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An Oxford Diocesan
School

Headteacher

Mrs J Barnett BA (QTS)

25th November 2022

Dear Parent,

Sports Newsletter

Following the return to 'normal' after a year of uncertainty and the previous Covid years, we have seen the number of opportunities available to our children to take part in sporting events increase. Given this, we wanted to share with you how this will be organised at SMAS throughout the year.

In line with other schools, we have noticed that the approach to inter-school competitions has changed and accordingly we have introduced two pathways for children to access competitive school sport: competitive league fixtures alongside more friendly matches/sports festivals. Our aim is to enable as many children as possible to participate in sporting activities.

At SMAS we currently have a school U11 Boys Football Team, an U10 Boys Football Team, an U11 Girls Football Team and an U11 Mixed Netball Team. These teams play in competitive competitions in both football and netball across the year. Our competitive fixtures generally run until the first few weeks of Autumn 2, after this there is a pause on games as the lack of daylight will not allow for after school fixtures. These will then resume just before the end of Spring 1 and through Spring 2 up to Easter.

How are teams selected?

Moving forward with effect from Spring term 2023, we will run a 'trial' for all children who wish to join any new competitive teams. The trial will be used to determine a competitive 'squad', ensuring that as many children as possible get a chance to play competitively whilst considering the overall ability of the team. Within this squad, players will be rotated to ensure that no players are playing every match. Players selected for the competitive fixtures will need to be playing to a reasonable standard. Students are selected based on their performance at the trial and their on-going behaviour and sportsmanship both in school and during sporting activities.

In addition, we will also try to organise friendly matches against other schools as we feel it is important that as many children as possible have the opportunity to play in a team and represent the school. Those children who have already played as part of a competitive squad will not take part in these additional matches. Friendly matches are usually scheduled with effect from Spring 2, when the majority of competitive fixtures have been completed. We are of course, reliant on the availability of other schools to enable these to take place.

As part of our links with the South Buckinghamshire School Sport Partnership, we also take part in many sports festivals throughout the year which are another opportunity for children to play a variety of sports that may not be on offer as part of our PE curriculum.

The extra-curricular sporting clubs offered will continue to be inclusive and open to all, and are offered as developmental opportunities and are not a direct pathway to selection.



Sport's fixtures

The U11 Boys Football, U11 Girls Football and U11 Mixed Netball teams are involved in a league competition against multiple schools. These matches are to be played at a mutually convenient date between the two schools with the aim to finish all league fixtures before the end of the Spring Term. The Netball League gives teams a 2-week window to play their next league match against the next team in their schedule. Teams are awarded 3 points for a league victory, 1 point for a draw and 0 for a loss. The team with the most points at the end of the season will be the league winners.

There are cup (knockout) competitions for the U11 Boys Football, U10 Boys Football and U11 Girls Football. The cup competition is randomly drawn before the start of the season and gives schools a deadline to play each round in order to avoid a backlog of un-played fixtures. The U10 Cup works on a mini-league basis with 2 other schools with the winner of the league advancing to the next round of the cup (UEFA Champions League model). Once a team is knocked out of this competition, they are out until the next school year.

We anticipate that as we move through the year there will opportunities available in other sports such as cricket, athletics, cross-country and tennis.

Celebrating Achievements

Within school, after every match or sporting event our school attends, there will be a summary or match report written about the event. These reports and some pictures of the event and children involved will be displayed on the school PE board in the corridor outside the school office. Any exceptional achievements from a school team will have the chance to share their achievements in an assembly with the rest of the school. Trophies and cups are proudly displayed in the Entrance Hall. We would also love to hear about any sporting successes that the children have achieved outside of school so that we can also celebrate this. Please send photos and information to Mr Allison and we will add this to our internal display in the corridor.

Yours sincerely,

Mr R Allison
PE Lead

