tour Finals at the O2 Arena, thanks to the Tennis Foundation. This was the schools first visit to the Finals and we were one of only 2 schools in attendance. We began the day by visiting the singles and doubles trophies before watching the players being put through their paces by their coaches. Following this we watched both a doubles and an excellent singles match between Zerev and Isner. The pupils were very lucky to have seen this years eventual winner Alexander Zverev in action.

UNIFORM REMINDER:

As we are now experiencing colder, damp weather please take this as a timely uniform reminder. Children are not permitted to wear boots around the school therefore if your child is travelling to school wearing boots they must bring suitable shoes to change into.
Large hair bows/accessories are not allowed in school for safety reasons.
A full list of uniform can be found on the school website under the 'Parents & Pupils' tab.

UPDATE FROM DILKES ACADEMY P.E. DEPARTMENT:

Congratulations to the KS2 Cross Country team from Dilkes Academy who recently took part in the Thurrock SSP event held at William Edwards. A strong effort from most of our year groups across the KS2 spectrum secured Dilkes Academy 6th place overall with some excellent individual and team performances. Jayden came 2nd place in the Year 4 boys race and the Year 5 girls team finished 2nd place overall.
We have and will continue to highlight Cross Country not only as an after school club but with the introduction of the Catalyst Intra Cross Country championships. This has proven to help our pupils enjoy a healthy and active lifestyle, taking part in competitive sport, but not at the expense of our core values of Teamwork and Respect which were so evident as all our pupils represented our school in such a positive way at this event.
We are very proud of you and thank you so much for all your hard work this season.
We look forward to working with the KS1 pupils to prepare them for their Cross Country event in June
Please keep in touch with the PE and Sport at Dilkes via the school website sports page or via the Dilkes Twitter page @DilkesPE.

BOOK EXCHANGE EVENT:

On Wednesday 28th November 2018, the Dilkes Eco-Warriors and Reading Ambassadors joined forces to run our first ever Book Exchange event. Following a wave of publicity posters designed by the Eco-Warriors there was a lot of excitement about the event. Children from Nursery to Year 6 brought in books that they no longer wanted to read, ranging from *The Gruffalo's Child* to *The Diary of the Wimpy Kid*. These donations were all laid out in the dining hall and after school children were able to swap their tokens, designed by the Reading Ambassadors, for a different book to take home. The Eco-Warriors and Reading Ambassadors were on hand to help with the choices and to collect the tokens. During the event over 230 books were swapped and everyone seemed very happy with their new reads.
Watch out for the next Exchange event in the new year.

CHRISTMAS JUMPER AND CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY:

On Monday 17th December 2018 we will be taking part in Jolly Jumper Day. Your child can wear a Christmas jumper to school if they have one. There is no need to purchase one if you do not have one though.
We are asking for a suggested donation of 50p per child for wearing non uniform and this money will go to our chosen charities
We will also be hosting our whole school Christmas Dinner on Monday 17th, which is a highlight in the school calendar.