



Samuel Pepys School

Spring Term 2018 Newsletter



Dear Pupils, Parents and Carers

The shorter, darker days of January and February have not stopped us from a busy and productive month in school and we are pleased to share with you the highlights from our Connect and Create day which saw pupils, parents, staff and visitors showcasing their skills and talents and encouraging us to try opportunities such as poetry, dancing, painting and didgeridoo playing!

Shortly after half term on Thursday 22nd February we will be hosting our "Moving On event." Please do put this date in your diary, especially if your son or daughter is of secondary age as it offers the opportunity to gain further information about opportunities beyond school including educational and social care provision. Many families have found this event helpful in gathering knowledge and information.

We are pleased to welcome three new Governors, Anne McCormick joins us as a co-opted Governor, Mary Read as our LA Governor and Andy Dawson as Parent Governor. We look forward to tapping into their broad range of skills and expertise to support the developments within our school.

I am delighted to share some important news with you. Last week Chris Baker, Deputy Head was interviewed for the headship of the Castle School in Cambridge. Chris has been successful in his appointment as Head Teacher and will start in September 2018, following the retirement of Carol McCarthy. Chris has been at Samuel Pepys School since 2003, so this is a great next step for Chris. I'm sure you will join me in offering Chris many congratulations and we will be keeping him very busy until the end of the summer term! The Governors and I will take this opportunity to review the senior leadership roles and responsibilities and will keep you updated of plans going forward.

We also say thank you and farewell to Caroline Entwistle. Caroline has worked in the school office since 1999 and we will miss her very much when she leaves later this term. Please join us in thanking Caroline for all her hard work and very best wishes for her future adventures and

travel plans.

Please note that school finishes for Half Term on Thursday 8th February and reopens on Monday 19th February.

Wishing you a happy half term break.

Best wishes
Joanne

Cashless School

Can we remind all parents that we are a cashless school, and all payments for dinners, Allstars, trips and residential visits should be made via Parentpay. Please contact Sally in the office if you have lost your signing in details. Please do check your Parentpay account regularly for outstanding payments.

School uniform can now be purchased using a debit/credit card via Tesco. Our dedicated area of the Tesco website is <https://www.tesco.com/direct/samuel-pepys-school/22447.school>.

Please name school uniform

Please may we gently remind all families to ensure that all items of school uniform, shoes and PE and swimming kits are clearly named. Thank you.

Contacting School

Please use our Parentemail@samuelpepys.cambs.sch.uk address when contacting school, in order that messages may be picked up and responded to by any member of the office team.

If your child is away from school, can we also ask families ring school to let the office know the reason and possible duration of any absence. Thank you.

E-Safety

This week is Safer Internet Week. As part of our learning, we have been sharing the Childnet E-Safety rules which you may wish to follow with your child at home.



Sharing our Learning

On Wednesday 24th January we had a whole school Connect and Create day to share creative skills and experiences together. This is one part of our journey towards an Artsmark Award. Activities were led by pupils, families, staff and visiting artists. We engaged in a wide range of activities including flower arranging, poetry, model building, water colour painting, graffiti art, pancake designing, knitting, cross-stitch, therapy dogs and clarinet playing. Hope you enjoy these photographs and do check our website for a short film coming soon.



FOSP

The Friends of Samuel Pepys are busy arranging fundraising and social events. An Easter Egg Hamper Raffle will be drawn on Tuesday 27th March. Tickets will be on sale after half term. Donations of easter eggs are welcomed and can be sent into school by Thursday 22nd March.

Does your employer offer a matched funding scheme? We would be delighted to hear from you if we could tap into your scheme to maximise the funds raised for our pupils. Please do contact FoSP, Joanne or Lynne via the school office if you can help.

Save the date: **Friday 13th July 2018**-Family & Staff Summer BBQ...the sun will be shining



Donaldson class have been learning about transport. They have counted different coloured cars in our car park and been out and about crossing roads safely.



School Events

Spring Term

Moving On Event	Thursday 22 nd February 2-6pm
World Book Day	Thursday 1 st March
M & M Productions In school "The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe"	Tuesday 6 th March
Table Top Cricket for a group of KS4 Students	Wednesday 7 th March
Cambridgeshire Music Brook Street Band – Primary	Friday 16 th March
Easter Production at Cineworld	Wednesday 28 th March
End of Term Assembly	Thursday 29 th March 2pm

Term Dates 2018

2018

Professional Development Day	Friday 9 th February
Half term	9 th - 16 th February
Spring term closes	Thursday 29 th March
Professional Development Day	Monday 16 th April
Summer term opens	Tuesday 17 th April
May Day	Monday 7 th May
Half term	28 th May – 1 st June
Summer term closes	Tuesday 24 th July

Chickenpox

We wish to inform you there have been two confirmed cases of Chickenpox in Primary.

What is Chickenpox ?

Chickenpox is a common childhood illness. Fever and cold symptoms are often the first signs of illness and are followed by the appearance of the typical rash. The rash starts as small pink bumps, often around the neck, ears, back and stomach. These develop a little water blister, which in turn becomes yellow and oozy and ultimately crusty as it dries. The rash spreads outwards to involve the whole body finally involving the lower arms and legs. People may have only a few spots or may be virtually covered in them. In children it is usually a relatively mild illness however occasionally complications develop.

What should I do now ?

If your child is normally healthy, chickenpox is likely to be a relatively mild illness and no specific precautions are necessary. Symptoms usually develop 10-21 days after exposure. The infected person can spread infection for up to three days before the rash appears and until the last pox is crusted and dry.

If your child has a weakened immune system, please contact you GP or hospital consultant and let them know that your child may have been exposed.

Can my child stay in school ?

No. Many children with chickenpox are too sick to attend school and are more comfortable at home. Children can spread the infection to others as long as there are any spots, which are not crusted over and dried. Children with chickenpox should not attend school until all scabs are dry and crusted over; this is usually five to seven days after the appearance of the rash. Children with spots that are crusted and dried can then safely attend school.

Thank you for giving this your attention. Your GP will be able to answer any further questions that you might have about chickenpox