

Newsletter No 4: Term 1

November 2019



Principal: Mrs Debbie Coker

Chair of Local Board: Mrs Trish Dodds

Dear Parent / Carers,

Welcome back to Term 2! I do hope that you have had an enjoyable half term break and INSET day. Our school staff spent the INSET day in Swindon at the DBAT's new Secondary school, The Deanery. It was a great day networking and linking up with other schools in the Trust sharing good practice around values based education. Miss Smith (our SENCO) and Miss Goodman (Ast Head) did a great job leading workshops for the other schools sharing practice from Fishponds. We are lucky to have such a great team here at Fishponds!

Friends of Fishponds (FOFA) Food Festival:

Yet another successful Food festival was celebrated during the last week of half term. It was fantastic to see so many enjoying such a wide variety of produce whilst raising much needed funding for our school. I want to thank all the volunteers for their time in putting together such an event.

Foodbank Donations:

Thanks to you all for being so incredibly generous in donating so much to the local Foodbank. We took everything to the Foodbank on the last Friday of Term 1 where it was very gratefully received. If you felt you wished to continue donating, there are collection points for donations in Morrisons or Co -Op in Downend. Alternatively, drop your contributions into school and I will be happy to drop them in to the Collection point.

Parents' Evenings

Tuesday 12th and Thursday 14th are parents' evenings. Please make sure that you have booked your slot online and come along and discuss the learning your child is doing. There will also be an opportunity to look through your child's books. We are proud of the learning taking place here at Fishponds so come along and celebrate your child with us! There will also be a chance to give your views in a new parent survey on home learning! We look forward to welcoming you then.

Children in Need Day

Children in Need day is set for 15th November 2019. Several children have requested that they be allowed to wear Pyjamas to school to help raise money for the charity! So, if you would like to support this charity please send your child to school in their PJs, onesies or lounge wear for the day and contribute £1 on the gate!

Play Equipment on Playground

Hurrah!! The long awaited work on our play equipment will finally take place starting on Monday 11th November (Weather dependent)! The work had been booked to take place earlier in October but was delayed due to the products not being in stock. We will be very excited not to see red and white hazard tape over the play areas once completed. During this period, when dropping off and leaving school please be extra mindful that this work is taking place. Mr Brown (our Site manager) will be working closely with the company to ensure that every measure is taken to keep the children safe.



Value of the Term : Generosity

We will be focussing on a question each week linked to our term's theme. These are introduced in Monday's Collective Worship and then discussed again during Class based Collective Worship on Wednesday.

11/11/19: Does generosity always have to be about money or can we be generous in other ways?

18/11/19 : When did you last give up your time to do something good for other people? How did this make them feel?

25/11/19:How are you helping to keep our planet healthy?

2/12/19:What can you do to take time out to be still and find peace at this busy time of year? (Being generous to your mental health!)

9/12/19: 'Many hands make light work.' What does this proverb mean to you?

Our values for the rest of the year we will be:

Term 3- Justice
Term 4- Patience
Term 5- Trust
Term 6- Courage

We welcome people of all faiths to come in and share their knowledge and experiences of taking part in the major festivals. If you would like to share your experiences with the children please speak to Mrs Watt (our RE lead). We'd love to hear from you!

Please let the office know if you or anyone on house or changed their mobile number.

It is important that our records are kept up-to-date in case your child is sick or we need to contact you.

Don't forget, school begins at 8.45am!

Did you know you can text us as well as ring us about your child's absence before 9.30am? Please state the full name of your child, their class name or teacher and reason for absence in your text.

Our text number is 07786 208896

Open Days for prospective families.

We have held three successful open days for Reception new entrants so far. There are three more booked so if you know families with children aged 5 between Sept 20 and Aug 21 then tell them about our Open Days so we can show off our lovely school. All applications for places for Reception Sept 2020 need to be made online to Bristol City Council by January 15th 2020. If you have a child in nursery you will still need to apply online.

Next Open Days:

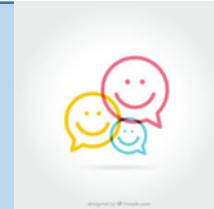
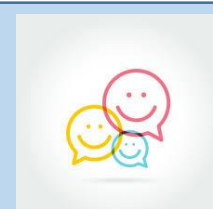
Tuesday 26th November 2019 @ 9.30am

Wednesday 27th November 2019 @ 9.30am

Tuesday 3rd December 2019 @ 9.30am.



Extra Curricula Provision at Fishponds CE Academy



So, what is currently offered as Extra Curricula Activities at Fishponds?

There are two kinds of clubs offered at Fishponds currently - Teacher/ Support staff run clubs or Sports clubs run by external providers.

Teacher Run Clubs

Throughout the year many of our teachers/ support staff offer to provide a club as an extra curricula activity. This is not paid for by the school but is done on an entirely voluntary basis. Teaching is a challenging vocation with high levels of workload so we are super grateful for all who feel that they can give even more. Staff run clubs tend to run for two terms and may run within the lunch hour or occasionally after school.

Currently, during Term 1 and 2, there has been Book Club, Hand bells Club, Lego Club, Drumming Club, Y4 homework Club. There will be other clubs running through the rest of the year, run by other volunteers. A letter will come home about the Term 3 and 4 offers and again in Terms 5 and 6. The choice of club offered is purely down to what the teacher or member of staff wishes to provide.

Last year over the course of the year there was choir club, recorder club, gardening club, board games club, maths club, science club and football club, digital leader club and Eco Club. Please note that each of these clubs ran for two terms. As you can see there is a wealth of different kinds of activities to try over the course of the year.

External Providers

Premier Sport also run Sports Clubs every evening between 3.15- 4.30pm. These carry a small charge of £3 per session. This is a special offer because of the strong relationship between our school and Premier Sport. In other schools the charge would be a lot higher. You can see the clubs on offer below:

Monday :Play Active

Tuesday: Dodgeball

Wednesday: Ultimate frisbee

Thursday: Football

Friday: Fencing and Archery

To sign up to these clubs book online: www.premier-education.com Any queries phone : 07476032239

Peripatetic Music Lessons

Some of you have requested peripatetic music lessons to be offered within the school day. There is a cost attached to taking music lessons. We will be sending a google form survey later this term to explore what the potential take up would be for these lessons. So, if interested in this, please look out for the survey and give your support to this. Peripatetic music lessons can only take place if there are enough children and families wishing to pay to take up the lessons.



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Have you got any time to volunteer ?

Our Reception team are looking for reading volunteers to come in and regularly listen to our Reception children read. If you or someone you know might be interested in helping out and have a **regular** slot of time you can give then we would love to hear from you!

Please see Miss Burgess (our EYFS lead) or Miss Uddin or Miss Armer. Alternatively, let the school office know and someone can call you back to discuss it further with you. You will be asked to complete all the relevant safeguarding checks (DBS) and would need to agree to uphold the school's vision and values. We look forward to hearing from you!

Dates for your diaries , with best wishes from Debbie Coker (Principal)

Week 11 th -15 th November	Say No to Bullying Week
Monday 11 th November	Y1/2 Dodgeball competition (off site)
Tuesday 12 th November	Odd Sock Day – part of Anti bullying week (please wear odd socks to school)
Friday 15 th November	Children In Need Day – Dress in PJs and donate!
Tuesday 12 th November Thursday 14 th November	Parents Eve 3.30-5.30pm Parents Eve 3.45- 7.00pm
Wednesday 20 th November	Y5/6 Locality Athletics Competition (off site)
Tuesday 26 th Nov and Weds 27 th Nov	9.30am New Reception Entrants tours.
Friday 29 th November	Enterprise Day
Wednesday 4 th December	KS2 group to St George's, Bristol for singing event.
Friday 6 th December	Friends of Fishponds Academy Children's disco
Tuesday 17 th December Wednesday 18 th December	Rec / KS1 Nativity performance @ 2pm Rec / KS1 Nativity Performance @ 4pm
Thursday 19 th December	Christmas Celebration @ St Mary's (5.30pm) led by Y3 and 4
Friday 20 th December	Non uniform day and Last day of term!

