



## Newsletter

### May 2019

Dear all,

It was great to have so many of you join us for lunches before half term. We are looking into whether this is something we can run more regularly – watch this space.

We have also been really pleased to see so many of you at the Parent Forums. The next forum next week has a Phonics focus, where we will be talking about what we have in place already, further work in the new academic year. We will also be talking about Class Dojo, as well as answering any questions you may have.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Emily Gore-Rowe'.

Mrs Emily Gore-Rowe

**Congratulations** to Mr and Mrs Smith who have welcomed their new baby son, Felix George Finn Smith! Mr Smith is on paternity leave this week and next week, spending special time as a family. In his absence Mrs Garbutt and Mrs Williams have release time out of class which will be covered by supply teachers.

Congratulations are also in order for Mrs Korniotis who is expecting her second child, later in the Autumn term. Mrs Korniotis will be undertaking intervention and support for pupils in KS1 in the Autumn and we are advertising for a temporary teacher.

We are delighted to announce that we were successfully able to secure two excellent appointments to our existing Teacher vacancies: Mrs Diane Small and Mrs Louise Pitt will be joining us from September. Mrs Small has been appointed as Early Years and Phonics Lead and has a wealth of experience, joining us from her current post as Early Years Advisor and is very much looking forward to working with our lovely children. Mrs Pitt is newer to teaching and is currently teaching at Over Primary School (where she is teaching Mr Smith's son) as part of her school based teacher training and comes very well recommended. We are very much looking forward to having them join our team.

However if you are unable to make a forum but have a question, concern or suggestion then do please let us know via email or the post box in the office. Until recently we have not been able to send out commentary from the Forums

## Lunchtimes:

Over the last six weeks we have evolved the programme significantly – it was great to have so many of you, as well as the children share their ideas as to how we could further improve things. Now that the children are used to the zones and all the activities on offer there is much more flexibility (providing they are choosing to be respectful and responsible).

Free flow Friday is when all children can choose any area & be with anyone in any house – provided they are respectful and responsible. Each house also has a free flow day each week, as well as their day with the coach.

As the summer months are upon us and we have full access to the field and do not need the extra space, we have closed some of the indoor areas. The library is still open with the option to draw & make bookmarks; read or join the comic club or run their own themed club such as History, Dinosaurs, & Newspaper club – should they wish to. The Music & Performance Room is only open on Free Flow Friday and the construction and art activities have moved outside. We now have giant checkers and snakes and ladders, skittles, a fuseball table as well as the table tennis, hoop scoring, giant jenga, and giant 'Connect Four'.

The current 'club' activities running are: Drawing, Painting, Paper Aeroplanes & Lego as well as Football and Running clubs and. As requested, the Y5/6's now have a games box in their chill out area. The four playground 'quad' grids are host to a range of game equipment, so children can choose to be with any of their friends to play any 2-5 aside game such as dodgeball, volley ball or tennis etc. (Dance & Singing using the big screen videos & in the Music & Performance Room will pick back up again in the 'dimmer' weather calls for more indoor options to be available – however the 'get in the groove' music is playing for children to dance to everyday)

Some of the clubs are a little more ambitious and are taking a little longer to get up and running but the children are looking forward to a number of others.

The questionnaire is being re-run in classes this week, a questionnaire is attached for parents as well as there being one for staff also.

## Class cover:

It's that time of year when teachers are writing reports for the children and we have arranged additional class cover to go some way towards the time taken to write them. It is also moderation season, where teacher assessment judgements are validated to ensure accuracy. This year we are being externally moderated in two yeargroups which also requires teachers to be released from classes. These are just two of the reasons why class cover are needed, in addition to their weekly PPA. This year, the existing staffing structure has not had sufficient facility to release teachers 'in house' however next academic year, our new staffing structure has the facility to use current staff to cover teacher release when needed.

We continue to use known, quality cover teachers wherever possible.

## Collection from school and walking home:

In line with safeguarding and road safety advice we have the following arrangements for drop off and collection from school:

- Class staff are responsible for the orderly dismissal of pupils from their classrooms.
- Staff must be clear on what the pupils' leaving arrangements are. **Therefore** where a person other than a child's parent is collecting a child from school – school **expects** to be inform in advance, **otherwise they will not allow the child to leave the family will be contacted.**
- Where changes to a child's normal pattern of home time occurs, the school expects to be informed by the parent on or before the day.
- Children **in Years 5 & 6** are only allowed to walk home alone with written permission from parents **and** agreement from the school that risks have been assessed and their consistent maturity is evident and it is therefore appropriate and safe to do so.

Before the holidays we had a pupil go missing on their way home – they had walked to the park with friends rather than going home and we spoke with all children about how important it is that all their parents know if they are going to the park rather than going straight home.



## Dates for your diary:

- **Art Week: postponed to** week beginning 17th June – As we already featured the Art of Leonardo Da Vinci in our STEAM week before Art Week, the focus this year is on celebrating our school values, looking at how faith and belief has been celebrated in different faiths.
- **Parent Forum:** 11th June - 8.45am
- **Football matches** –home v The Weatheralls 24th June
- **Governors Teaching and Learning Committee meeting:** 26th June – 6pm
- **Parent Forum:** 27th June - 2.45pm
- **Summer Sports Festival:** Week beginning 1st July - House tournaments & circuit days and **race day Tuesday 2nd** (further dates and times to be confirmed)
- **Year 6 Transition days** 3rd & 4th July. Jump up days will also be on these days.
- **Parents' Consultations for YR/1 classes only:** Thurs 27th June & Weds
- **Year 6 Residential** 10th-12th July
- The dates and times for the end of year performance and Year 6 events will be confirmed next week, along with the end of year service – we have some scheduling conflicts in and out of school that we need to iron out if possible.