



Newsletter 14th November 2018

Live well, laugh together, learn forever

Christmas is coming!

We are beginning to make preparations for our Christmas events taking place in December (see dates below) and we very much look forward to the festive season approaching. As a church school obviously we will be 'doing' Christmas in usual Sutton style, however we will also be taking proper time to reflect on the core values that are at the heart of the festive season for everyone, regardless of faith or cultural background.

To launch this, we are running a **competition** to design and create a festive decoration that illustrates a key value celebrated over the festive season (e.g. faith, hope, peace) and all entries will be displayed on the school tree in the hall and the winning creations will have their decorations displayed as part of St. Andrew's Christmas tree festival running over the weekend of the 1st of December.

The closing date for entries is Wednesday the 28th November.

Jade class

Arrangements for the class move have been going very well and we look forward to greeting parents in the new classroom on Thursday – you can either come into class with your child in the classroom from 8.45-9.10am, or you could come into class at the end of the day, from 3.15pm.

Please join us in saying a massive thank you to the staff who have worked so hard to create such an excellent learning environment, especially Mrs Morfill, Mrs Korniotis Diaper and Mrs Cherry-Chapman, as well as Mr Bate of course!

Ruby class

We are very pleased for Mrs Dilley who has successfully been appointed as English Lead over at The Weatheralls Primary in Soham from January. For Health reasons, Mrs Robertson will also be leaving us at Christmas and whilst we will all be very sad to see them both go, we are very pleased for them and wish them well in their new chapters. Adverts have gone out for a full time teacher from January 2018 and we will update you as soon as we have more information.

Parent Partnerships

Thank you to all of you that arranged for a meeting with your child's class teacher – feedback from parents and staff was that meetings went well and were valued as part of our partnership work with you. If you were unable to attend on the dates set please contact the school office or catch the teacher at the end of the day to arrange a meeting – working in partnership with you is really important to us.

Ensuring that children and parents are happy with our service as a school is something I am passionate about as a school leader. To this end, we will be sending out a parent questionnaire next week and ask that if at all possible, you reflect on the questions honestly and return it as soon as possible. We will then analyse the results and comments taking proper account of your feedback when planning for the future.

I work hard with my **Pastoral Team** to make sure that any and every concern is dealt with properly and though I am always happy to meet with parents and discuss any issues or concerns you may have, due to the very nature of my job (managing the welfare of all, and leading all areas of school improvement, teaching and learning, finance, personnel, health and safety) means that my diary is often rather full and a meeting at the earliest opportunity is not always possible.

A **complaints policy** was ratified by the Governors in January of this year and we ask that you refer to this (a copy is available on the school website) and do not feel that we are in any way rebuffing you when we ask that proper procedure is followed to ensure that things are dealt with in the most effective way – by those members of the team that are responsible for the areas of concern in the first instance. This is why we ask that parents make an appointment through the school office. It is often helpful to know what parents would like to discuss in advance, that way when we do meet with you we can ensure we have the relevant information to hand and can resolve matters as soon as possible.

Establishing my Senior Leadership Team (SLT) has been one of my first tasks in school and not something that could be rushed so I am pleased to be able to say that in order to make things as clear and straightforward for parents as possible a full list of School Leaders and Senior Leaders together with their areas of responsibility will be made available to you very soon.

We would like to invite you to a **Parent Forum** on Wednesday 28th November at 2.30pm. In future these will run half termly - in this edition we will be demonstrating Class Dojo – how it works in school and how you will all be able to get involved at home in the new year.

We will soon be advertising for **open days** for prospective parents looking for schools for September 2019, however with so much change and development in school we will also be holding **open sessions for all parents** in December, where you can come in to class with your child, see for yourselves what the learning really looks like and take part in some of the fun! It is our aim to run these regularly over the coming years so that you can be more involved in your child's learning. Dates will be published for these as soon as they are set.

Better Reading Partners

Mrs Dilley with Mrs Gates, Miss Miller and Mrs Redman will be leading BRP training on Wednesday 5th December 9-10.30am in the Library for parents (or other members of the community) to support individual pupils with their reading. This voluntary scheme has a massive impact on 'Boosting Reading Potential' so please book in at the office. If you would like to find out more in the meantime please speak to one of the BRP team.

Teaching & Learning:

Governors and members of the Senior Leadership Team did a Learning Walk around KS2 English lessons on 2nd November and were really pleased to see exciting Book Corners developing well in classrooms, staff making good use of English Working Walls to scaffold English learning and that staff are working to ensure this is a consistent approach across the school. Children were on task and working well together, as well as independently and there was a harmonious atmosphere in all the classes visited. There was good evidence of staff using a good range of questions to deepen children's understanding and move the learning on which was a key priority identified by Ofsted.

Children also talked with confidence to governors about how they could make use of the class worry monsters, as well as other strategies when they were worried or concerned about something and we are delighted that our Mental Health and Wellbeing work is already having an impact on the pupils.

The Power of Words

The school is taking part in an exciting project alongside other local schools, working with the Morris Trust to investigate how we can enrich pupils' vocabulary – particularly in KS2. To find out more about this, and other school improvement initiatives over the course of the academic year we will be holding a school improvement meeting for parents in December – date to be confirmed soon.

Behaviour review:

We recently had a Behaviour Review with the Local Authority which reinforced that Behaviour and Safety are good around school as well as recognising the changes that are taking place to ensure that when issues do arise, they are managed consistently by all staff.

Classroom Cover

Teachers are often required to undertake other tasks during their usual teaching timetable for a number of reasons (e.g. PPA, Leadership/school improvement time, assessment time etc) and therefore class cover is arranged. Sometimes this is supply cover and sometimes we make use of HLTAs, or TAs working as Cover Supervisors. Where longer term absences occur we always use a supply teacher.

We are delighted to share with you that we have appointed Mrs Brown and Mrs Pendle as HLTAs and whilst they are undertaking their HLTA training they are working closely with Mrs Williams, Mrs Morfill, and the SLT who have a strong support and monitoring package in place to ensure that they are teaching to a good standard.

Further information about class cover can be found in the policy on the school website, or if you have any questions please ask a member of the SLT.

Buggies

If you are bringing a baby/infant in to school in a buggy we ask that you please leave the buggy under the canopy & carry your child when entering the building – with children and staff moving through corridors, narrow doors and smaller spaces it can be a challenge, particularly when there is more than one buggy! Safety for all is our priority.

Road Safety Week

Next week is National Road Safety Week and we will be discussing issues around this and ways of staying safe throughout the week.

Uniform

Please can you ensure that your child has appropriate clothing for PE as follows:

Trainers, white or light blue unbranded t-shirt (large printed patterns or logos are not appropriate), dark shorts for indoor PE and dark tracksuit bottoms for outdoor PE (leggings are not appropriate)

Jewellery

Pupils and parents are also reminded that aside from small ear studs, as a rule jewelry is not permitted in school unless it is a religious observance (– in which case please just let us know & we can make sure that staff are aware).

All personal effects MUST be removed for PE for health and safety reasons – this includes earrings and as engagement in Physical Education is a statutory requirement, we ask that if you are planning for your child to have their ear(s) pierced to do this early in the summer holidays so that their Physical Education is not affected.

Children in Need

Please remember that it is Children in Need on Friday and pupils (and staff) are invited to come into school in their pajamas for a donation of £1.

Governors termly update

Each term the Governors will be providing an update on their work in school:

The Governors of Sutton School are delighted to welcome Mrs Emily Gore-Rowe as the new Head of Sutton Primary School. We know she has been extremely busy in these first months getting to know the children, staff, parents and governors. When any new leader joins an organisation, there will be changes; ones that they inherit, those they are directed to make from above and others that they would like to implement as part of their personal vision. We support Mrs Gore-Rowe and are sure that, building on the foundations she has inherited, she is taking the school in a positive direction.

The governing body held a full business meeting in September and heard Mrs Gore-Rowe's initial report on developments over the summer holidays and on the first couple of weeks of term. Since then, we have received clear direction from Cambridgeshire County Council's Education department via the school's advisors of our aims for the current school year. These include:

- * To raise expectations and standards of achievement for disadvantaged pupils, particularly more able learners*
- * To further develop staff use of assessment information in order to facilitate accelerated progress and ensure raised combined levels of attainment*
- * To continue to improve Quality First Teaching and thereby raise standards in Writing, Phonics and Maths across the school*
- * To ensure full and appropriate use is made of Sports Premium and Pupil Premium money*

The Teaching and Learning sub-committee held a meeting and also made an English learning walk in Years 3-6 to view and monitor the children's learning environment, and the interaction between teachers and pupils.

Your governors are:

*Chair and parent governor – Stuart Davis; Vice chair and foundation governor – Sue Read
Parent governors - Lucy Amos-John, Amy Lorimer, Craig Wilkinson, Ben Willan
Staff - Emily Gore-Rowe, Dan Smith, Vickie Watts; Co-opted - Chris Sanderson
Local Authority - Alison Harker; Foundation - Rev Mary Hancock, Hilary Sanderson*

The following dates have been set for events over the coming term:

Monday 12 November – Friday 16 November – Anti-bullying Week
Saturday and Sunday 1 & 2 December - St Andrews Church Christmas Tree Service
Wednesday 5 December - Flu Vaccinations (Yr R to Yr 5)
Friday 7 December – FOSS Christmas event
Monday 10 December – EY/KS1 production dress rehearsal
Tuesday 11 December – Performance 2pm
Tuesday 11 December – Royal Opera House Trip
Wednesday 12 December – Performance 2pm
Thursday 13 December – Performance 9.30am
Friday 14 December – Christmas Jumper day
Friday 14 December – Christmas Dinner day
Monday 17 December – KS2 Carol Service at St Andrews Church all welcome
Wednesday 19 December – last day of term – whole school service
Thursday 2 & Friday 4 January 2019 - Staff INSET days
Monday 7 January 2019 – Back to school