

**"Growing and Learning Together with God"**

*Autumn Term 1 Value : Respect and Compassion*



## **Fritwell Church of England Primary School**

**Headteacher:** Mr Jonathan Hart

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# **Newsletter 1 Autumn Term**

**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

**Dear Parents and Carers,**



### ***Message from Mr Hart***

A busy and productive week in school sees our staff and children settling into new routines and expectations.

It has been lovely to see parents back on site and have more freedom to interact fully as we believe the link between home and school is so vital.

We have been refining our timetabling this week to make the most of all our staff expertise. I am pleased to report that **Stingrays** and **Sharks** will have smaller group key skills sessions for up to 4 mornings each week, ensuring that work can be targeted effectively for these classes. It means that children will be working in groups of approximately 15 for Maths and Literacy teaching; an enviable ratio compared to most schools. When these groups come together as a whole class, with a teacher and two teaching assistants, the ratio of adult to child is 1:11, again creating effective staff support to help pupils maximise their learning and progress.

### ***'Helping Hands'***

A huge thank you to those children who entered my summer challenge which closed today. I will be judging the entries and prizes will follow next week.

### ***Attendance***

It is wonderful that many restrictions have been lifted but we do still have to remain vigilant regarding signs and symptoms of Covid. If you do notice any signs that lead you to believe your child may have Covid we request that, in line with PHE and Government guidance, you immediately seek a PCR test. It is important that this is not a lateral flow test as these are not valid to be used on children aged 11 and under. Please also note that, whilst self-isolation is no longer required if you are double vaccinated or under 18, everyone in the household is expected to take a PCR test as well. As a school we would appreciate knowing this information as soon as possible.

The following link may help with any queries :

[Stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection - GOV.UK](#)

## Class Activities

The *Tiddlers* and *Minnows* have settled into the routine of school very well! They have really enjoyed exploring their classroom and completing fun activities. This week they have started their topic, All about Me; they have looked at the differences and similarities between them and their friends and created self-portraits which have been put up on display.

They also enjoyed their first Forest School lesson with Mr Pemble, playing a very exciting game of Lions, Snakes and Eagles and starting to investigate some natural objects.



Today was extra exciting for them all as they had their first PE lesson and attended their first whole school Worship. It has been a brilliant week!

The *Sticklebacks* have also settled in to their new class really well. They have started their Great Fire of London topic by finding out where London is and identifying some famous London landmarks and they really enjoyed their first Forest School session.

This week the *Seahorses* have been writing non-chronological reports about themselves as well as exploring place value in Maths. They have also investigated some of the inventions from Ancient Sumer and the beliefs in Ancient Egypt as part of their look into Early Civilisations.

*Stingrays* have made a very positive start to the new term. They are already showing great independent skills, coming into class in the morning and focusing quickly on their First Thing tasks. Using the picture book 'The River', they have written some great descriptive sentences revising how they can quickly change a simple sentence into a much more interesting complex or compound sentence. It was also great to see them working so well in the team building and problem-solving activities they did in PE this week - it proved to be an enjoyable way to get to know each other.

They have made a great start in their Science topic with a debate about whether sand is a liquid, and have produced some fantastic French number work.



*Sharks* have had a great week settling back into school, adapting quickly to their new routines and class contract rules, and showing a positive learning attitude.

In English lessons they have enjoyed reading some of Rudyard Kipling's Just So Stories, thinking about how to use the context of a sentence to work out the meaning of tricky vocabulary; they have also been reading aloud with expression, as different groups practised different stories which they then shared with their friends in small groups.

The children have also impressed Sharks staff with their work in Maths, showing a great understanding of place value in large numbers. The children were excited to beat the adults in our first round of 'the hats game!'

### 'Child of the Week'

EYFS	Isla H and Finley P
Sticklebacks	Ben C and Jude R
Seahorses	Rhys V and Isabelle B
Stingrays	Phoenix S and Caspian H-E
Sharks	Ella M and Leo T



Family Group Winner : **Unicorn**

Whole School Attendance : **98.59%**

### Friends of Fritwell School

Fritwell School  
**AUTUMN TRAIL**  
Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2021  
2.00pm – 4.00pm  
*£3 per child, under 2's free*  
*Prizes for 7 and under and 8 and over*  
*Refreshments including hot dogs, pastries and hot drinks*

***CONTACT FoFS FOR A BOOKING FORM***



Please don't forget the FoFS Annual General Meeting next **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> September** at **3.30pm** in the school hall.

Our school PTA is always looking for new members, as well as a new Chair and Vice Chair, and would welcome your attendance.

Please support if you are able.

### **Uniform**

It has been good to see all the pupils looking smartly dressed and in the correct uniform. Please do continue in this manner as it makes a difference to the school and instils the discipline we expect from our children. Please also remember to **name all belongings clearly**; this applies to any items of clothing bought from the second hand uniform stock as these sometimes have the name of the previous owner inside it!

### **ParentPay**

All new starters at school have been provided with log in details to set up an account on ParentPay; please can we ask those who have not yet done so to register their child as soon as possible. Julie in the office is needing all accounts active by next week.

### **School Activities**

All music lessons will be starting in full, with **iRock** already having had their first one. **Brass** for the Year 6s and sessions with **Music for Schools** will be joining them next week.

**Adam Bradley's Football Club** for Years 3 to 6 starts on Tuesday and we shall be advising you soon about two more clubs being offered by **Premier Sports**.

It is wonderful to be able to get back to some normality with sports and clubs starting up again!

I hope that you all have an enjoyable weekend.

Kind regards,

**Jon Hart**

*Headteacher*



*Every Tuesday*

EYFS and Year 1 Forest School

*Every Friday (from 24<sup>th</sup> September)*

Sharks Swimming

*Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> September*

FoFS Autumn Trail

*Monday 4<sup>th</sup> to Friday 8<sup>th</sup> October*

Year 5 and 6 Kilvrough Residential