

Newsletter Jan 2018

Dear parents and students!

Firstly I would like to wish you all a very happy new year! I hope you all had great new years celebrations had a lovely Christmas! As always, the festive season always seems to fly by once it comes, but I am looking forward to 2018 and seeing what it brings, I hope it brings you all good health and happiness!

Looking forward, we have an exciting year ahead in terms of our dance calendar, the highlight being our 2 shows, which are in July. Although this seems far away, it will soon come around quickly and preparations have already begun! More info about the show will come at a later date, but I would appreciate if you could take the time to read this letter through, as there is a lot of important info regarding the show that **includes all parents and pupils.**



SHOW TIME 2018!

Summer Term-2018

Show dress rehearsal Friday 13th July

Show dress rehearsal Sunday 15th July

X2 Shows Sat 21st July- matinee and evening

Do not miss out! Please put the dates in your diaries!

All pupils attending classes (from 3 years up to adults) are invited to take part in the show so please put the above dates in your diary. All of those taking part in the show must attend all of the dates. The children and adult dancers had a blast last year, and it's a great opportunity to wear some fabulous costumes, perform on a stage with lighting, props etc, build close friendships and work as a team with others in your class and boost confidence.

I will also be looking for volunteers to help at the show, as it really cannot go ahead without the help of fabulous parents and staff members.

SHOW TIME- more info

All of the adults and children attending classes are invited to perform in the show in July. After the Easter holidays, (some classes may start a little earlier from after February half term) we will be starting to rehearse the show dances in classes. Unless told otherwise, I will assume that your child would like to be in the show, so please do let me know if they are unable to do so before we break up for the Easter holidays.

Show dance term is often very exciting as it gives the children a break from syllabus and exam work, and a chance to learn a full-length dance to a high standard. The children also love performing on a stage with costumes, perhaps props, lights and an audience!

Please may I add that it is very important that the children attend **all classes and rehearsals** in the run up to the show and that they are committed through out the summer term. Of course I will always recognise any unforeseen circumstances and recognise that these cannot be avoided.

The children work so hard learning the show work, and if one child misses a class/rehearsal, they will fall behind as there often is not enough time to go over parts already taught, it is also unfair to keep going over parts that the rest of the class have already learnt as it holds all of the students back in that class and their dance will not progress. May I add that if someone drops out after having learnt the routine, it still affects the rest of the children in that dance. Meaning that the well attended students could be left without a partner, or are having to change parts of their dance due to the choreography and patterns then not working because a person is missing. Having to rearrange/change choreography is stressful on the teacher and student so please do have this in mind when we start rehearsing.

Rant over and thank you in advance for your understanding in this!

Chaperone volunteers needed!

In order for the show to go ahead we will need volunteers to help look after the children back stage. These volunteers will need to help the children change into correct costumes, help with hair and make up, take them to the toilet, chaperone the children safely to the stage when its their turn to dance, and back again to the changing rooms. On one of the dress rehearsals chaperones will also need to escort children to the photographer and back at the appropriate time slot given to them.

If you are able to help please do let me know as legally I will need around 24 volunteers per show, plus volunteers for the dress rehearsal on Sunday 15th July. All chaperones will need to be officially checked and registered, a licence will be needed for each volunteer in order to safe guard the children which I can sort out but I do need to know numbers asap as it can take 4 months for the paperwork to go through. (Those that got a chaperones licence at the last show will not need to get another one issued as they last 3 years!) If you could email me asap stating which performance/rehearsal you are able to help with, it would be very much appreciated.

The reason for having 2 shows is so that parents are able to chaperone one, and then watch the other, this way it is fair and everyone gets the opportunity to watch a performance.

Costume Fund

So far we have raised £340 towards the costume fund. All money raised will be divided fairly and taken off all costumes from the children's classes. In order to raise more money for the show costume fund, if you would like to **put an advert in the show program regarding your local business or services** in return of a sponsor I would be more than happy to support this. The theatre can seat up to 650 people per performance so plenty of people will see the ad. Just email me with your advert and how much you would like to donate.

With regards to costume prices I will try my very best to keep costume prices to a minimum. Please allow £15-£35 per costume. Bear in mind that smaller costumes are often cheaper than those for older children so please consider this in the price. Each child will have a different costume per dance class. If your child attends 3 dance classes for example, they will need to buy 3 costumes. The costumes and confirmed price per costume will be supplied nearer the time of the show, once we have finished raising money for the fund.

Show Photographs

15th July at show dress rehearsal. Group and individual photos will be taken by a professional photographer. Please let me know if you do not wish for your child to be photographed.

Show DVD

The show performances will be professionally recorded this year, so that if you wish you can purchase a DVD of the show.

Timetable - Jan 2018

Mondays @ Great Shelford Memorial Hall

4:45-5:30 Primary Ballet

5:30-6:15 Grade 1 Ballet

6:15-7:00 Grade 2 Ballet

7:00-7:45 Grade 3 Modern

7:45-8:30 Adult Ballet

8:30-9:15 Adult Tap

Wednesdays @ Pampisford Village Hall

4:00-4:30 Ballet Minis

4:30-5:00 Street Minis

5:00-5:45 Street Juniors 1

5:45-6:30 Street Juniors 2

6:30-7:15 Grade 3 Tap

7:15-8:00 Street Seniors

8:00-8:30 Grade 3 Ballet

Fridays @ Whittlesford Memorial Hall

4:00-4:45 Musical Theatre Minis

4:45-5:30 Musical Theatre Juniors 1

5:30-6:15 Musical Theatre Juniors 2

6:15-7:15 Musical Theatre Seniors

Saturdays @ Icknield Primary School

09:00-09:30 Ballet Minis

09:30-09:35 Break

09:35-10:05 Tap/Modern Minis

10:05-10:45 Pre Primary Ballet

10:45-10:50 Break

10:50-11:30 Primary Tap/Modern

11:30- 12:00 Grade 1 Modern

12:00-12:45 Grade 1 Tap

12:45-1:30 Grade 2 Modern

1:30-2:15 Grade 2 Tap

2:15-3:00 Grade 2 Ballet

Dates for your diary including Rehearsal and Show dates

Spring Term 2018

Term starts : 3rd January

New Years Party - 4th Feb- 2-4pm @ Shelford Memorial Hall

Half term : 12th Feb-18th Feb

Term ends : 26th March inclusive

Summer Term 2018

Term starts: Monday 16th April

Bank Holiday May Day – Monday 7th May – NO CLASSES!

Half Term : Monday 28th May – Sunday 3rd June

SHOW DRESS REHEARSAL 1 - Friday 13th July - Times to be confirmed

@ Whittlesford Memorial Hall

No chaperones needed for this rehearsal, parents need to assist own children

SHOW DRESS REHEARSAL 2- Sunday 15th July - times to be confirmed

@ Comberton Sports and Arts Theatre

Chaperones needed for this rehearsal

SHOW TIME!!! Saturday 21st July – Matinee and evening performance- times to be confirmed

@ Comberton Sports and Arts Theatre

Chaperones needed for both performances

NO CLASSES WILL BE RUNNING ON THE SATURDAY OF THE SHOW!

Summer Term finishes Sunday 17th July

Party rescheduled for February

As many of you know, unfortunately the Christmas party had to be cancelled due to bad weather conditions. I am pleased to announce that we will now be having a new years party on Sunday 4th Feb, 2-4pm. I am hoping those that have bought tickets will be able to make the date, if not please let me know. Remember, the party is to raise money for the costume and chaperone fund for the show so please do help show your support. Those that volunteered to help on the day, make cakes or donate raffle prizes I would be really grateful if you could do so for the new date, please do let me know asap if this is not possible however.

Donations- In order to make the party a success we need:

- 1) Lots of scrummy cakes- If you are a keen baker and would like to donate some yummy treats for the cake sale it would be much appreciated!
- 2) Raffle donations (child or adult gifts) are much appreciated also.

Successes

Congratulations to Leona Catchpole who successfully auditioned for the Cambridgeshire Youth Ballet Company! Leona starts her training in January ready for the performance of Alice's Adventures in Wonderland in October 2018. Well done Leona, we can't wait to come and see you perform next year!

Well done to all pupils that took tap exams in December. All pupils received a distinction which is the top mark. Congratulations girls!

Adult Classes

Need to burn off those extra Christmas calories? Why not pop along to our adult classes. Adult Ballet and Tap are on Monday evenings at Great Shelford Memorial Hall. These classes are for all abilities including beginners. If you have always wanted to give either genres of dance a bash now is the time to do it. No tutus or tights needed, just wear what you feel comfortable in so you can move about easily! Don't worry if you don't have tap shoes, you can wear a pair of flat outdoor shoes too. Please see the timetable for class times.

SECOND HAND UNIFORM

There is a small notice board at all venues in which you can either purchase, or put your child's old/unwanted uniform items up for sale. All you need to do on your advert is include the items you are selling, price, and your contact details so that any other parents can contact you for collection and payment.

IMPORTANT!!! Up to Date details

Please can all parents and those attending adult classes fill in a new registration form if you have changed your email address, contact number or address. The same goes for any learning/ medical needs that may have changed. Many thanks.

Emails, up to date info and last minute changes

Sometimes our emails go into junk/spam or second inboxes. Please add dancededicationsawston@gmail.com to your contact list and then they should reach your inbox! Many thanks.



If you are on facebook and you haven't already, please support us and like the 'Dance Dedication Sawston' page. If you have a spare minute it would be great if you could leave a review on the page, and share any posts that may interest you.



We are also on twitter, please follow us Dance Dedication @DanceDedSawston.

Facebook, Twitter and the website will regularly be updated with any important info, plus any last minute changes will appear here e.g. cancellations due to weather etc!

The boring but necessary bits.....please read carefully

Important Info

Please note that as from September 2017 we no longer accept cheques as payment, all fees and uniform orders must be paid by bank transfer or by cash.

Please remind yourself of our fees policy

A big thank you to all of those that pay your invoices in time, it is very much appreciated. I would appreciate if you could take a minute read through the below to remind yourselves of our fees policy.

1. All fees **must** be paid within 14 days on invoice.
2. Your child will automatically be enrolled into the class/classes in the future. Notice must be given, in writing, prior to the first day of a term/ ½ term if a pupil wishes to stop classes as waiting lists exist for many classes. If no notice is given then fees will become due on the first day of term/ ½ term and must be paid.
4. A Discount of 10% is available for any family attending 3 or more classes per week between them.
5. Refunds/Reductions/Exceptions will only be issued in exceptional circumstances, not for illness or for family holidays etc
6. A £5 admin charge will be added if fees are not paid by the due date stated on invoice. Please do not ignore the due date, but speak to Miss Christina in advance if you are having problems paying the fees.
7. In sending your child to classes with us it is understood that you agree to abide by the fees policy.

8. I would like to introduce a new discount to classes, as from February half term, any family's attending 7 or more classes will now get 13% off their fees.

UNIFORM AND HAIR

Please can you ensure that your child is wearing the correct uniform to all classes. Dance is a strict discipline therefore the correct uniform should be worn, for the same reasons why children wear a school uniform! The correct uniform list is on the website should you have any queries. **Please note that ALL children in the Street and Musical Theatre classes should be wearing their DD tops with black leggings (girls) or black jogging bottoms or shorts (boys).** For the same reasons please can you ensure your child's hair is neatly groomed and tied back for **all** classes. From Primary Ballet upwards, children should be wearing classical ballet bun with bun pins and a hair net to make the bun secure! Children wear their hair up so that they can feel the length in the back of their necks and so that their hair doesn't flick in their faces when they dance. Taking pride in their appearance demonstrates the discipline of classical ballet.

CHILDREN WAITING BEFORE, AFTER OR IN BETWEEN CLASSES

Please note that if your child waits at the school/halls in between, before or after classes, they are your responsibility. Although it goes without saying that teachers do our best to try and keep an eye out for all children, we cannot be held responsible for any child who is on the premises on their own waiting for classes!

Icknield School classes

As from last September we are no longer allowed access to the staff room. If you choose to wait at the school please wait in the corridor quietly. Thank you.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter, and myself and the other teachers look forward to another successful year!

Yours sincerely,

Miss Christina
Principal of Dance Dedication

