



Hawker Hill, Mitcheldean, Gloucestershire. GL17 0BS

Telephone: (01594) 542240

e-mail: admin@mitcheldean.gloucs.sch.uk

Website: www.mitcheldeanschool.co.uk

# Newsletter - March



Dear Parent / Carers

A VERY BIG THANK YOU

Hopefully we have seen the last of the snow for this year!

Many thanks to our fabulous parents who turned out on Sunday to clear the footpaths ready for our return on Monday - thank you to Hazel Kenough, Gina Etter, Jack Gibson, James, Ryan & Declan Haines, Becky Ashdown, Andrea & Darryl Nicholls, Fiona, Carl, Joe & Josh Woodroffe, Lucy, Matt & Tom Evans, Matt Barker, Steve Jones, Mark Tipper, Steve & Kathy Histed and Sarah Rawlings. I do hope that nobody's name has been inadvertently missed off as we are extremely grateful to you all. Our thanks also to Mr Paul Batt (one of our Grandparents) who organised a snow plough to clear the carpark and the drive and to Councillor Brian Robinson who had the Parish Council team at the ready for Monday morning if we had been unable to find a snow plough.

It's contributions to the school community like this that really lift the spirits and also set such a great example to the pupils. Thank you all.

Several texts were sent out to update Parents over the latest snow days. (Please note: texts are only sent to the mobile of the 1<sup>st</sup>/main contact for your child). If you did not receive these please can you make sure we have your most up to date contact details. Any school closures will also be posted on the Gloucestershire County website so if all else fails you will also find this information here.

## spelling bee

Your child will be bringing home a list of spellings today which they need to learn over the next few weeks. These spelling lists have been carefully selected for individual children rather than year group; some children have been given spelling lists to develop their confidence whilst others will have been given lists to challenge their ability. The spelling bee challenge will take place on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> March when the children will be tested on ten words chosen at random from their list. Those children who achieve 10/10 will be able to enter the oral spelling challenge if they would like to. This is not compulsory but many children choose to do it and the other children are very supportive. Each spelling sheet will then have an overall winner. In Reception there will be a special list with fewer spellings that children can have a go at learning if you feel it is appropriate.

## School Dinners

Please ensure that your ParentPay is always in credit if you want your child to have school dinners. As of Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March we will no longer be able to order them a dinner unless there is enough money on their account to cover it.



We have rearranged our celebration of **World Book Day** for **Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> March**. There were some great costumes being worn by early arrivers on Thursday when we tried to open and it will give those who hadn't quite sorted a costume time to organise something. You don't need to spend money just a bit of time collecting together suitable clothes and props and perhaps making a mask out of an old cereal packet can be very effective.

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As of Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April the cost of a school dinner is rising to £2.36.

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**Are you in receipt of one of the benefits listed above?** If the answer is yes then you are probably entitled to Free School Meals. In addition, for every child that is entitled to FSM the school receives extra funding by way of the Pupil Premium Grant. Even if your child is in Reception, Year 1 & 2 we ask that you please apply as the school could be missing out any funding that your child is entitled to. Please ask at the office for further information on how to apply online. If you do not have access to a computer then we can help you with this so please just ask.

Income Support \* Income based Jobseekers Allowance \* Universal Credit \* Income related Employment & Support Allowance \* Child tax credit (provided you are not entitled to Working Tax credit) & do not earn more than £16190 \* Working tax credit 'run on'



We are sorry to report (for school) that **Mr Shakespeare** has been successful in applying for a job lecturing in mathematics to trainee teachers at Worcester University to start after Easter. This has taken us by surprise but this sort of job does not become available very often particularly at one of the local universities and Mr Shakespeare did not want to miss out on this opportunity. So although we are pleased for him we have had to take swift action to sort out the Year 1 teaching post for the rest of the year. We are very fortunate that we have secured the services of Mrs Baker (our Forest School teacher) for two days of the week and the recently retired Mrs Evans (Formerly Head Teacher at Ruardean C of E Primary) to cover the other three days. These are both very experienced infant teachers and they will be working closely with Mr Shakespeare to ensure that the transition is as seamless as possible for the children. We wish Mr Shakespeare every success in his new post and will look forward to calling on his expertise in the future! The substantive post will be advertised shortly for a new teacher to start in September.

**Ms Bainton** our Mid Day Supervisor is leaving so we do have a vacancy for an indoor Mid day supervisor. Please ask at the office if you may be interested or know of a suitable person. They must be cheerful, good with children, willing to shift tables and clean the hall, undertake safeguarding and first aid training and have loads of common sense. They will need to be able to work to the school's policies and procedures and they will be asked to have an enhanced DBS check. We wish Mrs Bainton every success in her new post.

DAYS TO REMEMBER

### March

- 6<sup>th</sup> – World book day
- 9<sup>th</sup> – Y3 class assembly
- 13<sup>th</sup> – YR & Y1 visit to Chepstow Castle
- 13<sup>th</sup> – Girls soccer final
- 15<sup>th</sup> – Y4 trip to Living Rainforest

- 16<sup>th</sup> – 1<sup>st</sup> PGL deposit due
- 23<sup>rd</sup> – Year 3 visit to Caerleon
- 23<sup>rd</sup> – Class 1 assembly
- 24<sup>th</sup> – Gymnastics competition
- 28<sup>th</sup> – Spelling Bee
- 29<sup>th</sup> – Easter jigsaw fun

- 29<sup>th</sup> – Last day of term
- April**
- 16<sup>th</sup> – Return to school
- 19<sup>th</sup> – Jumble & cake sale
- 20<sup>th</sup> – Bags 2 school