

The FenHil News

‘Respect, Honesty, Kindness and Collaboration’

24th May 2019

Website: www.fenstanton-hilton.eschools.co.uk

Twitter: @Fenhilp PTA Twitter: @FenHilPTA

Dear Parents and Carers,

School Closure

Thank you so much for your patience yesterday when we dealt with a very unusual and highly stressful incident. A routine fire drill was scheduled and happened at approximately 10am, unfortunately after several attempts we were unable to reset and shut down the alarm and it continued to sound for well over two hours. During this time, it would have been impossible for the children to come back into school as the alarm was sounding and therefore no learning could have taken place. It is also extremely unsafe to re-enter a building where the fire alarm is sounding or deemed not operational. We are not allowed to have children in the building with a fire alarm that does not work effectively. After an hour of the alarm sounding, I made the decision that as the children's basic needs could not be met – toilets, water, food (the gas supply in the kitchen shuts down when the alarm goes off) I would need to close the school. This was communicated to you all via email, text and I posted on twitter. We have since realised that some of the numbers that were registered for the text service were home numbers and therefore not useful at all. This will be rectified ASAP. Later on, when there were fewer children we started to ring round families. Most people reacted quickly and sympathetically to our predicament.

We did need an engineer to come out to fix the system and also deem it fit for purpose. I did not get this written confirmation until well into the afternoon, so was able to open today. I am afraid this is not an area I am prepared to be blasé about. I believe that the staff and I did all we could to look after the children. Cups of water were later on provided, shade was provided, most children were happy and settled. Staff were fantastic during the crisis and really pulled together. However any incident like this does send ripples of anxiety throughout the community.

We managed to use the small kitchen along the Key Stage 2 corridor to provide those who needed a school dinner their meal, children were supervised at all times and staff checked who was picking up whom as they left.

Our safeguarding measures were upheld the whole time.

Looking to the long term, we are going to need to replace our fire alarms, as although the smoke detectors and break glass panels all work and would trigger the alarm, it is very old. This will be a considerable expense to the school, which as you will know does not have a bottomless budget. This, I can only assume is why it has not been replaced before.

Thank you again to all of you for your support, and your suggestions for how we could handle the situation better. I am hoping I will never have to close, due to this again.

A child's account of the day...

When Pine class were doing PE and my class (Elm class) were talking about the word ‘envelope’, suddenly the fire alarm went off so Mrs Sumner jumped up.

We did too, then we got in a straight line and went outside. Everyone was in line. Mrs Sumner called out our names. We had to be as quiet as a mouse because otherwise Mrs Sumner wouldn't hear the person saying yes. The funny fire alarm wouldn't go off, and then it did but it was broken because it didn't go off or on. So we had the longest playtime ever!

After 2 hours Mrs Cooper said we had to go home because it wasn't safe to go in the school! Some people stood up because they were so excited that we were allowed to go home (If I was allowed I would have stood up and done the floss to rejoice) We had to be sensible until our parents came but how on earth would we be able to do that when we were so excited?!

Isobel, Year 2

PTA News

The Father's Day present room will run on Thursday, 13th June over lunchtime. This is a great opportunity to get a lovely gift for Father's Day. If your child(ren) would like to take part, please complete a Google form for each child: <https://forms.gle/3TuqhzZCxmoNCvGN6> and then pay the appropriate amount using your Sims Pay account by **Monday, 10th June**. (Please note that both forms and the correct payment must be received for children to be able to take part.)

The **FenHil Festival** will be our next event on Friday, 21st June. This will be straight after school for Infants (until 4.30 pm) and Juniors will be 5.00–6.00 pm. Look out for emails coming home next week with more information about this. And a big thanks in advance to our volunteer face painters!

The **Summer Fayre** is coming up soon and we can't put it on without your help. We are now collecting the following items for our stalls:

- Teddies for the Teddy Tombola (these don't have to be new, but should be clean. Please hand in to class).
- Bottles of wine for the Water or Wine game stall (please leave bottles at the school office)

Tombola Week will be **Monday 17th to Friday 21st June**, where we'll be collecting tombola prizes in classes in return for house points and prizes. Look out for more information next week.

The theme for the Tombola is "Summer". Prizes must be new items, but need not be expensive. Some ideas include: fishing nets, ice lolly moulds, crabbing set, water pistols, bucket & spade, sun cream, picnic blanket, sunglasses, novelty ice cube trays, twirly straws, travel games, windmills or chimes, garden games, Frisbees, bubble guns or children's gardening things. Anything as long as it is suitable for children!

Calling all grillers! We need someone to help with the BBQ at the Summer Fayre. If you could help with this or help us to run one of the stalls, please get in touch at fhpspta@gmail.com.

The PTA has just received its first cheque from Amazon Smile. If you shop on Amazon, but haven't already signed up, please go to Amazon Smile <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/> and choose "**Fenstanton & Hilton School P.T.A.**". Using Smile doesn't cost you

anything and the PTA received a small percentage of everything purchased; so is a really easy way to raise funds.

Diary dates:

- Father's Day present room: Thursday, 13th June, over lunchtime
- FenHil Festival: Friday, 21st June, Infants: 3.30–4.30 pm; Juniors: 5.00–6.00 pm
- Summer Fayre: Friday 5th July, 6.00–8.00 pm

New Sculptures

Hopefully, you will now have seen the second of our sculptures to be installed in our Sculpture Garden.

This time, Key Stage 2 children's creations are based on Alberto Giacometti's works and are linked to another of our school values KINDNESS.

Alberto Giacometti was a Swiss sculptor best known for his elongated, withered representations of the human form. His sculptures were considered universal symbols of an individual's vulnerability and fragility post war, where emotional and physical effects of conflict were clearly evident.

Our sculptures have been created to show the KINDNESS that man IS capable of showing each other through friendship, communication and play.

Like all sculptures, they are to be enjoyed by everyone but please respect their fragility and the children's hard work.

Many thanks, Mrs Flinders

KS3 Art and Technology Exhibition 2019

We would like to invite you to the KS3 Art and Technology Exhibition at Swavesey Village College. The exhibition will display a range of students work from the Art and Technology departments. Students have once again this year worked very hard within the two subject areas and have produced some outstanding work. The event will take place on Thursday 13th June from 5.00pm to 7.00pm in the B block. The evening will provide an opportunity for KS3 students and their parents to celebrate their hard work during the year.

The evening is a fantastic opportunity for you and your children to see what projects they will be designing and manufacturing in Year 7 next year at the college!

We look forward to seeing you there,

Swavesey Art and Technology Departments

Guitar

Our resident guitar teacher, Mr Cory, may have some available slots for the forthcoming school term (from September). If your child is interested in learning the guitar, please contact Mr Cory via email at jimmypagefans@hotmail.com with your child's name, parent/guardian name, school name, class name, lesson duration requirements (15min - £8.25 per session or 30min - £16.50 per session), home telephone number & mobile phone number. Please note that if you have already joined a waiting list, then your child will be the first to be offered lessons.

Book Jam in St Ives

We would like the children at your school to have the opportunity to come to St Ives Book Jam this Saturday June 8th

There are many talented authors and illustrators giving a variety of talks. Those giving talks/workshops include Elys Dolan (BBC 500 words), Matty Long, Gary Northfield, Jo Cotterill, Dr Michael Leach and Julian Sedgwick.

It is all free and it would be a shame if your children missed out. For more information or to book a workshop, go to stivesbookjam.com

Thank you,
Ros Pascoe

Under 7s Fenstanton Football

From September, Fenstanton football club will have an Under 7s team. If you are interested in this (your children should be in year 2) then please email fenstantonfootball@outlook.com with your details.

Wow, what a week back! It has been a jam packed week, however as I told staff this morning - Whatever comes our way, we will handle in true FenHil style!

Have a wonderful weekend,

Kind regards,

Claire Worth

Headteacher