

## ARCHBISHOP RUNCIE CHURCH OF ENGLAND (VA) FIRST SCHOOL

### November Newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers

We have been hit with the weather this week so we've all had to wrap up for winter. November was a busy month in school and I can't believe it is December already!

#### School Update

##### **Baby News**

I am delighted to announce that Mrs Law, who is currently on maternity leave, has had a baby girl. Cora was born on 21 November weighing 8lb 3oz. We are told that her older sister is enjoying helping to look after the new arrival!

##### **School Meals**

Mrs Battista and the kitchen team would like to thank the children for their ideas for National Schools Meal week. The kitchen staff thoroughly enjoyed the week and would like to thank the parents for supporting it. We received many kind comments from parents about the special lunches. A couple of parents did raise that their children did not have a choice so we have decided to alternate termly the first lunch sitting between Key Stage 1 and 2.

The school Christmas Lunch will be held on Wednesday 13 December 2017. Staff and governors will also be invited to have lunch with the children. If your child does not normally have a school meal on Wednesdays and would like to join the Christmas Lunch, please inform the school office on Monday so that Mrs Battista can ensure that enough food is ordered.

Nursery children are invited to join for lunch that day and be collected at 11.50am. Please let Mrs Hinsche know on Monday if your child will be joining us. In the New Year, Mrs Battista would like to offer lunch to the Nursery children. If you would be interested in your child having a school lunch, please advise Mrs Hinsche so we can establish if it is feasible. Children would be collected at 12pm.

##### **Visits and Visitors**

Key Stage 2 enjoyed a trip to Beamish earlier this month to inspire their "Childhood in the Past" topic. They visited the 1920s Hall and undertook the duties of servants, had a strict lesson in the Victorian classroom and experienced life as an evacuee on a farm during World War 2.

Mr "O" has been delivering Ipad Music workshops to Key Stages 1 and 2 on Fridays which the children have been thoroughly enjoying.

Two Community Police Officers, Shaun and Alistair, visited school yesterday to promote Road Safety Week. They spoke to each class about finding safe places to cross roads, the STOP LOOK LISTEN THINK rule, holding hands with grown-ups and stopping at the side of the kerb. They also talked about the importance of being in special seats in cars and keeping seat belts fastened until a grown-up tells you to unfasten it.

##### **Clubs**

All existing clubs will continue next term but Tennis (Tuesday before school) and Chinese (Thursday after school) will be offered to Key Stage 1. The Year 4 Awards Club will work towards the Navigator Award next term. Letters will follow with further details of all clubs before the end of term.

### Friday Celebration Worship

We are enjoying this special end of the week gathering and I would like to thank you for helping your child to share their home achievements. They are so proud when they come to the front and a pleasure to see.

### Home School Partnership

#### PTFA

Thank you to the PTFA who are kindly organising a variety of fundraising events. I am sure the children will thoroughly enjoy them. They have been busy arranging Christmas cards and tea towels featuring the children's artwork. The tea towels have been distributed and the Christmas cards are due to be delivered on or before 7<sup>th</sup> December. I am told that preparations for the Christmas Fair are well underway and the PTFA wish to thank you for all your donations today for the Bottle Hoopla and Tombola stalls. Volunteers to assist on stalls are still needed so if you can spare even half an hour during the fair, please contact a PTFA Committee member or let the school office know. Thank you for your continued support.

#### Parent Support Advisor

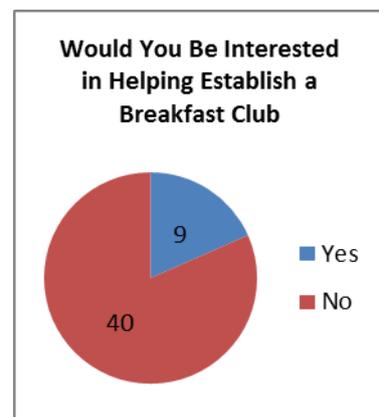
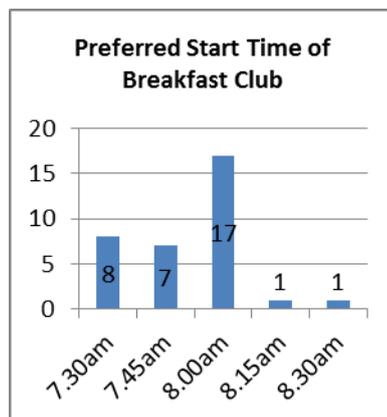
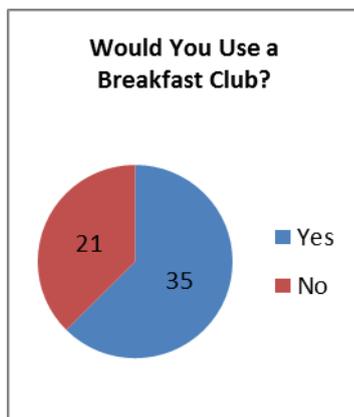
On 21st November, Claire Scott, our Parent Support Advisor, held a coffee afternoon for parents of Reception children with a particular focus on toilet training. She invited the school nurse, Leanne Parker into school and Leanne spoke to parents about how she can support with toilet training and other health problems. She left a lot of helpful leaflets and information in school. If you would like the information, please contact the school office and Claire will put together a pack of information for you.

#### Parent Teacher Consultations

Nursery have their Parent Teacher Consultations on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2017. Please speak to Mrs Hinsche to arrange a time.

#### Before School Care/Nursery Provision

Thank you to all 51 families who completed and returned the questionnaire from which we obtained the information below about a breakfast club. We are currently using the information to consider options available to us.



We are still looking at the options available for the provision of 30 hours free childcare. In the meantime, we are admitting children to Nursery in January if they are 3 years old now or will turn 3 before the start of next term (9 January 2018). Information about starting Nursery in January will be sent to those families soon.

If you have not already advised school that you wish your child to start Nursery in January, please contact the school office. If you know of any other families who would be interested in a Nursery place in January or in the Summer term (if they turn 3 years old next term), we would be grateful if you could put them in touch with school.



•*Subject leaders receive the support needed to take a more strategic view of the impact of the actions on improving pupils' outcomes* – Alongside the target setting, the school Teaching and Learning team have devised progression skills for mathematics to support the planning and assessment. They are in the process of doing so for reading and writing. They are going to work with subject leaders in other schools as part of their development. Mrs. Massey is leading the Team and it is great to see the work they are doing together.

•*Governors fulfil their statutory duty in holding leaders to account* – Our Chair of Governors, Sarah Hawkins, attended the Local Authority monitoring visit this term and organised a review of governance next week, as recommended in the Ofsted report. The governors hold two full governing body meetings per term, one focuses upon monitoring progress in the school.

•*Improving the quality of teaching, learning and assessment particularly in mathematics* – We have accessed whole staff training through a local National Support School and local mathematics hub. We continue to reflect upon the training, and adapt the teaching and learning strategies in school, focusing upon challenge, problem solving and reasoning. We are now looking at feedback and marking and presentation.

**Dates for the Diary**

Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	2.15pm – 2.30pm	PTFA Refreshments before Carols
	2.30pm – 3pm	Years 1-4 Carol Singing
	3.15pm – 4.30pm	PTFA Christmas Fair
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	School Christmas Lunch – children can wear own “Christmas” clothes/accessories!	
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	9.15am – 9.45pm	Early Years Nativity Performance
	1.30pm – 2pm	KS1 Nativity Performance
	2.15pm – 2.45pm	KS2 Nativity Performance
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	9.15am – 9.45am	KS1 Nativity Performance
	10am – 10.30am	KS2 Nativity Performance
	6pm – 6.30pm	KS1 Nativity Performance
	6.45pm – 7.15pm	KS2 Nativity Performance
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> December	PTFA Christmas Disco (after school)	
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December	Carol Service at St Nicholas Church (2pm) – children attend and families welcome to join us	
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December	School closes for Christmas holidays	
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> December	School closes re-opens	

All Newsletters are posted on the school website for reference and a ParentMail will be sent when I update the Headteacher’s Message Board on the website.

Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to rest of this special term in school.

Yours sincerely

Mrs D. Henry

Headteacher