

Newsletter No 5: Term 2  
December 2018

Dear Parent/ Carers,

It was good to see many of you at our recent Parents' Evenings last week. I hope you enjoyed looking at your children's books and finding out about their learning and how you can support them moving forwards.

Many of you also passed on your views about our school by completing our simple school survey. We were pleased that so many of you are happy with the education your children are getting. More details on this later in the next newsletter.

### Parking around School

Please ensure that you are parking responsibly and leaving enough space for people to walk around your car on the pavement. We advise that the best place to park is in Morrisons' carpark and then walk the short distance to school. If everyone does this then the streets around our school are left clear for pedestrians to use safely.

### Parent Helpers

Thanks to all of you who volunteer on a regular basis – we are so pleased to have your support. Our army of volunteers make a big difference. WE have one more request for our Y4 cohort. Thanks to Mrs Clew and Mrs Kaur for their help this last term with swimming - we need more helpers though! If there are any more parents who wouldn't mind helping the children on the bus, please see Mrs Seddon or Miss Scott.

### Christmas Dinner Day!

Christmas Dinner will be served **on Tuesday 18th December**. There is a choice of the traditional Turkey (halal option also offered) roast or a Quorn roast. This is always a lovely occasion with lunchtime staff so we would encourage as many children as possible to take part in this event. The dinners cost £2.10 and are payable in advance via School Gateway ( an online App). If you need help with the App, please pop into the school office and ask.



Church of England Academy

Principal: Mrs Debbie Coker

Chair of Local Board: Mrs Trish Dodds



### Value of the term: Peace

As you know, we place our values at the core of our Academy. We focus on a different question each week in our collective worship sessions.

### 3/12/18: Advent

What do you find helps you calm and find peace?

**10/12/18:**How can we help people less fortunate than ourselves this Christmas?

Next Term we will be considering the school's vision '**Loving to learn, learning to love**' and how this underpins everything our school is about. A small working group of Governors, parent Governors and staff together with our Worship Council (children's group) have been thinking about our vision and values and will be working with the whole staff team here on the January INSET day to focus on 'Love' and what this practically means for us as a school. More to follow after the INSET.

Please let the office know if you or anyone on house or changed their mobile number.

It is important that our records are kept up-to-date in case your child is sick or we need to contact you.

**Don't forget, school begins at 8.45am!**

*Did you know you can text us as well as ring us about your child's absence before 9.30am? Please state the full name of your child, their class name or teacher and reason for absence in your text.*

*Our text number is 07786 208896*

## Fancy winning one of these gifts?

Raffle tickets are on sale from the school office from Thursday and available from FOFA members on the playground after school from Thursday. There is a separate raffle for children and adults. Prizes include 2 luxury hampers and a variety of vouchers for the adults and 6 children's hampers. 50p for children's raffle ticket and £1 for the adult one. Tickets will be drawn on Dec 18<sup>th</sup> 2018. There is also a 'Name the Teddy Bear' competition for 50p a ticket too!



## Festival Of Light

Thanks to our Friends of Fishponds Academy group for organising and running the Festival of Light on the evening of November 16<sup>th</sup>. As you can see from the pictures below, the evening was a great success and had a very celebratory atmosphere! Families enjoyed the time, making lanterns, eating food and socialising with each other. Thanks to the Friends for enabling 'community' to happen.



## **School Survey November 2018**

Many thanks to those of you who helped by giving us your views in the parent survey at Parents' Evenings last week. I wanted to share the overall feedback with you and share some of the lovely comments. Following on from the feedback we received last year, we simplified our survey to make it very quick and easy to complete. 100 parents / carers completed the survey.

**96% felt their child was well looked after at Fishponds.**

**97% felt that their child was well taught at Fishponds**

**95% felt that their child enjoyed coming to school.**

**88% felt that their child was excited by their topic learning. 11% were unsure.**

**86% felt that the school taught their child how to be safe. 14 % were unsure.**

**94% felt that Fishponds was a place where everyone was valued and included. 5% were unsure**

**94% felt that our staff team were friendly and approachable. 6 % were unsure.**

**94% felt they would recommend Fishponds CE Academy to others. 4% were unsure.**

**72% felt that children at Fishponds were well behaved. 25% stated they did not know.**

**60% felt that the school dealt effectively with bullying. 37% stated they did not know due to not having experienced the issue personally.**

**Many of you also contributed very positive comments:**

'Very friendly and supporting school. Would have no hesitation in recommending this school to any future parents. Thanks to all the teachers for helping my children over the past few years.'

'My experience of the school so far has been very positive. My son is very happy with the school, his teachers and his learning. '

Thank you to you all for continuing to support our school and your children. If you have any further comments, you are very welcome to drop notes into our Suggestions Box which is stored in the school office. Alternatively, drop the school an email and share your suggestions. We promise to look at them all.

## Active Achievements!

This week we are celebrating our sporting achievements as a school. A team of children from Year 5 and 6 attended the Bristol School Games Final at City Academy on Wednesday last week. The children took part in track events and field events involving long and high jumping together with the javelin event. The children and Mr Harrold have worked extremely hard over the last few weeks practising on a Friday lunchtime for the event. I am really pleased to say their hard work paid off and they represented Fishponds in a most sporting manner showing excellent and encouraging behaviour at all times. Not only were they brilliantly behaved but they also managed to gain 506 points and came in first out of 11 Bristol Primary schools!! Well done Fishponds! This means that the team will now compete within the district event held at the University of the West of England at the end of January. We wish them every success and wish to thank them and Mr Harrold for their commitment to this so far.



Pictures of before and after the Athletics competition!

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

Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December	Reception Open day for new starters. 10 am.
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> December	Y5/6 visit the Met to see their Christmas performance. Reception visit the theatre.
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> December	FOFA school disco for children (£2 payable at the door) KS1- 3.30 – 4.30pm KS2- 5.00 – 6.00pm
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	2-3pm EYFS/ Y1 Nativity (tickets needed from school office)
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	4-5pm EYFS / Y1 Nativity (tickets needed from school office)
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	5-6pm Y3/4 Carol Service (All welcome @ St Mary's Church)
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> December	Last day of Term 2 (Dress up in something festive and donate to the Friends of Fishponds)
Monday 7 <sup>TH</sup> January	INSET Day for Staff. School closed to children
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> January	First day of Term 3 for children. 8.45am