



<b>Friday 23 February 2018, forthcoming events for the week commencing 26 February 2018</b>			
Monday	19.2.18	8am-9am 3.15pm-4.30pm 3.30pm onwards	Breakfast club Hang out after school club Parents Evening for Willow and Rowan
Tuesday	20.2.18	8am-9am 3.15pm-4.30pm 3.30pm onwards	Breakfast club Hang out after school club Parents Evening for Willow and Rowan
Wednesday	21.2.18	8am-9am 3.15pm-4.30pm	Breakfast club Hang out after school club
Thursday	22.2.18	8am-9am 3.15pm-4.30pm 3.15pm-4.30pm	Breakfast club Hang out after school club HPS Orchestra
Friday	23.2.18	8am-9am 3.15pm-4.30pm	Breakfast club Hang out after school club

### **The John Fox Charity Trust for Hornton Primary School**

I am very pleased to say that the trustees of The John Fox Charity Trust for Hornton Primary School have agreed to donate £8600 to the school to completely upgrade our outdated IT infrastructure. This is a significant amount and will allow us to upgrade everything from our wireless access, server improvements, children and teacher's laptops, classroom projectors, and broadband improvements. These improvements will mean that we can embed ICT into our everyday teaching much more than we currently do and will mean that we can teach the children the computing skills they need to thrive in the ever increasing digital age. I have instructed the Warriner IT department to start work on these improvements as soon as possible. I am very grateful to the John Fox trustees for their very generous donation and the difference it will make to our children at school.

### **Sickness and Diarrhoea**

Please can we remind everyone that the exclusion period from school is 48 hours from the last time that the child was sick or had diarrhoea. We have had a number of children who have told us they have returned to school before this period had finished. This puts the health of other children and the adults that work in school at risk of catching their bugs. Thank you for your understanding.

### **Playground Improvements**

A few weeks ago I mentioned a project that Mr Fox is leading to make improvements to our playground. As part of a funding agreement schools have with the Government we can utilise our Sports Premium funding to make sustainable improvements to our school site. These additions will have long term benefits for the children's health and wellbeing and will help them to lead more active lifestyles. We are going to invest just under half of our total funding to do this. We will be

installing a climbing wall in the playground and redesigning our playground markings. I am hoping that these improvements will be ready for the summer term.

### Internet safety

Over the course of the last few weeks I have had various reports from parents that children in our school have accounts with a social media company called Musical.ly. While there is nothing I can do to stop parents setting up accounts for their children, I urge caution against setting up accounts with this particular company.

Musical.ly is a Chinese social media company which allows its users to upload music videos which they have either created themselves or copied from others. It also has a live function where a user can broadcast themselves live on the platform. By default users accounts are public and can be followed by and added as friends by anyone, from friends and family to complete strangers or people who are disguising their identity. Musical.ly has set its age limit to 13 but I am aware of children within our school who have accounts and are followed by or follow hundreds of people because their accounts are public accounts. I will reiterate that there is nothing I can do to stop parents setting up accounts but ask yourselves these questions, 'how do I keep my child safe online when they are followed by hundreds of complete strangers?' and 'how do I know that my child is following people I know?'

A survey by the NSPCC asked over 11,000 children and adults about their experiences using Musical.ly and the results shocked me. A quarter said that using the site was risky and told the NSPCC that the main risk factors were hackers, strangers following children and adding them as friends and a lack of strong privacy settings. This is a screen grab from the NSPCC site in which users and their parents were asked to categorise the content they had come across while using the site.



A quarter of the 11,000 people surveyed said they had seen violent content on the site and 20% said they had been exposed to sexual content on the site. The link to the survey is <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/networks/musically/>. Please take a moment to read the information on the page, it has quotes from parents and children about their experiences and is an eye opener.

Ultimately, it is for parents and carers to decide whether or not they set accounts up and to be clear I am not against social media or internet use. I believe that parents and carers need to think very carefully about the risk factors involved in setting accounts up for the children who are below the age limit set by the company themselves.

### **Game / film certificates**

On another safeguarding note, several children have told me this week that they are allowed to watch films and play video games at home with inappropriate age certificates, some as high as 18. This is worrying as those kinds of films and games have age certificates for very good reasons. They normally contain violence or content of a sexual nature and swearing. Again, while there is nothing I can do to stop parents allowing their children to watch or play these kinds things, I ask you to think about the impact exposing your children to these films and games is having on them. It has been proven that exposure to violent video games, such as the ones that some children have told me they play, increases poor behaviour in school and has an impact on their social attitudes too. Exposure to films containing violent scenes, such as war films, like the ones some children have told me they have watched recently, can cause children to lose sleep, have nightmares and ultimately lose focus in school as they come into school tired and unfocussed.

I conducted some research a number of years ago where I asked a group of parents to remove children's games console and televisions from their bedrooms for a period of one month to help improve behaviour in a previous class I had taught. While it was a challenge for the parents and children involved, the project had a hugely positive impact on behaviour in school, social well-being, concentration in lessons and attainment, particularly in reading. The children spoke about the benefits of not playing their computer games, some of which are similar to the ones children here have told me they play. They told me that they found it easier to concentrate, it was easier to play in the playground and that they were more focussed in lessons and enjoyed learning more.

If your child is being exposed to films and computer games that are meant for an older teenage or adult audience, please take a moment to consider the impact your decisions are having on them as young, impressionable children.

### **Heathy Snack**

Now that 'No Junk January' has finished we have noticed a few unhealthy snacks have made their way back into lunchboxes. We want to remind all parents and carers that playtime snacks need to be healthy things such as a small piece of fruit or a vegetable, a box of raisins, or a healthy muesli bar for example. We will continue to push for healthy snacks in lunchboxes and really want parents and carers to help us ensure that lunchboxes and snacks are helping children's health and well-being.

### **'Healthy Selfie'**

If you're doing some sport or exercise over the weekend, we'd really like you to take a selfie and bring it into Mr Fox who will add it to our 'healthy selfie' board in the playground. This will allow us to showcase the wide variety of sport and exercise our children do outside of school.

## **Parking**

I understand that parking has been a challenge this week because of the roadworks in West End, but I'd like to remind parents and carers not to park on the yellow lines or in a way that blocks access for villagers to Church Lane. This afternoon I noticed 2 cars parked on the yellow lines even though there were signs telling drivers not to, as well as two cars parked in Church Lane blocking access for residents. If there is nowhere to safely park close to school please use the pavilion car park and walk the 5 minutes back to school to collect your children.



Please think before you park.

## **The Warriner School Farm Days**

We are very lucky to have our very own farm within the academy who has arranged two fantastic events for children to join in with. The first is a Lambing Afternoon which takes place on the weekend of 3 and 4 March, from 2pm to 5pm, and the second is a Young Birdwatchers Course which takes place on Saturday 24 March from 10am to 4pm and is for children aged 9 to 12. Further details can be found on our noticeboard.

## **Orchestra**

The HPS Orchestra meets on a Thursday at 3.30pm in The Chapel. It would be lovely to have some new members, if anyone is interested please do ask the office for details.

## **Parents Evenings**

We will be holding Parents Evenings for Willow and Rowan Class next week on Monday 26 and Tuesday 27 February, starting at 3.30pm. Please book appointments on the sheets in the relevant class. Oak Class will have their parents evening later in the term, more details about days will be sent out shortly.

## **School Meals**

We are looking forward to Caterlink Ltd providing our school meals from Monday 5 March. Letters and menus are being sent out today to pupils who currently have meals, please can you return them to the office by next Wednesday 28 February at the latest. If your child doesn't currently have meals and you would like to look at the new menu please do call in to the office for a copy of the letter.

Attendance this week		Thought for the day...	
Year R. – 100% - well done, Orchard Class! Year 1 – 99% Year 2 – 98% Year 3 – 98% Year 4 – 97% Year 5 – 96% Year 6 – 92% Whole School Average – 97%		<div style="border: 1px solid gray; padding: 20px; text-align: center;"> <p>There is no magic to achievement. It's really about hard work, choices, and persistence.</p> <p>Michelle Obama</p> <p><small>WWW.STOREMYPIC.COM</small></p> </div>	
Diary Dates			
26 and 27.2.18 – spring parents evening for Willow and Rowan Class 29.3.18 – Term 4 finishes 30.3.18 – Good Friday 16.4.18 – Children return for term 5 24.4.18 – Willow class swimming sessions begin at Sibford School. Further details will sent home shortly 9.5.18 – School portraits being taken today			
News from the PTA			
No updates this week			
Class Dojos			
<b>100 Dojos</b> Harry Bowles	<b>200 Dojos</b>	<b>300 Dojos</b> Benjy Atherton Oscar Holt Jessica Chase	<b>400 Dojos</b> Seren Adamson Fay Cartwright
HPS Achievements this week			
<b>Work of the Week</b> <b>Orchard Class – Arianna</b> – for her 100% effort to all her learning this week. <b>Oak Class – Edward</b> – for his fantastic work ethic this week <b>Willow Class – Tommy</b> – for his brilliant piece of writing about Charlotte’s Web this week <b>Rowan Class – Emily</b> – for her wonderful scientific explanations this week			

With very best wishes,  
 Matt Green  
 Headteacher