**March 2020**

Welcome to the March Newsletter. Apologies if you did not receive the February one. We have

been having technical problems with the new computer system in the school. It would appear that the newsletter didn’t get sent out. I have also heard from some parents that they are still not receiving emails from us. If this is the case, please contact Mrs Carter in the office and she will endeavour to sort this situation out. I have slightly reused content from last month’s newsletter, so those who missed out last month get to see what was said.

Thank you to everyone who has subscribed to our new YouTube Channel that launched last week. It aims to show off what we are achieving in the school and reach a wider audience. We also aim to explain the reasons behind some of the changes seen in the school recently. I hope you will agree that it is all for the benefit of the children. My staff and I regularly engage in teaching networks and research. Personally, I have got fed up with ‘fads’ in education and am always reading about evidence-based approaches that have proven to work and increase outcomes for pupils. In upcoming videos, I will explain more about:

* **The Pre-school changing to a play-based curriculum.** Research shows that this approach helps children make far more progress. I watched and saw the 2-4 year-olds being so ‘lost in their learning’, it was delightful to see what a curious bunch of future scientists, artists, engineers and mathematicians they are turning out to be!
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* **Talk for Writing work.**  Research shows that oral-based language programmes like these really help improve all subjects especially writing. I really enjoyed seeing the classes reciting their text map stories and then going on to write their own high-quality, creative work of fiction!
* **Deeper learning about Climate Change.** The children are engaging in debates and writing speeches around this very topical issue. Two classes have discovered a reuse of the huge amounts of plastic we get through so a positive outcome to what could be a gloomy topic.

I could keep writing about the excellent things going on in our school at the moment but there’s just so much to cover. A change of approach can be unsettling for some but our children are relishing the changes and taking advantage of it. Long may it continue!

Mr Tucker

**ATTENDANCE**

Our attendance figures are on the up despite what is happening across the country with the Coronavirus. As a school, we are following DfE/ NHS advice. We have deep-cleaned the school and we even do regular handwashing lessons with children following the guidelines on stopping the spread of germs.

As per the new policy, we are tracking illnesses to see any patterns and to help improve our practices. If your child is off school due to illness, please do tell us what the illness is so that we can track this and make any adjustments as may be needed.

**LATENESS**

At a recent meeting with our Attendance Officer Elaine Detaine, we spotted a pattern which is a possible cause of our higher than average unauthorised absence rate- lateness.

When children come in late after 9.10am, it is counted as an unauthorised absence. If they are late between 9.00am and 9.09am, it is a late but NOT an unauthorised absence. We believe it is this that is skewing the school’s figures and has done for number of years.

We are now having a renewed focus on punctuality. Children are late for all sorts of reasons but if we can work on this together, then we can reverse these figures! If you are struggling to get your child into school on time, then please don’t hesitate to book an appointment with Mr Tucker at the office and we can see what support could be arranged.



**VOLUNTEERS HEARING READERS**

We have had a good response to this so far but we do want to build an army of volunteers especially for September when we launch our new reading scheme across the school. The success of this new scheme will rely on the kindness of volunteers who care about our children’s futures.

Please let us know if you could be one of those volunteers and spare an hour or two to hear readers. Turning children into passionate readers makes children learn better and achieve more. They can only be passionate if they have been taught and practise regularly. We even have a quiet, new library for listening to readers so this is much better than before! Can you help us with our reading quest? Please speak to Miss May if you can volunteer.

**SMART SCHOOL COUNCIL UPDATES**

Emily and Bronte’s Drama club is proving very popular indeed and we have some budding actors in the school now thanks to the efforts of these two Year 6 girls who are so dedicated in giving up their free time to run enrichment for the school. Well done girls!

Junior and Daniel have started their football club. It started off well with some training but was called off eventually due to foul weather. We are hoping this will lead to inter-school competitions against other local schools and with any luck, more silverware coming to the school trophy cabinet!

**HEAD LICE**

We have had a few cases of this in most classes recently. It is very frustrating indeed. Please continue to follow procedures in dealing with this if your child has Head Lice.

**PE KITS**

There’s been a significant improvement in bringing in PE Kits recently and we thank parents for this support. One parent is now offering to volunteer and run lunchtime sports competitions. This is obviously great news and gives yet more choice for children to experience enrichment. It might be a good idea to have a kit in all the time so that if a sport comes up that they wish to compete in, then having a kit in school won’t be a barrier to this.

**RSHE FRAMEWORK**

In September, the government’s long-awaited Relationships, Sex and Health Education Framework is implemented by schools. The relationships and health side is compulsory but parents have a right to withdraw their child in Primary (not Secondary) for the Sex Education aspect. We have consulted the QET about this and hopefully, the Church of England has guided us in the right direction with this. They suggest a new policy should be created but created with parents. We intend to run a parent workshop around this in the Summer Term and work together on this as well as giving further information on the RHE side of this. More details will follow about this workshop soon.

**EASTER ACTIVITIES**

We will be holding the annual Easter Egg hunt on the school field on Thursday 2nd April at 2pm. Parents are welcome to come and watch proceedings from the Pre-School outdoor area as usual. We have also planned to have a Church Service at 2pm the next day, Friday 3rd April in which Rev. Nicky will be handing out Palm Crosses to the children. The staff will bring the children down to church for the service with their belongings and you are welcome to take them home once the service is over. This is the last day of term.

**DIARY DATES**

Newsletters will be sent out in the second week of every month. Please see the website for more information.

These are the dates for this term. We try our best not to change them but sometimes circumstances require us to.

Thurs 12th Mar Heights and Weights (YR & Y6)

Thurs 19th Mar FOSS Mother’s Day Café 3.30

Fri 20th Mar FOSS Mother’s Day Café 3.30

Wed 1st April FOSS Easter Bingo 7.00

Thurs 2nd April Easter Egg Hunt 2.00

Fri 3rd April Church Service 2.00

Fri 3rd April Last Day of Term

HALF TERM

Mon 20th April First Day of Term

Fri 8th May Bank Holiday

