



THE BATT C.E. SCHOOL



THE BATT CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

Corn Street, Witney, Oxon, OX28 6DY

Headteacher: C.M.Payne BMus (hons), Cert Ed

Telephone: 01993 702392
Office.3605@batt.oxon.sch.uk
www.thebattschool.org.uk

09 October 2020

No. 05

Dear Parents/Carers

Parents' Evenings

Thank you for your understanding about the change of plan for Parents' Evenings this term. I appreciate that this was a disappointing decision for some parents, particularly as parents of Junior children have less contact with teachers at present, but I hope that you will welcome the written report that comes to you instead. We are trying really hard here to adapt to these unprecedented circumstances and inevitably there are some things we have found more straightforward than others. We hope very much to be able to offer either face to face consultations after Christmas, or virtual meetings instead. If the lack of a face to face meeting this term is an issue, please do contact me. Although the current circumstances are challenging, we are still determined to maintain as good communication between home and school as possible, and receiving the email next week will also give you access to teachers' school email addresses if you don't already have this.

Staffing News

Today was Mark Conway's last day, having been teaching in Year Five this term as we awaited the arrival of Mrs Rachel Henderson, who will start teaching 5H on Monday. I would like to thank Mark Conway for all his additional work in the lead up to the start of term and since September. I know he will be missed and I hope we will see him again in his normal guise as a supply teacher.

Black Awareness Month

As you may already be aware, October is Black Awareness Month. In class the children will be discussing issues around racial injustice and finding out about important black figures in our history. Although we live in a predominantly white community here in Witney, we all want our children to grow up knowing about the importance of racial equality across our world.

Leadership Change

I hope you all received the ParentMail letter explaining the change to the school's leadership structure in the future. To clarify an Executive Headteacher will be appointed to have overall responsibility for, and to oversee the strategic direction of, both The Batt and St. Mary's and will share their time between the two schools. An advertisement for this post will be placed later this term and the successful candidate will start in September 2021, or earlier if available. Mr Peacey will take on the new post of Head of School, under the new Executive Head, a role that will include the day to day running of our school.



In the meantime, because I will be leaving at the end of term in December, an interim Headteacher will be in place here at The Batt from January until the new Executive Head is in place. Mrs Rachel Crouch has been appointed to this temporary role. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or Marilyn Trigg, chair of Governors.

BSA Pumpkin Trail

The Batt School Association (BSA) has organised a Pumpkin Trail for the Half Term holiday. An information sheet and map that will give you all the details you need to join in the fun will be coming home with the children today.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Chris Payne
Headteacher

