

Newsletter No 5: Term 2

November 2020

Dear Parent / Carers,

Welcome back to Term 2! Despite all the Covid madness, we have had a great couple of weeks. In week one our Reception children enjoyed toasting marshmallows during their Fire Pit experience. Our School Council members have led a short presentation in their classes to ask for votes on how we celebrate Children in Need Day. Good to see democracy in action! Well done to them all as they did brilliantly! We have also held our Remembrance Collective worship this week and remembered those who have fallen.

Sadly today we had to close one of our Reception Classes after a positive case was confirmed in our school community. The children will be isolating and will be back with us on Thursday 19th November. We will certainly miss them during this time. I feel so disappointed this has happened as we were doing so well! Please be reassured that we are maintaining high levels of hand washing and are operating our Covid risk reduction measures well. I hope that we do not have to deal with any further incidents!

Just when I was feeling very blue about our closure, I was cheered up by our children! Today one Year 6 class came and stood outside of my window with a lovely note of thanks and encouragement to keep me going. I have to say, it was a small gesture but meant the world. Thank you Mantaray class for showing such kindness – it made a huge difference. I think that goes to show that small acts of kindness go a long way. In this time of challenge, let's be a community of love and compassion and support one another during this time.

Parents Evening

We have just completed our first session of Parents Evening on Zoom. Thank you to all of you who booked appointments, I hope you found the time with the class teacher valuable. I know the team enjoyed meeting you all. I believe one of our lucky teachers was given a rendition of a song from Frozen by one family as well! Thanks for cheering us all up with that, it certainly made Miss Edwards giggle! We look forward to virtually seeing those of you who have booked appointments on Thursday.

Children in Need Day T2

Friday 13th November the BBC are running their Children in Need Day. This year the theme is all about children's mental health. We will join in by wearing our Onesies or PJs into school on the Friday. Our school council have led a vote across the school and the children have voted to run a Poster Competition. Closing date for entries is Thursday @ 12pm and we look forwards to judging the most effective Children in Need posters and awarding special Children in Need prizes. Good luck everyone!



Friday Early Closure

As you will now be aware, we have been hit with staffing issues of recent and have had to make some considerable changes to manage our school safely during this period. A mixture of staff illness, track and trace absence, dependent leave due to covid measures elsewhere and staff being directed by the Government to shield has left us very short staffed. Please make sure that you have read the email sent out yesterday outlining a Friday early closure from Friday 20th November. (next week)

Wild hair Day !

Wild hair day was brilliant fun and we managed to raise £300 towards our Exploration Zone. We are hoping to create a stage and seating area for the children to use. This money has certainly helped make a start for what we need. We have had a quote for the work needed coming in around £2500. It would be fabulous if we can get to this figure by the end of the year. Advanced Warning!!! There will be an end of term wear something sparkly or festive on the last day of term for donations run by the Friends of Fishponds Academy. So this is the next opportunity to raise funds for our school Exploration Zone.



Church of England Academy

Principal: Mrs Debbie Coker

Chair of Local Board: Mrs Trish Dodds



Value of the Term : Love

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 1: How would you describe love or compassion?

Week 2: How do you remember those that you love or respect?

Week 3: Can you think of a good way to show love and support others?

Week 4: What will you secretly do to make someone's day this week?

Week 5: Advent: How do you help yourself be ready and prepared for big events in your life?

Week 6: How does the Christmas story show Christians of God's love for humans?

Week 7: How can we be welcoming and show love to all in our community at this time?

New PE Slots again due to staff changes!

(Please send your children in PE kit on days below)

Monday – Year 2 Surgeonfish

Tuesday – Year 4

Wednesday – Year 1 and Year 3 and Year 5

Thursday – Year 6 and Year 2 Parrot fish



Mr Simons will be distanced teaching the classes above from next week. This means that he will not be personally dealing with any children in the class and will direct PE learning from a safe distance outside. The class will still be led by the class team and all transitions will be managed by the class team thus keeping Mr Simons safe by not breaking any bubbles. We hope that this allows our children to keep fit and benefit from Mrs Simons skills whilst keeping everyone safe.

A message from our Local Board Chair.....

Dear Parents and Carers ,

The difficult decisions taken this week have been done so in full consultation with our Trust (DBAT). These are very uncertain times and we cannot predict where the Virus will impact next. Working together and supporting each other is the only way we can move forward. We all need to take care and keep safe.

Thank you for your support.

Trish Dodds
Chair of Local Board



Christmas Events Term 2

We have been very busy thinking about how manage our normal Christmas events to ensure that we keep everyone as safe as possible. As you can imagine, this has taken a bit of creativity as we cannot run our normal programme of carol services, nativities and parties at school in the normal way. Reception and Year 1 children normally join together to present the nativity play and Year 3 and 4 run our Carol Service in the church. This year as we are unable to gather and meet together to celebrate these events so we are running smaller class events virtually. More information will be sent out to Reception , Year 1 and year 3 and 4 parent /carers shortly outlining what will take place in the last week of term.

Christmas Dinner Day – Tuesday 15th December 20

Christmas Dinner will be served in individual classrooms to avoid any mixing of bubbles in one space.



Christmas Tree Decoration Competition

To help us all feel more joined together in school we are holding a Christmas Tree Decorating Competition. Each class will be provided with a small tree and will be asked to design and make decorations to make it look pretty. These will be displayed in each classroom and photographs will be uploaded to Twitter. We will then showcase them all to the children and they can vote for the best one in each Key Stage. The winning classes will receive a new class book to read together.

We will keep you updated with any further events we are planning over the course of the coming weeks.

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

Tuesday 10 th Nov and Thursday 12 th November	Parents Evenings (virtually held on Zoom) Thursday 12 th – Pudsey items sold at the end of the day on behalf of Children in Need
Thursday 12 th November	School council 'Design a poster for Children in Need day' deadline by end of the day. Make sure all entries are handed into your class teachers by then. For those working remotely, if you wish to send your poster in via email please do so by the end of the day.
Friday 13 th November	Children in Need Day Children can come to school in a Onesie or their PJs and donate. Buckets on the gate for suggested £1 donations.
Monday 16 th – Friday 20 th November	Anti-Bullying Week
Monday 30 th November	INSET training School Closed to children.
Tuesday 8 th December	EYFS prospective parent Zoom information evening for intake Sept 21
Week beginning Monday 14 th December	Virtual Christmas Events. This week the various year groups that would normally perform Rec / Y1 nativity and the Y3/4 Carol Service will upload their offerings to their online platforms. Visit your child's Tapestry account for Reception. Visit your child's See Saw account for Y1 and Y3/4.
Tuesday 15 th December	Christmas Dinner Day Deadline for class Christmas Tree Decorating
Friday 18 th December	Last day of term. Wear something festive day and donate £1 towards our Exploration Zone.