



South Cave CE (VC) Primary School
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November 11th, 2019

Dear Parent/Carer,

We look forward to the final half term leading up to Christmas - we have so much planned that I am sure the time will just fly by!

EYFS, KS1 and Y3&4 will soon start working towards their Christmas performance for parents; we are also looking forward to our Christingle service which we hold at church and our whole school theme week 'The Jolly Christmas Postman', which this half term has a literacy focus based around characters in traditional stories. Our choir and handbells groups have also been invited to take part in the Parish Council/Cave Castle Christmas light faire again this year as well as the Church carol service, so we will be taking our choir and handbells group along to both occasions. KS1 have the popular 'Christmas Story Night' to look forward to then in the final week we have Christmas parties, PTA disco and Christmas lunch to look forward to!

As I said a busy half term!

School Vision and Values

Staff and governors have been looking at our school vision, to ensure it reflects what we believe is important for children at South Cave School and what we want our children to be. Please see our revised vision statement below:

We want every member of our school family to be the best person that they can possibly be.

To recognise, develop and appreciate their gifts so that they may 'let their light shine'. (Matthew 5:16)

We strive to create well-rounded individuals who display humility and who understand that we are all valued equally as a unique creation with a responsibility to contribute to the wider world in all its diversity.

This vision is, of course, underpinned by our Christian values of trust, thankfulness, compassion, perseverance and respect, that are at the heart of our school. We will be reinforcing these values, encouraging children to 'SHINE' again this term, with children receiving certificates during our Friday 'Praise' assemblies, for displaying our 5 Christian school values (as shown below).



T R U S T

T H A N K F U L N E S S

C O M P A S S I O N

P E R S E V E R A N C E

R E S P E C T

During collective worship, we will also be looking at our school values as well as the British Values. This week is National anti-bullying week, with the theme this year being 'change starts with us', encouraging the children to think about kindness and respect towards each other.

We will also be joining in a number of national charity events this term, we have already looked at the role of the British Legion linked to Remembrance Day, this week we will be taking part in Children in Need and in December we will be taking part in a new charity event 'Rudolph Run' to raise funds for Dove House.

Thanks must go to those families who supported our 'Christmas Shoe Box' appeal, the Real Aid charity collected our boxes earlier this week. We collected over 50 boxes - well done to all who contributed.

Church links

We have continued our KS visits to church for collective worship each half term. This year we held our harvest celebrations at church for the first time. Thanks to all families for the produce you sent, which we took to the church to join their harvest collection for the homeless in Hull.

We also look forward to our Christingle Services on Sunday 1st December (3.30pm for KS1 and 5pm for KS2). I will be looking for children in Y2 and Y6 who intend to join us on the day to read prayers and bible readings. If you know you will be attending the Christingle and feel your child would be able to 'project' their voice in the church, please let me know.

Our choir and handbells group will also be taking part in the church Carol service on 18th December.

Ceri Harris, friend of the church, and one of our diocese governors, is continuing to run our KS1 and KS2 lunchtime 'Fusion' clubs along with M. Gladstone and J. Buxton, also friends of the church.

Curriculum

Curriculum enrichment

Year 5 enjoyed their weekend visit to Robinwood Adventure Centre and I must thank the staff for giving up their weekend away from their families to make the visit possible. The visit was once again a great success, with staff from the centre commenting on how they enjoy our school visits because of the excellent behaviour of our children.

EYFS, Y1 and 2 have a visit from Zoolab in a couple of weeks and also enjoyed a visit by the fire brigade last week, as part of their mini theme on bonfire night.

We have a theatre production for the whole school of 'Robin Hood' and Y6 have a visit to the theatre planned, to see 'Peter Pan'.

PE and Sport

Competitions

We have taken part in a number of sports competitions already this term, including boys football, girls football and cross country and we have dodgeball, hockey and mixed football to look forward to in the coming weeks.

We were very pleased that one of our Y4 pupils (Harry B) got through to the East Riding finals in cross country and then came 8th out of the 80 taking part! Thank you to all parents for supporting these events and getting your children to these after school competitions, thank you to the children for representing the school so well and thank you to Miss Davy and Mr Walker for organising and attending these events.

We are aware that some year groups have very little opportunity to take part in the competitions organised through South Hunsley, which is out of our control, however we plan to introduce 'intra-school' competitions across the school this year, so that children can compete against each other within school, based on the sports activities they will be doing in their PE lessons.

Clubs

Clubs offered to pupils in the Autumn term include judo, netball, Fusion (All Saints Church), KS2 crafts club (parent volunteers) athletics, basketball, change4life, hockey, benchball, gymnastics, football, team games, (+ Tuesday practice sessions for competitions coming up), with a total of 300 places now being offered by our own sports coach as well as the 120 offered through the other clubs. This now means we are able to offer 420 club spaces per week.

At the moment some of these clubs are not full, so if your child would like to join a club please contact the office, it is a shame that we have increased our offer of clubs over the last year and we are not making full use of them.

Funding

As you will recall our PE and sports governor (Mrs Powell) won a grant bid to improve the outdoor learning areas.

We have already resurfaced 2 playgrounds and added playground markings to all 4 playgrounds (as well as the daily mile around school) and our next project is to erect a large wooded gazebo, with seating, to create an outdoor

classroom space. Unfortunately this has been delayed as we have been told we need planning permission, but we will hopefully be able to go ahead with this early in the Spring term.

Behaviour

It has been pleasing to see the continued positive impact of our behaviour sanctions/rewards system. Last year we continued to see a reduction in the number of sanctions being necessary. In the Autumn term 10 children across school received detentions. In Spring this fell to 6 children across school and in the summer term, 5 children received detentions (compared with 16 children the previous summer term). We have also had very few sanctions required since the start of this term. I have noticed a very calm atmosphere around school and during collective worship and Mid-day staff have also commented how good behaviour is at lunchtime this year.

Class assemblies

We have continued with the assemblies for parents this year, with Mrs Harvey and Mrs Jones classes already presenting theirs last half term. The assembly for parents will start at 9.30am, however parents are welcome to stay for a coffee (in the community room) after dropping children off at the start of the school day, rather than coming back again for 9.30.

We have the following assembly arranged for this half term:

- 13th Nov – Miss Sheeley's class

Parent Forum – update

I informed parents in my newsletter at the start of term that I would like to continue with this group. Last year 11 parents were in the group, and they met with me for a one hour meeting once a month to discuss matters that effected home and school, for example the homework policy, methods of communication, school website and our behaviour policy.

Unfortunately I have only had one parent come forward to offer to be part of this group, this year. I would appreciate it if other parents would consider joining this group this year. I am more than happy to reduce the number of meetings, if a monthly meeting would be too much of a commitment, and would suggest moving to one meeting each half term (5 in all for the remainder of this year). These meetings have tended to be at 9am on a Monday morning, once children have been dropped off at school, but I would be happy to move the meeting to a more convenient day/time.

The aim of the group is to:

Work together for the good of our children, ensuring that they all have the best possible education, make the best possible progress and have fun.

The protocol of the group is to:

Ensure the time is a positive experience with the above aim at the forefront of all discussions. Discussions should be kept general and not specific to individual children, parents, staff and governors. We agreed that we should remain respectful to each other at all times.

Please let me know if you would like to be part of the Parent Forum this year. Agenda items for the year will be put forward in the first meeting.

Parent Questionnaire

I am in the process of collating the comments/judgements from the parent questionnaire which many of you completed at the parents evenings in the week before half term. I received over 90 forms, so it is taking some time! I will get the results to you as soon as this is complete. I would ideally like to work with parents (perhaps through the parent forum) to look at the areas that are identified as areas for further development.

Staffing

We have appointed a new teaching assistant to work 30 hours within the school. Mrs Pric, has joined us from the start of this half term and will be working across the school, but will mainly be based in Y5/6. She is already getting to know everyone and appears popular with staff and children I have spoken to.

PTA

I must take this opportunity to thank the PTA for the amazing bonfire night last weekend. It really was a 'spectacular'. Thanks must go to the committee for organising the event, and the volunteers for setting up and running the stalls, to Mr Whitehead and Mr Harker and their team who led the wood collection and firework team through the day, to Mr Brown (and William and Harry) who provided their tractor/trailer to make the setting up of the bonfire a little easier, despite the rain! Thanks also, to families who came and supported the event on the night, Unfortunately I think the rain kept some people away, but I am sure you will agree the atmosphere was absolutely brilliant, with the lights and sound of the organ providing such a memorable community atmosphere for our school. The biggest thanks, of course, must go to Mrs Davies, from the PTA, who ran this event for the 2nd year and continued to bring new ideas to make it the success that it was.

Yours sincerely

J. Newby

Parent comments

(please use this space to write comments and queries about school in general and post in comments box)