



## Information letter to Parents

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2017

Dear Parents,

Here is my latest newsletter, updating you on school events and forthcoming dates. As usual, I've used the OFSTED framework headings and the level of detail is in response to parents' questions. If you would like any further information, please do let me know. If you'd prefer less information, please skim read!

*Worship theme – for this half term we are focussing on forgiveness and remembrance of those who gave their lives that we might live.*

### Leadership and management

**A message from Nick Marsden, Chair of Governors** – *“We have received a number of applications from prospective head teachers and we will be interviewing the short-listed candidates on 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> December. During the two day process, the governing body's selection panel will be working closely with representatives from the Local Authority and Winchester Diocese to ensure we select the right candidate for this unique and special role within our school. We will, of course, inform you of all progress and decisions as soon as we can.”*

**New temporary Teaching Assistant** – We have appointed Mrs Lucy Sims as our new temporary Teaching Assistant. She will be working mainly in Herons Class (Yr. 1/2) but will also be working across the school. She comes with a wealth of experience and is a wonderful piano player! We are delighted to welcome her to our school.

**Managing staff absence** – If a staff member is absent (for example, for sickness or training) then, where possible, I teach their classes. Where this is not possible, for example, during the recent interview process for our Teaching Assistant which Miss Bailey and Mrs Jordan were involved in, then we will employ a supply teacher.

**Contacting parents and answering queries** – Please be reassured I will ALWAYS either email or call or speak directly to you face to face concerning any query or concern you might have. Of course, if I've missed anything then please let me know. I am still getting to know this school, with all its routines and idiosyncrasies. Thank you for your patience with me during this time of transition and change. Change is the only constant!

### Quality of teaching, learning and assessment

**Monitoring the quality of teaching** – Since I started in September I have had the opportunity to informally monitor lessons. I have found the teaching and learning to be hugely positive, children have excellent learning attitudes and get on well in school. They are conscientious and resilient. The teachers are well prepared and execute stimulating and thoughtful lesson content.

To ensure we (teachers, parents and governors) are all very clear about every child's Age Related Expectations (ARE) according to the New Primary Curriculum (2014), I have suggested we purchase an internal tracking system. This follows children's progress through English and maths in particular as well the other curriculum areas. By recording children's progress, we will be able to ensure all children are on track to meet their ARE and that they are challenged at all levels to realise their potential or indeed exceed it!

We have also been looking at our marking policy, through work sampling/scrutiny to ensure consistency throughout our teaching practice.

**Parent Bank of Expertise** – The purpose of this is to enable us to ensure we deliver our bespoke curriculum based on the New Primary Curriculum to a greater depth and richness across all topics, helping us to do this by setting real

people within a context for children. A big thank you must go to the three parents who have volunteered their skills, talents and time. We will be making use of you in due course!

**Library books** – Our stock is somewhat depleted so please return all borrowed library books as soon as possible.

### **Personal development, behaviour, and welfare/safety**

This includes children's safeguarding. Safeguarding is of paramount importance and significant improvements have been made around the school. If you have any concerns at any time, please let us know.

**Fire/emergency evacuation** – This was completed on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November. The children evacuated the building in 2.23 minutes and they were all very sensible, conducting themselves with maturity and confidence. However, there were a few anomalies so we will be holding another practice soon.

**Driving onto school grounds** – As you know, we sent a letter out recently confirming our policy, please make sure you sign the response slip and return it to the office. Thank you for your support.

**Driving around local roads** – Several parents have raised concerns about this. Drivers, please avoid over-taking our children who are cycling to school, especially on bends. Cyclists – please wear helmets and watch out for over-takers! Of course, I realise that many people who drive through the village are unconnected to the school. With that in mind I am working with the Governing Body, the Parish Council and Hampshire County Council's Road Safety team on this broader issue of road safety. Thank you to the parents who have been in contact about this.

**Permission for your child to be allowed to leave school alone** – I would strongly recommend all parents to arrange for their children to be collected by an adult from primary school. However, if you want to give permission for your child to be allowed to leave school alone then we need this to be confirmed in writing. Please send an email or letter to Mrs Leach. Thank you.

### **Fire Evacuation Practice**

We led an emergency fire evacuation practice last week. The children had this explained to them before hand; Yr. R children had their Yr. 5/ 6 buddies to support them, so very few younger children got upset. We are going to have another practice soon so the children become familiar with this. I was really proud of everyone and how sensibly they behaved.

### **Spiritual, Moral and Cultural Education**

**'Sunshine Kidz Club' and Friendship Week** – The children enjoyed Friendship Week and, together, we created a long paper chain around the school to bring this aspect to life which focuses on our family, friends and looking after the world.

**Golden time** – We have had a zero response to golden time which is a shame. By way of a quick reminder, 'golden time' is an hour a week when children get rewarded for their outstanding behaviour. To make this work, we need parents (who are DBS checked and clear) to come into school to run this club during the school year. There was more info in the last newsletter but please let me know if you are interested and I can tell you more.

**Children in Need** – The children raised a fantastic £280.00 for Children in Need by wearing spots and at the toy sale. Well done everyone who helped and donated such lovely toys.

Thought for the week – 'Be kinder than necessary' – From August in 'Wonder'

Website of the week - [http://kindnessuk.com/world\\_kindness\\_day\\_kindness\\_day\\_uk.php](http://kindnessuk.com/world_kindness_day_kindness_day_uk.php)

Kindest regards

Trudie Cawthra  
Head Teacher

**Dates for your diary – please place on your fridge!**

**Please regularly check our school information board for exact details as they sometimes have to change. Thank you.**

Tues 28.11.17	Flu Injections for Year R to 4
Fri 1.12.17	Robin Class trip to Bushcraft Woods
Fri 8.12.17	St Nicholas Service in St Nicholas Church 10am - 11am – all parents welcome  FoLS Christmas Bazaar
Thurs 14.12.17	Listen2Me concert – Year 1 /2 – 2.45 pm
Mon 18.12.17	KS 2 Carol Service in Church – 2 – 3pm – all parents welcome  <b>Please note additional evening 6.30pm - 7.30pm event to support working parents – Please could all children attend both events. All parents welcome to both events.</b>
Tues 19.12.17	Listen2Me Concert – Kingfisher Class – 9.20 am  KS1 Nativity production in school hall – 2 – 3pm and 6 – 7pm – all parents welcome
Weds 20.12.17	Special ‘Christmas Lunch’ for children, staff and governors
Thurs 21.12.17	FOLS Christmas party at 1.30pm with a ‘special surprise visitor’ at the end of the party
Thurs 21.12.17	Last day of autumn term
Fri 22.12.17	School closed – Happy Christmas holidays!
Thurs 4.1.18	Day closure - training day for staff – no school for children
Fri 5.1.18	Day closure - training day for staff – no school for children
Mon 8.1.18	Children return to school – Happy New Year and welcome back!

**Confirmation of our day closures for 2017-18 and agendas**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Agenda</b>
1.Monday 4.9.17	Safeguarding and planning
2.Thursday 4.1.18	Health and safety Assessment for learning New Primary Curriculum planning Target tracker
3.Friday 5.1.18	Subject leadership /planning/ resources
4.Monday 4.6.18	Spiritual moral social and cultural and behaviour management
5.Monday 23.7.18	Preparing for the new school year 2018-19