

SPRING TERM - NEWSLETTER NO. 1

Welcome Back

Happy New Year to you and your families from the staff at Hazel Wood.

It was lovely to see you all back at school yesterday and the children certainly enjoyed the Sleeping Beauty Pantomime in the afternoon. This gave them a good opportunity to see first hand how a traditional Fairy Tale is structured and plenty of chances to join in as well. Thank you to the Friends of Hazel Wood for financing this event.

Change of dates for Open Day

I had very positive feedback from parents who attended our Open Days and the children loved showing you all around the school. However, some parents with children in more than one year group found the time commitment too much. As such, we will have two whole school Open Days both this term and next term. These will be on 22 and 23 March and 21 and 22 June. **These dates replace the previously advised individual year group dates.** I hope this helps.

Weather

Although some of us are enjoying the bright and cold mornings, the threat of snow at the moment is a worry. I would like to inform you of how we make decisions on whether or not to close the school when the weather is extreme enough to merit it.

Firstly, it is always our intention to **remain open**. However, our primary concern is for the health and safety of your children and, without correct numbers of staff, I could not guarantee this. This is the main reason I would have for closing.

It is always extremely difficult making decisions about whether or not we should close the school and we take advice from the County and other local Headteachers. Some of our teaching staff have a long way to travel into work and their local roads are not always safe enough to drive on. I know you will also share with me a duty of care towards their safety.

In the event of adverse weather conditions, our team accept phone calls from me at 6:00 in the morning to report on conditions in their areas. If these are too dangerous for a significant number of our staff, and it is necessary for us to close the school, we then follow the County procedure by informing local radio stations (BBC Radio Solent and Wave 105) and putting out our own information, both on ParentMail (by text and e-mail) and on our website. Our aim is to ensure you receive news by 7:00 a.m. The same procedure would be followed to reopen the school.

Hopefully, we will not need to follow these procedures but if this does occur I would like to thank you all for your support, particularly because, as a parent myself, I know how difficult it can be to make arrangements for childcare.

Cathy Davies

Cathy Davies
Headteacher