

Monday, 9th September 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

Autumn Term Newsletter No. 1

HAPPY NEW SCHOOL YEAR

A big welcome back to a brand new school year and we hope that you have all had a wonderful summer break. We always look forward to this time when the children return having grown so much over the summer holidays, both in height and knowledge. We have had a lovely start to the new term and all the children seem to have settled well with their new teachers. We are both very much looking forward to working together in our co-headship role.

WELCOME TO THE NEW STAFF

A big welcome to all the new staff who are already getting to know the children in their classes really well. Our website will shortly be updated to reflect the change in teaching staff so please do keep yourselves informed by checking it regularly.

DATES FOR THE HALF-TERM

There are some key dates for the half-term that we would like to draw to your attention. They are as follows:

Tuesday 17th September: FOA AGM 7.45pm

Tuesday 1st October: Harvest Festival 2pm

Wednesday 2nd October: Harvest Festival 2pm

Thursday 3rd October: Harvest Festival 2pm

Tuesday 15th October: Parent consultations 5.30 – 8.00

Wednesday 16th October: Parent Consultations 3.30 – 6.00

Friday 25th October: Staff INSET (no children in school)

We will send you information about signing up for the Parent Consultations later in the half-term. As you will see we will be holding 3 Harvest Festivals this year to accommodate the growing number of Grandparents. We will be sending out more information about this nearer the time

THIS HALF TERM'S LEARNING ENQUIRIES

The children began their first half-term's Enquiry of Learning today. Each half-term's enquiry question gives the children a clear focus for their learning and we link the different subject areas into the enquiry so that the learning makes sense for the children. The enquiries for this half-term are as follows:

Enquiry of Learning Principle of Harmony

- Reception Year – What makes me special? Diversity
- Year 1 – How can we be superheroes? Diversity
- Year 2 – What does it mean to be healthy? Health
- Year 3 – How can we learn to identify native trees? The Cycle
- Year 4 – How can we prepare for a Tudor banquet? Adaptation
- Year 5 – What journey does a river take? The Cycle
- Year 6 – What can we learn from life on the Home Front? Diversity

PRINCIPLES OF HARMONY

For information, the principles of Harmony help our children to understand how the world works, as well as enabling them to learn how to live well. When we learn about the principle of diversity, we are developing in the children an appreciation that we are all different and unique and special, and that diversity and difference is a strength and something to be celebrated in all things. When we learn about the principle of health, we are thinking about what we need to live healthy lives. When we learn about the principle of the cycle, we understand that natural systems are cyclical systems and

they never end. They create no waste or pollution and this is a great model for us to use in our own practices. When we learn about the principle of adaptation, we are looking at both how nature is brilliantly adapted to its place and how we can adapt our learning to our place, exploring local history and geography, and developing a strong sense of community. Each week, we also teach our children about the geometry and patterning of the world as a way into the learning. The children will do a geometry activity each Monday and develop their geometry skills and understanding through the various enquiries they undertake. This approach enables them to see the world in a different and fascinating way, and to learn that these principles ensure a system or an organisation is sustainable.

OUR VALUE THIS HALF-TERM – BEING RESPONSIBLE

This half-term, we will be thinking about what it means to be responsible. This value of Responsibility will form the basis of our collective worship assemblies, our reflection times and our daily lives. We hope you will find time at home to discuss and explore what it means to be a responsible member of the Ashley community.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. Dunne and Mrs Stevens
Co-Headteachers