

Newsletter No 3: Term 1

October 2020

Dear Parent / Carers,

It has certainly been a busy term and thankfully we have not yet had a case of Covid! Long may that continue! Our school attendance has been absolutely brilliant, and this week we had **one** day with just over 98% attendance. It has been wonderful to have everyone back together. Thank you to you all for supporting the measures we have in place. Thank you for following our one-way system, dropping off and picking up at the correct times for your year groups and keeping your distance from others on site. We would ask that parent/ carers take children straight home to avoid any potential social gatherings around the school gates as this is also a helpful measure to limit any potential spread of the virus.

Parent Governor

You will remember that we recently asked for nominations for Parent Governor from our parent /carers to sit on our Academy Local Board. This group support me as Principal in making sure that the school continues to serve it's community well and enable all to flourish under our care. I am pleased to welcome Rachel Illsley (one of our Year 3 parents) on to our Local Board.

Friends of Fishponds

Our lovely Friends of Fishponds group need a new Chair and Secretary to help champion fundraising projects for our school. Over the past few years our Friends have run a mixture of fundraisers throughout the year. Organisation of events can be small scale, from as little as organising money collectors on the school gates for donations for a non – uniform day to sending emails / making phone calls to businesses for donations for our raffle. If you are interested in supporting the Friends of Fishponds see further details in the newsletter on the next page.

School Dinners

We started serving hot meals last week and they have proved very popular. All meals are served and eaten within the classroom. You will find a copy of the menu on our school website under Parent Tab – school lunches. Allergies have been taken into account in the choices that are on offer. School meals cost £2.30 and are payable on School Gateway unless your child is in receipt of Universal or Free school meals.

Parent / carer workshops

Our recent parent /carer workshops on reading, phonics and home-learning have been really well attended on Zoom. Thanks to you all for joining us to support your children in becoming great readers and home-learners. Please visit the school website if you missed the meetings. You will find home-learning information on the 'Home-learning' tab under our curriculum page. Or click here:

<https://www.fishpondschurchacademy.bristol.sch.uk/our-learning/homework>

For reading information please click link below.

<https://www.fishpondschurchacademy.bristol.sch.uk/for-parents/reading-at-home>

Harvest Festival

Our Year 2 children will be celebrating Harvest differently this year due to Covid. Instead of leading the Harvest celebration at the local church, they will be learning to sign a harvest song and share some harvest learning with you. Our team will upload the celebration to See Saw so that each parent / carer of Year 2 can see what the children have been learning. We will still be collecting donations to the Fishponds Foodbank though, so please (if able) donate items of long life food goods (tins, pasta rice, sauces, cereals, tea, coffee etc) during week beginning October 19th – October 23rd. Thanks in advance for supporting through donating.



Church of England Academy

Principal: Mrs Debbie Coker

Chair of Local Board: Mrs Trish Dodds



Value of the Term : Hope

Our Whole School Collective Worship sessions will take place on Tuesdays on Zoom as even though we are all back in school we are unable to gather together physically. Each week we will focus on one of the questions below.

Questions of the Week:

Week 6: Seeds are amazing things – small but powerful. Why does this give us hope?

Week 7: How does the story of the Prodigal Son show Christians what God is like?

Week 8: How can we provide hope by sharing what we have? (Harvest)

During our last week of term we will be collecting items for the Fishponds Foodbank as part of our Harvest learning. Our Thursday Collective Worship times focus on celebrating our diversity through learning about other faith celebrations. For the time being singing assemblies will not be taking place.

Know someone with a child hoping to start school next September? Please tell them to join our open evenings.

We are currently running open evenings via Zoom on:
Wednesday 21st October @ 6pm To join the event use:

Or Tuesday 8th December @ 6pm on Zoom

We are also offering a small number of small group tours of our Early Years phase. These need to be booked through the school office and are limited to one parent /carer each. Visitors will need to wear face masks for the tour. We look forwards to meeting our prospective families at one of the above events.

Interested in supporting our Friends of Fishponds Academy?

The Friends are looking for a couple of volunteers to help lead the group in the following ways:

Chair role:

We need a friendly and approachable person to run meetings and make sure that all views are taken into consideration. Once a year there is an Annual General Meeting and a report is prepared for this celebrating the work accomplished over the previous year. The Chair would also ensure that events run safely with the help from the school. They also need to sign / authorise payment by cheques. (Term of office 2 years)

Secretary role:

We need someone who is organised and good at communicating. The Secretary writes minutes of the meetings and emails them to the other members of the Friends group and the Principal of the school after the meetings. This person also prepares flyers, posters for events and emails them to school for distribution. They also organise announcements on Class List App to keep all parent /carers in the loop! (Term of office 2 years)

Lisa Billsberry (our Office Manager) currently supports our Friends of School with the finance and banking side of things. Various members of our school team volunteer to support our events as well so you will not be alone!

If you don't feel that one of the above roles is for you but you would like to be involved, the group would very much welcome willing volunteers to help at school events over the next few years. Once these roles have been filled, we can work out what kind of fundraising ideas are possible within Covid Measures.

If you are interested in one of the above posts, or you want to find out more we can put you in touch with one of the current members to help explain how it all works, please email Lisa Billsberry in the school office : on fishpondsceacademy@Bristol-schools.uk

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

Friday 23 rd October	Last day of Term 1
Monday 2 nd November	INSET training School Closed to children.
Tuesday 3 rd November	First day of Term 2
New PE Slots for Term 2 (send your children in PE kit on days below)	Monday – Year 2 Tuesday – Year 4 Talapia Wednesday – Year 1 and Year 5 Thursday – Year 6 and Year 4 Firefish Friday - Year 3
Thursday 5 th November	NHS Flu Vaccinations (<i>for those who have provided permission slips</i>)
Tuesday 10 th November	Parents' Evening via Zoom (time tbc)
Thursday 12 th November	Parents' Evening via Zoom (time tbc)
Monday 16 th – Friday 20 th November	Anti-Bullying Week
Monday 30 th November	INSET training School Closed to children.
Tuesday 15 th December	Nativity (time tbc Covid allowing)