



Welcome to what is likely to be the last newsletter of the year - though you never know there may be a few more bulletins before the end of term!

Many thanks to so many of you for making me feel so welcome over the last three months – due to unforeseen emergent priorities I have been getting to know people one at a time rather than group at a time, however I’m steadily getting to know the community and would like to take this opportunity to formally thank all of you that have been so very helpful. I look forward to continuing in my endeavour to learn all 350+ names and 1000+ faces in the New Year when we will be surging forward together with our exciting plans to take the school on to greater successes.

Many thanks also to the tremendous work of the FOSS team and all those who have helped out, putting on so many super events, especially today – thanks so much to everyone who helped make it so successful. We look forward to unveiling FOSS development plans in the New Year so that you can see how all the hard work and support will benefit the children in school.

With very best wishes for the festive season,  
Mrs E. Gore-Rowe

## **Teaching and learning:**

### **Fen Detectives:**

Year 3/4 have been engineers, inspired by local scientists. This term they have created their own wind turbines and visited Ely museum and Prickwillow. They have also had great fun building dams, linked to their Fen Detectives topic. Engineers explained about their work repairing the Ouse Valley Drainage network on behalf of the Environment Agency. Many of you will have seen their work on the banks between Sutton and Earith over the summer. The children had the chance to experiment with sand, gravel and clay to make a small scale working dam, to gain an understanding of how water can be contained.

### **DNA:**

The Year 5/6 team were fortunate to have a professional scientist come in with Dr. Hamlyn. The children were able to showcase their knowledge on their recent Evolution Science topic and they were given the opportunity to extract some DNA from a strawberry. The children had a fantastic time and it was absolutely great that Dr. Hamlyn gave up her time to come in and work with the children.

### **Ruby & Sapphire classes:**

Following a successful recruitment process I am delighted to share that we have been able to recruit a full time teacher for Ruby class until we are able to recruit a permanent member of staff – until the end of the academic year if necessary. There will be opportunities for the children to get to know their new teacher, Mrs Kilgour – she will be teaching in the class and handing over with Mrs Dilley on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December

and after school there is an opportunity for parents to come in and meet with her and introduce yourselves – I am sure everyone will be making her very welcome.

Mrs Korniotis and Mrs Laskar have switched the ends of the week they teach so as of this week, Mrs Laskar is teaching Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday morning & Mrs Korniotis is teaching Wednesday afternoon, Thursday & Friday.

### **Governor Maths monitoring in KS1:**

Governors were really pleased to see how Maths working walls are being used in KS1 to scaffold learning and some fantastic hand on independent challenges where Reception and Year 1 pupils were challenged to apply their knowledge and solve tricky problems, having to reason and explain their solutions. They were pleased to see how work to further increase the level of challenge is going well and all pupils were actively engaged, discussing their challenges with a good use of the technical vocabulary. They also noted how well Year 2 staff are working together as a team to deliver the curriculum in this important year group.

## **Pastoral work of the school**

At Sutton school we take our pastoral work very seriously – this is why we have invested in establishing a strong leadership team who are therefore more available to meet with you to discuss any concerns you may have – one of us is available on the playground & the [slt@sutton.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:slt@sutton.cambs.sch.uk) email address should be up and running very soon – using this ensures that key leaders are in the loop and follow action can be monitored.

### **PANTS**

As part of our ongoing safety work in school, classes will be running the NSPCC PANTS campaign. In classes staff are having initial conversations with the children over the coming weeks and after the Christmas break we will have a whole school focus on it. You can find out more information about this including how you can also work with your child here: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/underwear-rule/>

### **ANTI-BULLYING WEEK**

Following the success of anti-bullying week, where we worked with materials from the Anti-Bullying Alliance (ABA) we have launched our #respect wall. One thing we really focused on was the introduction of a 'Peace Path' to help children take responsibility and make amends where they are due and encouraging the value of forgiveness. All classes engaged with this work throughout the week and we have been pleased to see that pupils are increasingly speaking up where they feel there is a problem so that we can act proactively and robustly.

Obviously this work doesn't take place in one week – it is, as ever, an ongoing process and we are now looking at our Anti-bullying policy, alongside our Behaviour policy which we are developing with the school council, staff and governors. If you would like to get involved with a working party of parents then please contact the school us.

Please remember that if you have **any concerns** regarding bullying or any other behaviour, we urge you to talk to your child's class teacher in the first instance so that we can take decisive action. Emailing us at [slt@sutton.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:slt@sutton.cambs.sch.uk) will also ensure that we are all in the loop and making a difference.

### **Age appropriate films and games:**

It has come to our attention that large numbers of pupils are talking about films they have watched and games they have played (either with older siblings or alone) that are not age appropriate. As Designated Safeguarding Lead for the school I must make parents aware that as a school we have an important role to play in working with you to support every child's emotional and mental wellbeing. Supporting and challenging parents to understand the safeguarding implications and the significant impact that these

materials can have on a developing child is part of that – particularly as children often talk about it amongst themselves which in turn has a negative impact on others.

In the new year we will be running a series of internet safety initiatives in school, including information workshops for parents.

If you have any concerns about material that your own child or another child may be accessing please do let us know so that we can do all we can to support children and their families.

## Church ethos

We were delighted to welcome GenR8 into school to deliver our first Christmas Collective Worship. We have also been very glad to have Rev. Mary Hancock in school as a regular visitor. As a school we are focusing on acts of kindness in preparation for the festive season – reminding us of the true Christmas values of generosity, peace, love, kindness and hope.

We would love to hear stories of how your child has engaged with this outside of school and would like to share these in assemblies and on our #respect wall in school.

Our Christmas tree was displayed as part of the Christmas Tree festival in St. Andrew's churches with handmade decorations from every class represented. Congratulations to William and Sophie Rickwood for their winning decorations – thoughtfully illustrating the stable & Christmas star - please come and see Mrs Gore-Rowe to claim your prize!

Please note that there is a **Christingle service at St Andrew's this Sunday at 10.30am**. All are warmly welcomed - bring an orange if you can.

### #chooserespect

As a church school we are reflecting on our school vision and Christian values and what they mean to us. We will be working on this in the New Year, inviting you to a vision and values session for parents. We'd be very grateful if you could complete the attached questionnaire\* which relates to our Church ethos, as well as wider aspects of the school.

As a prelude to this, we have updated our school rules to make clear that whilst our work in school still reflects the Superstar Seven, they are all underpinned by one central value:

***"At Sutton school we are one school with one rule: we choose Respect!"***

An updated home school and parent agreement will also be coming home soon, outlining how all members of the school community are expected to uphold this value. For the very large majority of our community this is ever the case, however I would like to take this opportunity to remind all parents to be mindful of this when voicing concerns, encouraging people to talk through issues proactively and respectfully so that we can tackle any issues that arise robustly.

### KS2 Carol service:

Join KS2 pupils at 1.45pm on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> December for the annual KS2 Carol Service where KS2 pupils will be in fine voice – they have been working tremendously hard with Mrs Bradley to learn and refine their performances and it is sure to be a real treat for all.

### End of term service:

As a new tradition in school we will be culminating each term with a Community Collective Worship – where all parents are warmly invited to join us as we reflect on the term, celebrate achievements and give thanks for all that we are grateful for over the preceding months.

Obviously this term's theme is Christmas Story and we will be lighting candles to signify the core values of the season so our service is entitled 'Candlelit Carols'.

Join us at 1.45 (for a 2pm start). We should finish about 2.30 and if you would like to, you can take your child(ren) with you. Please be aware that this is likely to be standing room only for adults so parents with buggies are asked to leave these in the car & carry infants if at all possible - if you have any priority needs (e.g. disability) please let us know and if we can reserve seats we will.

**End of term arrangements:**

A parent mail will be going out early next week about Christmas parties & final dates of the term and dates for January & February.

**Christmas card lists:**

It's that time of year again when we are sending out cards – and the Christmas postbox is already up in the foyer.

In previous years the school has sent out class lists to enable pupils to be supported in writing their cards, however with the introduction of GDPR, we ask that you return this form\* if you are happy for us to publish your child's first name and initial. If you are not happy for your child's name to be on the list then there is no need to return the form.

\*paper copies of this form and questionnaire will be coming home per family.

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**Christmas arrangements consent form:**

I am happy for my child/ren's first name(s) and initial \_\_\_\_\_  
to be added to the published Christmas card lists.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

I am coming to the church on the 19<sup>th</sup> December

I would like to take my child/ren home after the service

I am able to join the walk to the church beforehand