



South Cave CE (VC) Primary School  
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Headteacher: Mrs J. Newby

November 9th, 2018

Dear Parent/Carer,

We look forward to the 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 all be working towards their Christmas performance for parents; our Christingle service which we hold at church; visits linked to topics for Y3 and 4; a theatre production for the whole school of the 'Selfish Giant'; our whole school theme week, which this half term has a history/literacy focus 'A Christmas Carol'.

The term will end with our very popular Carol Service on the last afternoon of the term. We have also been invited to take part in the Parish Council Christmas Magic this year as well as the Church's own carol service, so we will be taking our choir and hand bells group along to both occasions. We also have a number of sporting fixtures planned and hope to build on the successes that we have so far achieved.(see separate section below)

As I said a busy term!

## **Curriculum**

### **Whole School curriculum Theme Week**

We are looking forward to our 2<sup>nd</sup> whole school theme week of the year planned for the last week of term. The theme this time is 'A Christmas Carol' which will celebrate 175 years since the publication of Charles Dickens novel. We have further whole school theme weeks planned later in the year too, focusing on other curriculum areas.

### **STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths)**

We have continued with our focus on STEM the sciences with a STEM challenge day every month. This is now organised within year groups, rather than the challenge being set by the science leader and takes place on a day convenient to the year group within the last week of every month, rather than set by the subject leader. This has given more flexibility for staff to incorporate it into their topic planning, rather than as an additional activity to plan. It was interesting seeing the children working together in groups to design and make animal habitats in KS1, shoes made out of newspaper in Y3/4 and strong constructions using pasta and marshmallows! I look forward to seeing the activities planned in the coming STEM days. Mrs Jones is also hoping to get a visitor into school to talk to the children about the effect of plastics on the environment, which will follow on well to one of the themes - 'One World Week' from last half term's assemblies.

### **Personal, Social and Health Education**

We have introduced 'Heartsmart' to the children through assemblies and in RE/PSHE lessons. This is a scheme which helps the children to understand the importance of thinking of others through the development of the SMSC curriculum (spiritual, moral, social, cultural). 'Heartsmart is a creative new approach to delivering the PSHE curriculum that primary schools use to build character, emotional health and resilience in children. It equips them with foundation principles, skills, habits and a mind-set that will improve their mental health, relationships and academic achievement.'

### **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.

Year 5 and 6 enjoyed a day at Eden Camp linked to their WW2 topic and Y3 and 4 are looking forward to their visit to the Yorkshire Museum, linked to their topic on the Romans. EYFS, Y1 and 2 have welcomed a number of visitors (cats, dogs, rabbits, vets!) to school linked to their topic on animals and also enjoyed a visit by the fire brigade as part of their mini theme on bonfire night.

We have 2 theatre productions planned this term, one for the whole school based on the story of the Selfish Giant and one for Y5/6 based on the Change4Life/healthy living agenda.

## **PE and Sport Competitions**

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

We were very pleased that 2 of our Y6 pupils got through to the East Riding finals in athletics and our girls football team have also got through to the East Riding finals. Only this week our hockey team also won the cluster hockey competition. Thank you to all parents for supporting these events and getting your child to these after school competitions, thank you to the children for representing the school so well and thank you to Miss Davy for organising and attending these events.

## **Clubs**

Clubs offered to pupils in the Autumn term include judo, netball, athletics, breakfast athletics, dodgeball, benchball, cross country, football, change4life with a total of 180 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 300 club spaces per week.

## **Change4life**

As well as the change4life KS1 and KS2 clubs on offer each week, we have also been offered a theatre production sponsored by Change4 Life, this is linked to developing a 'healthy lifestyle' message to pupils in Y5 and 6, and we look forward to this later in the term.

## **Funding**

We were absolutely delighted to hear that our PE and sports governor's grant bid for £40,000 to improve the outdoor learning areas has been successful. As a result we will be able to improve physical development opportunities around the school site. I will be meeting with the governor (Mrs Powell) and the PE leader (Miss Davy) to set timescales for improvement work to be carried out over the next few months. Thanks must go to Mrs Powell who spent many hours completing the bid to make it so convincing!

## **School Values**

We will be reinforcing our school 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

E N D U R A N C E

R E S P E C T

During collective worship, we will also be looking at the British Values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs. We will be thinking about bullying, next week during National Anti-bullying week, where the theme is 'choose respect', which fits in well with one of our 5 school Christian values.

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, next week we will be taking part in Children in Need with their 'Spotacular' theme and in December we will be holding a Christmas jumper day for Save the Children Charity.

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 60 boxes - well done to all who contributed.

## **Behaviour**

It has been pleasing to see the positive impact of our behaviour sanctions/rewards system which we revised 18 months ago. As previously mentioned to parents, over the first year, we saw a reduction in the number of sanctions being necessary. In Autumn 2017, 21 children received sanctions, in Spring 2018, 13 children and in Summer 2018, 16 children received sanctions. We have had very few sanctions required since the start of term. We are three fifths of the way through the term and have so far only had 6 children receiving a detention. 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 proving a very positive start to the new school year.

## **Class assemblies**

We have continued with the assemblies for parents this year, with Miss Clark's class 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 assemblies arranged for the next half term:

- 14<sup>th</sup> Nov – Class 8 (Miss Sheeley's class)
- 5<sup>th</sup> Dec – Class 9 (Mrs McNeil's class)

## **Church links**

We have continued our KS visits to church for collective worship each half term.

We also look forward to our Christingle Services on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 hand bells group will also be taking part in the church Carol service on 19<sup>th</sup> December and Revd Proctor will once again be joining us for our school Carol Service on the 21<sup>st</sup> December.

Ceri Harris, friend of the church, and one of our diocese governors is continuing to run our KS1 lunchtime 'Fusion' club along with Maureen Gladstone, also a friend of the church.

## **Communication with parents**

### **Bloomz**

The introduction of Bloomz across the school seems to be working well and it is pleasing to see the positive comments posted by parents following shared information/photographs provided by year group teachers. As I mentioned last half term this is an excellent way for your child's teacher to send you information that they think you would find interesting or useful. It is not intended to be used on a regular basis and is not intended as a forum for parents to contact teachers regarding any other queries they may have. I would ask that this is done in the usual way through phone call or e-mail via the school office. Some staff are receiving private messages from parents on Bloomz on an evening or early in the morning whilst at home and I would ask for parents cooperation in allowing teachers some time 'away from school matters'. I can assure you that your queries sent via the office will be passed to them as soon as they arrive at school and they will respond as soon as possible.

### **Parent Forum – update**

I informed parents in a letter at the end of last half term that this group has been re-established.

At our first meeting we agreed a number of areas to be discussed in the coming months and these include things such as:

- Expectations/content covered during parents evenings
- Pupil well-being (physical and mental) including lunchtime provision
- Methods of communication – review what is working well and ideas to improve further
- Behaviour reward & recognitions/sanction policy
- FOSCS support/school engagement
- Homework policy

We agreed that **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.

We agreed **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.

Parents who have volunteered for the group this year are detailed below. If you would like to share your views on any of the above topics with them then please do. The next meeting takes place next week and will be used as an opportunity to share experiences at the recent parent evenings. If you have any comments to make that you think would be helpful, in relation to the agenda items above then please contact one of the parents below or alternatively contact me via the office e-mail or parent comment post box in the main reception.

	parent	class
Foundation	Heather Edgar	1 (JA)
	Sara Holdcroft	1
	Jose Arnett	2 (LS)
	Marie Smith	2
Year 1	Marie Cattle	2 (LS)
	Sarah Kemp	3 (LJ)
Year 2	Sara Holdcroft	4 (CSC)
	Ruth Brocklebank	4
Year 3	Marie Smith	5 (WT)
Year 4	Jennie Ellis	5 (WT)
	Emma Thornton	5 (WT)
	Ruth Brocklebank	6 (AD)
Year 5	Marie Smith	7 (SC)
	Carol Anne Holmes	9 (KM)
	Hannah Leahy	9 (KM)
Year 6	Jennie Ellis	7 (SC)
	Emma Thornton	8 (CS)

### **Staffing**

We have appointed 3 new teaching assistants to work part time within the school. We welcome Miss Baraclough who will be working in Class 2,3,4,5 and 6 on a morning and Mrs Coates who will be working in Class 2, 3, 5 and 6 on an afternoon, this is to cover the hours previously undertaken by Mrs Tyreman, who left at the end of the Summer term. We also welcome Mrs Smith who will be working afternoons in Class 1.

### **PTA**

I must take this opportunity to thank the PTA for the amazing bonfire night at the weekend. It really was '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) who provided their tractor/trailer to make the setting up of the bonfire a little easier and the parents who, when we realised at the last minute our burger stall had let us down, rallied together to go and buy burgers and buns from the supermarket and quickly brought barbeques from garages to set up our own 'pop up' burger stall. Thanks also to families who came and supported the event on the night; 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 took over the running of this event this year for the first time, brought new ideas and made it the success that it was. I will leave it to Mrs Davies to let parents know how much profit was raised on the night, but I believe it is the most it has ever made. Well done to all!

I have attached a copy of the poster that we have around school which summarises the areas within our school improvement plan for this year, which I hope you will find useful.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

J. Newby

Parent comments

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

# Ensure good progress for all

**Be positive about life  
and learning  
across the curriculum**

**Further strengthen  
all leaders**

**Further improve  
communication between  
staff/parents/governors**

**Use accurate and consistent assessment**



**Promote active learning  
and a healthy lifestyle**

**Monitor improvements  
made in 17/18**

**Continue to make  
teaching and  
learning at least good.**