



## PARENTS NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2015

Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you very much for all your contributions to our Harvest Festival. We had a representative from Jimmy's night shelter to join our assembly and it was a positive experience all round. They are very grateful for all your donations and we know that they will go to a very good cause.

I am delighted to let you know that we have been awarded Silver School Games Mark Award for 2014-15. This is for excellent provision of PE, school sport and competition. Well done to all the pupils and staff who have contributed to this recognition of one of our school strengths.

### **Summer play schemes**

As you know we hosted two playschemes at school over the summer: one run by Cambridgeshire Joint Playschemes and one run by Action for Children. Both were lots of fun for pupils and good quality play schemes. I am delighted to follow on by saying a huge Congratulations to CJP who were winners of Cambridge Evening News Community Awards 2015 and to their leader Carol who was awarded **CARER OF THE YEAR**.

### **Individual hydrotherapy and physiotherapy sessions**

Unfortunately at the current time we are experiencing a lot of difficulty with providing the hydrotherapy and physiotherapy sessions that we aim to provide for our pupils. This is due to a combination of factors which include shortage of therapy trained staff, safeguards within school that prevent supply staff from close involvement in those programmes, and a growing number of pupils with hydrotherapy needs to make arrangements for.

The steps that school are taking to try to resolve these difficulties are:

We are taking every available opportunity to maximise the therapist time that is available to us for staff training. Sadly one newly appointed physiotherapist has been absent. Her colleague is working as hard as possible. I have raised my concerns with the service and will write an update to you when I am able to. Pupils returning to school post operatively will be our highest priority.

We are fortunate that we often form very good working relationships with supply staff and that means that for pupils in class routines, any disruption is minimised. However, supply staff are not sufficiently trained to carry out physical or medical procedures and neither can that be achieved as training organisations are not prepared to offer that training to supply staff.

Occasionally our pool must be closed because the water has been fouled by pupils loose bowel motions and to allow for water cleaning to take place.

To meet the growing needs of pupils we ran a recruitment round over the summer and have launched a new recruitment round recently. Quality recruitment does take some time and I thank you in advance for your patience.

**E Safety Top Tip**

Two sources of online help and information about how to keep your children safe online: Vodafone provide free magazines and advice called 'digital parenting' at [www.vodafone.com](http://www.vodafone.com) and at <http://parentinfo.org/> you will find a parent resource provided by CEOP and parentzone.

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