



South Cave CE (VC) Primary School

Church Street, South Cave, Brough, East Riding of Yorkshire. HU15 2EP

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Email: office@scps.eriding.net

Website: www.southcaveprimary.co.uk

Headteacher: Mrs. J. Newby

Friday 12th January, 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

Headteacher Newsletter – January

Happy New Year and welcome back to you all! I hope you all had a lovely Christmas break with your families. The children certainly seemed very keen to catch up with their friends and teachers as they arrived on Tuesday.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for your support of the various activities that took place in the lead up to Christmas. It was lovely to see the sports hall just as full as ever for our Carol Service on the final afternoon of term and thank you for the many positive comments I received as you left – I think we all agreed the singing, instrument playing and choir were very impressive! Thank you also for your kind donations, we raised £270 and this was split equally between ‘Mitchell’s Wheels’ and ‘mind’ and I understand both charities have received their cheques. We also raised £197 for the Christmas Jumper day and this was also given to ‘Mitchell’s wheels’

Ofsted monitoring visit

We have just received our Ofsted inspection monitoring visit letter of findings and this should be published on the Ofsted website within the next week.

In the letter the inspector summarises that ‘senior leaders and governors are taking effective action to tackle the areas requiring improvement in order for the school to become good’.

The letter states that:

- Leaders vision for the future is secure. We have welcomed support and that this ‘carefully matched support’ has enabled us to move the school forward.
- A new approach to the way progress is identified in pupil’s books across the school has enabled leaders to identify those pupils who are falling behind more accurately. This coupled with the school’s list of the main strengths which define strong teaching has improved the quality of teaching and learning overall.
- Teachers’ ability to assess the quality of pupil’ work has improved and most consistently use this information to plan further work
- Changes to the curriculum have improved pupils’ levels of interest and engagement across the school and this is clearly reflected in pupils’ work in books
- The senior leadership team have worked closely with middle leaders to increase their levels of skills and understanding and they are playing a more active role in monitoring the quality of teaching and learning. This now needs to continue
- Senior leaders have analysed the outcomes of the disappointing dip in standards in Y6 last year and are dealing with the issues identified and as a result pupils are currently making stronger progress in reading, writing and maths in both KS1 and KS2.
- Governors have developed their understanding of their role and increased their knowledge of the needs of the school and that this now needs to continue
- The pupil premium review that was commissioned following the last inspection was carried out in a timely manner and we have quickly implemented changes.

The letter does state that there are inconsistencies in lower KS2 as pupil’s books did not show consistently good progress. This was in relation only to Y3 maths - during a book scrutiny carried out by the inspector where it was felt the quantity and quality of work in Y3 maths books was not in line with other year groups across school. The transition from KS1 to KS2 is a difficult one for children to make as they move from having a higher level of adult support, with a full time teacher and teaching assistant in KS1 classrooms, with more prompts/support in exercise books, to working in a class with a teacher and only occasional support from a teaching assistant in KS2. Even having to write the date and learning objective at the top of the page is a new expectation

• Trust • Compassion • Respect • Thankfulness • Endurance •



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and can slow the pace of work for Y3 children during the first term, as they get used to these increased expectations as well as the more challenging curriculum. This is something that the school has already identified, with the maths subject leader having worked alongside staff to help them develop the pupils understanding of working with pace independently within the newly introduced mastery approach to maths teaching.

The letter identified that, at the time of the monitoring visit, progress of pupils in Y6 was not yet secure so it was not possible to accurately assess Y6 pupils' progress. However as the visit took place in the last week of term, we had only just held our pupil progress meetings and moderation across both Y6 classes was due to take place to confirm accuracy of judgements, and this had not yet happened, so assessments were unconfirmed at that time.

The letter identified that the progress of most able pupils is not yet consistently strong in all areas of the curriculum. This was in relation to the progress of the most able in maths, and this had already been identified by the senior leadership team through our own book scrutiny, since then, the maths subject leader has been working with staff to ensure problem solving activities are planned to challenge the more able and that pupils' books evidence this, further staff meetings and monitoring are also planned on this area.

Although not recorded in the letter, when giving verbal feedback to senior leaders and governors, Local Authority and Diocese advisors at the end of the monitoring visit, the inspector's concluding statement was that she believed this to be a 'happy school with happy children with lots to celebrate'.

School Values

We are looking for children who 'SHINE' by showing all our values (Tru**S**t, Th**A**nkfulness, compass**I**on, e**N**durance and resp**E**ct).

Below is a table identifying the children who received a certificate during Praise assembly, during the second half term, because they were recognised by staff for displaying these values. Well done to those children for being good examples to others.

Autumn 2 2017

	EYFS	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3/4	Year 5/6
SHINE	Zara Farmer Peronel Lant EdwardHowbridge	Oliver Sweeting Jessica Kutte Martha Holdcroft Deacon Page George Foley	Harry Everitt Myah Gibson William Shaw Harrison Turner- Hazel Oliver Young	William Elvin Maddison Seppings-Palmer Jennifer Sweeney Tom Young Alexander Rozenbroek William Rozenbroek Poppy Stafford Lily Train Amelia Fifield Grace Saunders Daisy Wride Annie Sedman Sam Pybus	Sophie Dean Genevieve Scott Victoria Tunas Gutierrez Sam Hickman Sam Acey Scarlett Murphy Harrison Rushworth Antoni Simpson Jack Bull Lily Norton Evie Train Hector Thornham

During praise assembly we also recognise those children who have received a 'WOW' certificate, given to those children placed on the 'WOW' section of the behaviour chart in the classroom, for exemplary work/attitude/behaviour. They are given the 'honour' of sitting on benches at the back of assembly and feel proud to have the opportunity to tell everyone in school what they did to earn their 'WOW'



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Parent Workshop – ‘Talk for Writing’ – Tuesday 13th March

Thank you to all those parents who attended our maths workshop at the end of November, we had approximately 70 parents attend the information session followed by the lesson in class and once again received some very positive comments. Mr Tatton has put his powerpoint onto the school website, for those parents who were not able to attend the session.

The workshop this term will be linked to the new writing initiative we have introduced this year ‘Talk for Writing’ and will be led by Mrs McNeil (English Subject Leader). This will be held on **Tuesday 13th March**. When we have organised these workshops at the end of the first month back and informed you in the newsletter at the start of the month we have had comments that this doesn’t give some parents enough notice so have left this term’s workshop until the end of term, hopefully allowing enough notice. Please look out for the reminder letter nearer the time to sign up to join us for this.

Class assemblies

We held 3 parent assembly last term and I must thank parents who continue to support this brief opportunity to find out what your child has been doing in class over the last few weeks, again I received many positive comments from parents last term, with one choosing to e-mail her appreciation and enjoyment of this opportunity.

We have 3 more planned this 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 9.30am

We have the following assemblies arranged for this term:

- Wednesday 31st Jan– Class 7 (Mr Tatton)
- Wednesday 7th March– Class 10 (Mrs McNeil)
- Wednesday 21st March - Class 9 (Miss Sheeley)

Year group church visits

We have continued with our year group visits to the church, so that the children can experience an R.E. lesson from within the church. We have one further visit planned for this term and parents are welcome to join the children at the church – class teachers will contact you about arrangements nearer the time.

- Thursday 15th March – Year 5 (Easter workshop)

Unfortunately due to a clash of dates and other commitments of Revd Proctor and Revd Lyn the workshops for Y4, Y1 and EYFS have had to be cancelled for this year. Although please be reassured that as these workshops are linked to the RE curriculum the children will still be covering the work during their normal RE lessons in school.

Our KS1 and KS2 collective worship at the church this term will take place on the following dates, this information is to make you aware when your child will be visiting the church so that they can have appropriate footwear and coat for their walk to church, unfortunately we are not able to invite parents to these sessions as the church is not big enough to accommodate the whole key stage and parents:

- Wednesday 17th January – KS2
- Wednesday 24th January – KS1
- Wednesday 21st February – KS2
- Thursday 22nd February – KS1

Year group news

The usual information from each year group or phase in school has previously been within this newsletter. However you will recall from last half term that teaching teams are now sending a separate newsletter out to parents with all the information you will need to know for the coming half term. These have been sent as individual attachments.



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Communication with parents

Website – new design – bear with us, work in progress!

Our new website design is up and running and available to view. We do still have some changes to make to reduce the number of tabs and hopefully make it easier for parents to find things they need. The website company that we use has not completed the move from the old to the new site, so you may currently experience some ‘empty’ pages, until it is all populated, but I am sure you will agree that the front page design is much more ‘children’ friendly and the school and its surroundings do somewhat resemble our school!

Parent Forum

As I informed you in my letter in December, we held our first meeting of parents (11 parents representing all year groups across the school), where we agreed the purpose of the group and also planned items to discuss at our monthly meetings. Our next meeting will be held on Monday 22nd January and the main focus for this meeting will be to share the current school policy on homework and also to discuss and comment on our current homework provision. Is there too much/too little? Is it too hard/too easy? Should children have homework? What days should homework be given/returned? As a school we have to follow the expectations set nationally and Ofsted have to investigate whether: ‘teachers set homework, in line with the school’s policy and as appropriate for the age and stage of pupils, that consolidates learning and prepares pupils well for work to come’. However I know this is often something that parents enquire about and we do receive a wide variety of viewpoints from parents. I will therefore be keen to hear opinions of parents, so that we can work together to provide something that suits the majority of staff, pupils and parents.

Comment box

The parent comments/suggestions box has been placed in the front entrance of school, giving you an opportunity to inform me of any comments, suggestions or queries that you feel are more relevant to me than your child’s class teacher. You may have a good idea that you would like to share; have a worry about a school procedure that you think I should know; have a topic you would like me to write about in my next newsletter or may want me to pass on thanks for something to a member of staff. I can assure you that any suggestions on continuing to improve our provision will be considered. I will, of course, continue to be available on the phone, via e-mail or meet with parents. As the next Parent forum is specifically focused on homework you may wish to post your comments/suggestions on this area so that they can be shared at the meeting.

Can I take this opportunity to thank those parents who have returned the parent questionnaire and if you would still like to return it please do so by next Wednesday (17th). I hope to use your responses to identify areas for us to look at and develop further, whilst also using them to identify areas that you are happy with as they are. I would like to thank you for your continued support of the school.

J. Newby

Comments box

Name.....Child’s name..... Class.....