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7th February 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are nearly at the end of this short term, and there are a few changes that I would like to make you aware of as we go forward into the Spring. Thank you, first though, for your donations in support of the NSPCC's Number Day – a total of ± 37.12 was raised.

Swimming

On Tuesday 27th February, Year Groups 1-6 will start the first of 11 swimming sessions at Newark Leisure Centre. The last week of swimming will be on Tuesday 21st May. In order to be in the pool on time, lunch will be brought forward slightly so that all parties are on the bus at 12.30pm, and the bus should return to school for about 2.45pm. Attached you will find two consent forms for photographs and wearing goggles, and with the emailed version of this letter, an information leaflet for parents.

Change to PE day and Sport After School Club

As a result of swimming taking place on a Tuesday we will be switching the days that Premier Education are in school to deliver their PE programme. PE days with Premier Education will now take place on a Monday, with the Sports After School Club also moving from Tuesday evening to Monday evenings. This change will take place the first week back after half term – <u>Monday 19th February</u>. There will be no other weekly PE sessions this term or after Easter whilst swimming is taking place.

After School Club next term

The end of term will see an end to Archery as our Sports Club focus and a switch to fencing until the Easter holidays. The Sport Club will run from 3.30pm to 4.30pm on a Monday evening at a charge of £5 per session. On Thursday evenings, we will be running an Arts & Craft club from 3.30pm to 4.30pm. Extended wrap around care will be available Monday to Thursday until 6pm, and in the morning from 8am every day of the week. The booking form for next term is attached.

Attendance Policy

Governors have recently approved a new Attendance Policy that I will now be implementing in full. Schools have a legal responsibility to monitor attendance closely and to work with parents to resolve any issues that may be affecting pupil attendance. The impact on learning from absence may well surprise you, for example, an attendance rate of 96% across an academic year equates to a total of 9 learning days lost. The policy outlines what is classified as 'authorised' and 'unauthorised' absence, and details the type of monitoring we will be undertaking, which will include following termly attendance, and 'persistence' absence. As of the summer term, letters with reminders and targets (see Policy Appendix) will be issued to parents/carers of those children whose attendance is slipping below acceptable government guidelines. I believe the policy provides a positive framework within which both school and parents/carers can work together towards ensuring our children here achieve the best possible education they can, therefore improving their life chances. A copy of the policy has been attached to the electronic version of this letter - if you have any questions around the policy, please let me know.

Change in Catering Suppliers

I am very pleased to inform you that we will be using a different catering supplier for our lunches after the Easter holidays. The local, family-run business – Good Lookin Cookin – based in Lincoln will be supplying our dinners from 15th April 2024. Good Lookin Cookin (GLC) offer a much wider choice of menu, a more flexible ordering system, and have been able to maintain a price of £2.40 per meal compared to NCC Catering's £2.95. Further details on these changes will follow next term when we will be arranging for GLC to come into school for a 'taster' session which I hope you will support. Those pupils who are entitled to free or UIFSM meals will continue to receive dinners free of charge.

Finally, some dates for your diary:

9 th February 2024	Last Day of Term
12 th – 16 th February 2024	Half Term
19 th February 2024	School Re-opens: new day for PE day with Premier Education & Sports ASC
27 th February 2024	Swimming starts - Tuesday afternoons
7 th March 2024	World Book Day
8 th March 2024	Golden Assembly @ 9.15am
15 th March 2024	Talent Show for Comic Relief – Non-Uniform Day
19 th March 2024	Parents Evening: Owls (Miss Wright) & Robins (Mrs Sanderson)
21 st March 2024	Parents Evening: Owls (Mrs Hyde)
27 th March 2024	Last Day of Term for Pupils
28 th March 2024	INSET DAY – school closed to pupils
29 th March to 12 th April 2024	Easter Holidays
8 th April 2024	School Re-opens to all
May	KS1 Non-Statutory SATs
w.c. 13 th May 2024	SATS week (Year 6s)
21 st May 2024	Last swimming session
24 th May 2024	Last Day of Term
27 th – 31 st May 2024	Spring Half Term Holiday
w.c. 3 rd June	Year 5 Times Tables Assessment (over 3-week period)
w.c. 10 th June 2024	Phonics Assessment
19 th June 2024	School Photographs
20 th June 2024	INSET DAY – school closed to pupils
4 th July 2024	Robins Whole Day Trip to Sherwood Forest Education Centre
5 th July 2024	Golden Assembly @ 9.15am
12 th July 2024	Sports Day @ 9.30pm
26 th July 2024	Leavers Assembly @ 1.15pm – last day of the school year

Thank you for your support.

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