

Cannon Lane School Newsletter

Issue 14 - Tuesday 3rd May 2016



Information about SATs and end of Key Stage assessments at Cannon Lane School

There has been a significant amount of focus in the media recently about the Government's testing procedures and the pressure that this system might place on children in schools. The current situation is that children are not tested in any way in Reception class and instead are observed by class teachers in their first year of school to identify strengths and areas for development. This is done through whole class lessons, group work and through child initiated play.

In Year 1 all children across the country are assessed to determine their knowledge of phonics. This is known as the Year 1 Phonics Screening Check. I believe that this has been a positive introduction as results have improved year on year and children at Cannon Lane School consistently achieve significantly higher than the national average. We are committed to this being a very low key experience for children where they work with a teacher or senior leader on a one to one basis. (Results are shared with Year 1 parents at the end of the school year).

End of Key Stage 1 assessments take place across the country for all children in Year 2 (generally in May each year). At Cannon Lane we do not see this as a 'test' and it is still for us as a school to determine the outcomes for children based on teachers' professional judgements and our knowledge of each child. We make every effort not to place any pressure on children and these assessments are carried out in class as part of the normal school day. These 'teacher assessments' are shared with parents in the annual school report at the end of Year 2.

There are no national 'tests' for children in Years 3, 4 and 5, and children are assessed by their class teachers using a range of methods.

In Year 6, children take part in assessments (starting this year w/c 9th May) in mathematics, reading, spelling and punctuation & grammar. These are national assessment tests (also known as SATs) and children complete these individually supervised by their teacher or a member of support staff. There is no test for writing and pupils' work is assessed by the class teacher and senior leaders throughout the year.

Whilst Cannon Lane is a very high achieving school and we are proud of the high academic standards that our children attain, **we are completely committed to the happiness and well-being of our children.** These assessments are intended to ensure that schools are teaching pupils the necessary knowledge and skills. They are not qualifications and don't affect children's future options in school. Our teachers work hard to ensure that all children are able to achieve their full potential whilst doing all they can to ensure that this is not a stressful process for the children.

The Standards and Testing Agency (STA) has produced an information booklet for parents that you might find useful:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/507259/Informationforparents_2016nationalcurriculumtestsattheendofkeystages_1and2_PDFA.pdf

As always, I am very happy for parents to discuss these issues with me in person or with a member of our Senior Leadership Team.

School Council visit to Harrow Council Chambers



On Wednesday last week we were very pleased to take up the Mayor's invitation to bring our School Council members along to the Harrow Council Chambers. Children from Year 1 to Year 6 asked the Mayor questions about his time in office and were later provided with refreshments in the Mayor's parlour. This was a wonderful opportunity and we were very proud of the children who took part.

World Music Festival

On Tuesday 19th April Cannon Lane's Year 6 ensemble took part in the annual World Music Festival. This event was hosted by Harrow Music Service and the Harrow Arts Centre. This was an opportunity to showcase the fantastic musical diversity of our borough, including performances by steel pan and tabla groups.

Our Year 6 pupils were asked to perform their rendition of "Uptown Funk" as the finale. Due to the fact that this received such a wonderful reception from the packed audience the children were asked to perform it again as an encore!

Mr Kirwan was immensely proud of all the children who took part. Thank you to all the parents and carers who supported the concert. Our Year 6 ensemble will be performing at our summer concert (6th and 7th June).

School Recording Stars Project



To help celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday we have started recording a commemorative music CD. This exciting project will involve every child in school featuring on at least one track. The children will be performing in a range of ensembles including choirs and orchestras. Parents will have the opportunity to purchase a copy of the children's work later in the year. Mr Kirwan recently launched a competition for children to design a front cover for our CD and to create a title. The deadline for submission is Friday 20th May. We have attached a template for the design which can be printed off and completed at home. A few hard copies will be available in the main reception area if you'd like one. Thank you.

School Uniform

Cannon Lane School has a strong reputation in the local community and visitors to the school often comment on how smart and polite our children are. We believe that our school uniform is important as it helps to reinforce our high expectations in school and the high standards that we achieve. I would be grateful if parents could continue to support us with this by reminding children of the school's expectations. The Governing Body has published details of our uniform on the school website ([information/uniform](#)). In particular I would like remind you that:

- Hoodies are not to be worn in school. Instead children should wear a school jumper and / or an outdoor coat.
- Jewellery – pupils may wear small gold or silver studs but these must be removed for PE, games and swimming. The wearing of religious jewellery should be discussed with the Headteacher.

- School shoes - black “Clarks” type shoes (no pumps, boots or trainers should be worn).
- Long hair should be tied back – hair bands must be black, brown, white or yellow.
- Children should not come to school wearing nail varnish

Dates for your Diary

Thursday 5th May – London Mayoral Elections (please ensure that children are supervised on the way into school and collected at home time.)

Thursday 5th May – 1S class assembly

Thursday 19th May – 1A class assembly

Thursday 26th May – Hazel class assembly

Friday 27th May – teacher training day (school closed for pupils)

Monday 30th May – Friday 3rd June – summer half term week

Monday 6th and Tuesday 7th June – Musical Instrumental Evening for parents

Monday 13th – Friday 17th June – Year 6 residential visit to the Isle of Wight

Thursday 16th June – 1D class assembly

Sunday 19th June – Friends of Cannon Lane School Summer Fair and Circus (more information to follow)

Thursday 23rd June – Willow class assembly

Thursday 30th June – 3AM class assembly

Friday 1st July – School Sports Day (Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 am, Years 3-6 pm)

Thursday 7th July – Beech class assembly

Thursday 7th July – Year 2 strings concert for parents (information to follow)

Friday 8th July – Reserve Sports Day (in the event of bad weather)

Wednesday 20th July – end of summer term

The Queen’s 90th birthday tea!



Thank you to all parents and carers who provided their child with a cake for the Queen’s 90th birthday celebrations. We all enjoyed getting together to mark this occasion and the school was decorated beautifully. Thank you to Mrs Buckner, Mrs Wells and all of the support staff for their help in organising this event.

Best wishes,
Mr Phillips