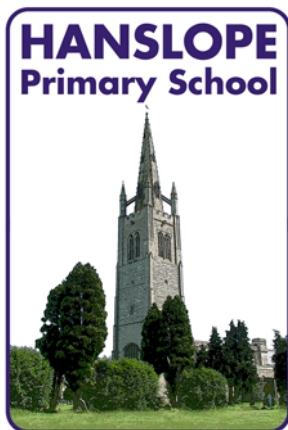


NEWSLETTER



Spring 1 Issue 2

Back to school

As a result of the poor weather over the last week or so, it feels as though we are returning to school after a break. From the children's perspective, we are in no doubt that the heavy snow came as a very pleasant surprise and the school closing for two days was the icing on the cake. Despite missing a couple of days of school, we hope the children enjoyed playing in the snow. Certainly, watching them play and create snowmen earlier in the week was a lovely spectacle for staff.

On a more serious note, I would like to reassure parents that decisions regarding school closures are not taken lightly and we aim to make the decision as early as possible, recognising the impact this has on working parents in particular. We remained open on Monday and were relieved we made that decision, as there were no further heavy downpours during the course of the day. Thursday was a different story altogether, and by approximately 7.30am the decision had been made to close the school for the day. On Friday morning, following initial evaluation of weather conditions at 6.15 and 6.30, we took the decision to keep the school open. However, within an hour of the initial decision, we were forced to re-assess the situation and made a subsequent decision to close. We hope you were able to access this information in good time.

Thank you to all parents and children who made the effort to come into school on Monday and apologies for any inconvenience caused due to closure in the latter part of the week, and the slight delay in coming to a final decision on Friday. May I take this opportunity to remind you of the ways in which any future school closures can be confirmed:

1. Milton Keynes Council website www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/schoolclosures
2. Our school website www.hanslopeschool.co.uk. The information will be posted on the Home page. Remember to press the Refresh button to update the details on screen.
3. Listening to local radio or accessing the information via www.heartmk.co.uk
4. Calling the school on 01908 510245, if you cannot access the above.

In the event of any future closures due to poor weather conditions, we aim to notify you by 7.30am at the latest in order that provision can be made for pupils with working parents. A decision will be made based on the current weather conditions as well as the weather forecast for the rest of the day. Should we remain open and the weather takes a turn for the worse without warning, we are more than happy for parents to pick up their children early. Should the school need to be closed during the course of the day, we will contact parents individually and post this information on the website.

This first half of the Spring Term has flown by and it seems difficult to believe that we officially close for the half term break this Friday. So what has been happening in the last few weeks at Hanslope?

'Much ado about Shakespeare'

Parts have been cast and rehearsals led by Mrs Czornyj are well underway. We are pleased that children have volunteered for backstage and lighting roles; all parts, whether acting or not, will serve to create a fabulous performance which we are all looking forward to.

'Take a chance and dance'

Year 6 visited Brooksward Primary School in Neath Hill to perform 'Take a chance and dance'. This performance was a culmination of weeks of dance and music sessions led by staff from Stantonbury Campus. Words like 'outstanding' and 'amazing' were used to describe the performance and it was met with tumultuous applause from the 240 strong audience. Well done Year 6.

Visitors to the school

The Mayor was due to visit the Woodlands Children's Centre on Tuesday - this is in recognition of the excellent work done by the Hanslope Childminding Support Group, ably led by Sue Brant, who has been a registered Childminder in the village for 16 years. Due to the poor weather conditions, unfortunately this has been cancelled.

Community News

The Parish Council will be hosting a meeting about the possibility of a wind farm in the vicinity. The meeting will take place at Hanslope School on Friday 13th February at 7.30pm. All welcome. Hanslope Entertainment Group presents '1001 Tights' during half term. Tickets now available from Hanslope News.

Diary dates

Friday 13th Feb - School closes for half term break
Monday 23rd Feb - School opens for 2nd half of the Spring term
Friday 27th Feb - Inter-schools quiz at Heronsgate School. Team yet to be chosen.
Tuesday 3rd March - Consultation Evening 6.00-8.00pm
Wednesday 4th March - Consultation Evening 3.30-6.00pm (2.00pm start for Cedar and Oak)
Thursday 19th March - Book Fair arrives
Friday 27th March - Progress reports out
Friday 3rd April - School closes for Easter break
Monday 20th April - INSET day, School closed
Tuesday 21st April - School resumes

Enjoy the half term break,

Debbie Doherty
9th February 2009