



Primary School Newsletter

2 March 2018



Snowy days and school closures

Considering the national news this week, I thought it would be useful to explain how and why a decision is made to close a school or not due to weather conditions. Closing a school is a very difficult decision as it not only impacts on children in terms of missed lessons and other less obvious opportunities, but can have a significant impact on working families. Every headteacher makes this decision based on health and safety consideration for their employees and pupils: safety in getting to and from the site and adequate supervision. As our school is served by local staff or staff using public transport, unless there are major closures on public

transport, we are able to stay open. The average distance that SMMA pupils live is 0.7 miles, and over 75% of our pupils walk to school. This means it is relatively easy to keep our site open compared to schools which are less accessible. We also have staff on site from 5am which means we have very good information about the condition of the site and local area. If we do expect to have reduced staff numbers, there are many options such as part-opening for different year groups or teaming classes up. We would also consider closing early if weather conditions change drastically during the day. All staff were able to make it in this week, which meant we were able to stay open and attendance was at its normal level. We would never ask staff to risk their own safety to make it in to work. All decisions made about school closure are made by myself in discussion with Ms Linsley, the secondary headteacher.

I think it is important that children are given the opportunity to go out and play in the snow, so you can imagine we have had a lot of fun this week (when the wind wasn't making it too cold). Staff and students alike were very keen to show off their snowball throwing techniques—including some particularly talented snowball throwers from Year 4 who managed to hound me inside. The pupils were, as always, brilliantly behaved and we hope will have fond memories of the week. Many thanks to our amazing site staff for their continual gritting of paths which helped make it safe for all of us to access the site and to you all for sending the children in wrapped up warm so they could enjoy going outside and having fun with their friends and for the staff who were good natured enough to brave the cold during their breaks. **Ms Luzmore**



Dates for your diary

March

- Fri 9—KS1 OAE concert
- Fri 9 - Y3 Class assembly—3pm
- Fri 9 - Y5 Church
- Mon 12 Mar—Y4 London Zoo
- Fri 16 - Rec & Y6 Church
- Fri 16 - Y1 Class assembly— 3pm
- Tues 20— Year 5/6 Football finals
- Thurs 22 - Hamlet performance—tickets on sale 12/03 £3.00 per ticket
- Thur 29—Last day of Spring term. 2pm finish

You are very welcome to join the school for our **Easter service** on Wednesday 28 April 2.15pm at St Mary Magdalene church. Children will be dismissed from the playground as usual at 3.30pm.

Please be mindful of other children and families if you are bringing **dogs** at drop off and collection. Dogs should not be brought into the playground unless they are being carried by the owner. Thank you for your support.

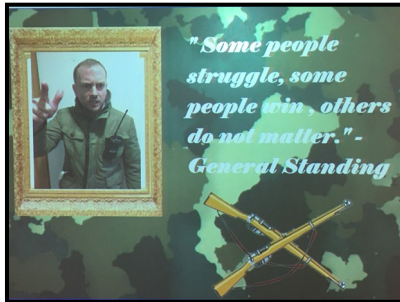


Changes to catering at SMMA

The Academy have recently awarded the catering contract to Alliance in Partnership (AiP). They will be writing to all parents in the coming days and will be taking over operations from the summer term. We will be sending out to families of children with known dietary requirements forms to fill in so that their nutritionist can contact you directly about menus. As part of the launch, AiP will be holding a taster session for primary parents after school on Tuesday 13 March. We look forward to working closely with AiP to provide tasty and healthy food for the school community.

Year 6 Unit of Inquiry

Year 6 have had an interesting week finding out about different government systems. This involved experiencing, first-hand, a state of anarchy and then being immersed into a dictatorship under the iron-fist of 'General Standing'. Some thought-provoking situations which the children have been able to gain great insight into how some of these political systems work.



Year 3 Science Museum

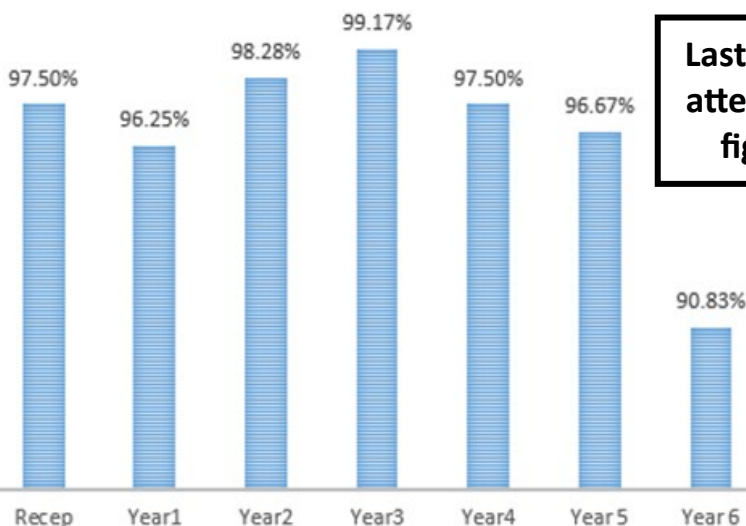
Year 3 had a fantastic visit to the Science Museum on Tuesday. They had a great time in the Wonderlab, experiencing lots of hand-on science activities, from creating electrical circuits to manipulating magnetic liquid. The children also saw an exciting science show, including very impressive explosions! The rest of the time was free to explore the exhibits around the museum, specifically finding out more about energy and our planet, linking together both last term's unit about light and this term's about the world's resources. It was a fun-filled, busy day, jam-packed with learning and scientific exploration!



NSPCC Online Safety workshop

We hope the workshop this morning was useful. For those unable to attend, we've attached a PDF guide produced by the NSPCC for those who subscribe to the email version of the newsletter. Also attached are the results of the pupil survey which Mr Standing has compiled, into year groups. This makes for interesting reading and we will certainly be discussing these as a staff and how they impact on our practice in school.

Unfortunately due to a fairly long walk involved and the temperature and icy conditions in the morning, we did have to cancel the **Year 1 trip to the Fire Brigade Museum** at the last minute. Thank you to all who volunteered to accompany the children. We hope to be able to arrange something else in its place.



Last week's attendance figures

