

"Growing and Learning Together with God."

Spring Term 1 Value : Inspired Minds and Wisdom



Newsletter 3 Spring Term

Fritwell Church of England Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Message from the Head

As we come to our mid term break I would like to thank you sincerely for the support you have afforded the staff and myself in this most recent lockdown. I am well aware of the difficulties and frustrations of the current situation and, as a father myself, know how tricky it is to walk the tightrope of support and learning whilst not blurring family fun activities.

We have managed to keep our 'bubbles' open and safe for critical worker and vulnerable pupils (unlike many other settings) and have developed our support for those children and families following remote learning. I do indeed thank all my staff for their determination to provide high quality provision during this challenging time, and you all for pursuing the minefield of technology for your child to access it.

We do not always get it right; some parents/carers saying we have 'too much communication' and others saying 'not enough' but we do value your opinion and try to take on board points to cement the partnership with parents and cares which I consider to be so vital.

We hope that the announcement by the Government on February 22nd will give schools a clear plan on how and when we are able to welcome back more children in a safe way. We will of course keep you updated as soon as we know.

FoFS Meeting

On Tuesday I met virtually with our wonderful FoFS committee and it is exciting to see what they have planned for the next few months, starting with the virtual Quiz on **March 5th**. Please do try and support them as they raise such valuable funds for the school.

Developing Outdoor Learning at Fritwell

We are constantly looking at ways to enhance the children's learning here at Fritwell, both in and out of the classroom. We are very fortunate to have fantastic grounds and have been looking at ways that we can utilise them fully. We are therefore pleased to announce that we are going to be launching a **Forest Schools** programme of learning led by Mr Chris Pemble. Forest Schools focuses on developing the whole child, helping them develop independence, resilience, self-esteem and confidence through learning outdoor skills. These skills will include craftwork, den building, camp fires and camp fire cooking. Mr Pemble, a fully trained forest school specialist, has already been into school to start work on preparing the outdoor area and carrying out a full risk assessment for the activities that he will be leading with the children. More details as to how the sessions will be structured, and which classes will be participating when, will be circulated soon but in the meantime here are some ways that you can help us launch the programme

1. **Mud Kitchen** – Mr Pemble would like to create a mud kitchen for the children and needs some old pallets. Please let the office know if you have any that you can donate to school.
2. **Outdoor kit** – When it is the children's turn to participate they will need to bring in suitable outdoor clothing – wellies, waterproof trousers/old jogging trousers, coat, hat, gloves. We would like to have some spares in school in case children forget. So if you have any of these items that your children have grown out of, please don't take them to the charity shop just yet. When we are able to re-open fully, we will collect them in.

Please keep an eye out for further information. This is a really exciting new opportunity which we hope will positively impact children at Fritwell for years to come.



Fonetti Reading

Fritwell CofE Primary School is the lucky recipient of a whole year of free access to Fonetti, thanks to local business Snorer Pharmacy (whose owners are Fritwell parents).

Fonetti is an interactive reading practise app that listens to children as they read aloud, and holds their attention by turning the words green in real-time when they get them right. It makes reading fun and gives grown-ups reassurance that they are providing constructive, safe screen time, and gives kids self-confidence and a solid foundation for life-long learning, with rewards along the way. And, it's perfect for the tech-loving children of busy grown-ups who juggle work, home-school and parenting.



Reading is one of our core priorities, as it forms the basis for all learning. Our gifted sponsorship also gives us access to the Fonetti School Portal, which gives teachers the ability to assign the digital books to the whole class or individual pupils, and brings together reading data to help teachers provide the tailored support that each pupil needs. This resource is aimed at Minnows up to Sharks.

Please see the attached letter and separate email with your child's unique log in details to get started.

World Book Day – Thursday 4th March



On Thursday 4th March we are looking forward to celebrating World Book Day! Although World Book Day will be rather different with remote learning this year, we would still like to set you a fancy-dress challenge to dress up as a book character. Following on from our “Express Yourself” theme during Mental Health Week, we would like you to use this opportunity to choose a book or a character which you think best expresses you!

- Are you as committed to your learning as Harry Potter's friend Hermione?
- Do you love messing about in boats like Ratty from Wind in the Willows?
- Are you as curious as Alice in Wonderland?
- Are you an Owl who is Afraid of the Dark?

Make sure you are dressed as your character for your class Teams meeting on 4/3/21 so you can share your costume with all of your friends!

On World Book Day, our learning assignments will be book themed too. You will get the chance to attend the World Book Day Author and Illustrator Academy, where you will watch a video from a real author or illustrator. They will explain the inspiration behind their stories, you'll get to read a section of their book and they will set you a writing challenge. Your teacher will also ask you to take the time to enjoy a good book! This could be reading the next chapter of your current novel or cuddling up with your family to share a favourite picture book together. We would love to see a photo of you reading your book in the most creative place you can think of!

If you are in search of inspiration for new books, the World Book Day website has plenty of recommendations, which you can search by area of interest and reading level:

<https://www.worldbookday.com/reading-recommendations/>

You may also enjoy the Share a Story Corner where you can find videos of lots of picture books read aloud: <https://www.worldbookday.com/share-a-story-corner/>

Project Homework

Today the class teachers and children all enjoyed seeing the homework projects which have been sent in; well done to everyone for all their hard work!



Reminder.....Covid Symptoms

Please ensure that you inform the office if your child develops symptoms over the first weekend of the half term and tests positive for Covid. We must follow public health guidance and notify close contacts so they can self-isolate for 10 days. Thank you.

From all of the team we wish you a relaxing half term!

Jonathan Hart
Headteacher