



Live well, laugh together, learn forever

Happy Friday everyone!

As we approach the end of term, I just wanted to thank all the staff and pupils for such a great start to the year and my initial journey with the school! Starting afresh with so much to get to know all at once has not been without challenge, however I have thoroughly enjoyed every minute so far of slowly getting to know the children, their classes and their families.

Monitoring of Teaching and Learning:

As Head, I have been conducting weekly learning walks and am currently undertaking lesson observations with Mr Smith, my Deputy. We have been really pleased so far to see that improvements from last year have been sustained and we recognise the extraordinary commitment of all staff to giving your children a great learning experience. As a school we are on a journey to become a centre of excellence for learning and it is clear that everyone is as dedicated as we are to that vision, through their enthusiasm and readiness to further develop their practice in classrooms.

Reception/Year One:

We have been delighted to watch our youngest cohort join the school and begin their journey with us with such gusto - in all my years of working in schools and with reception children, I have never known classes settle to learning, playing and interacting so well both independently, together with their peers and with staff. This was also noted on two separate occasions by local authority advisors and it's clear that despite the challenge in grappling with a change to the class structures with YR/1, the Ofsted recognised good practice in EYs, coupled with the improvements made in Y1 practice last term have been sustained.

Year 2, 3 & 4:

Mrs Garbutt and Mrs Vajzovic have been made very welcome amongst the teams and pupils have thoroughly enjoyed their topic work so far, particularly the work on the 'Fen Detectives' Project and I look forward to the first trip of the year later this term.

Year 5/6:

These classes have continued to go from strength to strength and we have enjoyed observing enthusiastic teachers and pupils engaging in challenges with enthusiasm and an excellent 'can do' approach to challenges. It has been great to look through the books, and see that the pupils are aiming high, particularly in Year 6, where pupils are beginning to really step up to the plate in terms of end of keystage expectations.

Celebration:

we are really proud of all those pupils in Y4, 5 & 6 that attended the cross country last week, representing their school impeccably and performing very well, up against around 400 other pupils in this regional event - well done!

Book Fair:

The Book Fair will be open before and after school until Tuesday 16th October. There is a great range of books on offer and please remember that a proportion of all sales comes back to the school which we spend on more lovely books for our library.

Policies:

As the new year gets underway, we are reviewing many of our policies and protocols as a school.

You may have noticed on the website that the Behaviour Policy is under review. This is to ensure that it clearly reflects the practice in school and clarity for everyone around how we manage behaviour positively around school. If you have any questions in the meantime, please do not hesitate to get in touch via the school office.

After half term a new Anti-Bullying policy will also be launched as part of it, if you have any concerns in the meantime, please do not hesitate to arrange a meeting with your child's class teacher.

We look forward to unveiling our new Home School Agreement that will be launched after half term, both for pupils and parents. Please note that part of this agreement is to uphold the school rules and have a central value around respect. We would like to take this opportunity to remind you that this includes social media - it is all too easy to forget oneself when online and upset - please remember that our job is to help your child to be the best they can, and part of this work is listening to and acting on any concerns you may have, and together acting as role models in resolving issues in a solution focused, assertive but peaceful way.

Attendance & Punctuality:

Last year's whole school attendance was 94.2% which is below the government expectation of 96% and Ofsted noted this as a key area for action. Therefore we will be working very hard with you to improve this rapidly, introducing an improving attendance and punctuality strategy after half term.

A new policy was adopted by all schools in the WASP partnership, which accompanies this newsletter and outlines a number of changes, particularly relating to term time holidays and potential fines. Further information is contained in the attached leaflet.

Please be aware that after half term we will be introducing new procedures around the school's expectations of punctuality:

- School starts and registers open from 8.50
- There is the expectation that all children are in class and able to begin learning by 8.55.
- After half term, the school gates will be open from 8.40, classrooms will be open to the children from 8.45 and the gates will close at 8.55.
- Anyone arriving after this time will therefore need to come in through the front reception.

Communications & partnerships with parents:

We are introducing new systems for monitoring behaviour and communications with parents. So that any concerns can be appropriately logged and ensure that messages don't slip, we ask that all email contact is through the school office - emails directly to staff (myself included) may take longer or risk not being logged for action which means we cannot monitor that they have been followed up.

After half term we will be running the usual parents evening appointments which you should already have received a letter about and the staff are very much looking forward to meeting you all. Please be aware that these slots are not long, therefore if you have concerns you wish to raise please don't delay in continuing to discuss these with us in the appropriate way: arranging to speak with your class teacher after school. We would hate for parents to feel that there is not time to talk properly about something, given the short timescale and a follow up meeting can be arranged.

We will also be running drop in sessions to see your child's classroom, chat informal with staff and engage in learning so watch out for the dates of those.

Class Dojo:

We will be launching class dojo with the pupils after half term - this system enables them and you to keep track of Dojo Points that they earn for good behaviour in class and around school. This will replace the smiley system. Sapphire, Ruby and Jade class will be trialling the parent app and communication functions after half term and it is hoped that this will roll out to the rest of the school in January. More information will follow with a letter about your child's account.

Fundraising:

Many thanks to all of you that helped organise and took part in the first FOSS Cake Break of the year, we raised a great deal. THANK YOU! The money is going towards resources to support our work on developing a Mentally Healthy School, purchasing 'worry monsters' which are already in classrooms.

Many thanks also to the Con Club who raised and donated £1500 to the school which is going to be used to purchase new benches, including buddy benches, for the playground.

We are enormously grateful to the fantastic FOSS who contribute so much to the life of the school - if you would like to join and/or help out with some of their events or to find out more, please contact Caroline Barrell at caroline.suttonfoss@gmail.com.

Reading and Volunteers:

Mrs Dilley will be leading a number of workshops for parents, outlining how we teach reading at Sutton and how you can help your child. The first of these is for the parents of children in Reception, outlining how phonics is currently taught and how this works alongside the reading of banded books and library books in developing well rounded readers. If you would like to come along to hear more and learn how you can help your child at home, the first session will be 31.10.18 at 9-10am with a second session at 2.30pm.

We are delighted that the successful BRP reading volunteers scheme is up and running once again, many thanks to those of you who are already helping so many children with their reading! If you would like to get involved, please contact Mrs Dilley.

As a new Head, I have a number of changes that I am working towards in terms of how spaces and resources are organised and used around the school. I would therefore greatly appreciate any help that could be offered in terms of setting up new storage and meeting areas. Please let the office know if you would like to help and I'll be in touch.

Harvest:

Our Collective Worship Value and theme is Thankfulness, and Harvest is very much part of this.

We look forward to welcoming you at St. Andrew's Church next Wednesday from 9.15am for our first event of the school's Church year- our harvest festival. Please ensure any donations are brought to school from Monday onwards.

There will be a Messy(ish) Church this coming Sat morning at 11 am in St Andrew's. It is aimed at mainly primary age children accompanied by a parent(s)/carer(s) and includes a Bible story and related activities plus free refreshments from the indoor market cafe (the indoor market runs from 10-12 hrs in the church that morning. It will last 30-40 mins.

The Flower Festival will also be on Saturday from 10-17 hrs, Sunday from 12-17hrs and Monday 10-15 hrs. Free entry, raffle and refreshments (tea & cake, etc) available too.

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

Wednesday 17 October 9.15am - School Harvest Festival Service at St Andrews Church. We look forward to receiving any donations you wish to make from **Monday 15 October**.

Wednesday 17 October - Governors Teaching and Learning Walk

Thursday 18 October - Year 5 to Ely First Station

Friday 19 October - School closed Staff INSET Day

Monday 29 October - Back to school

Week beginning 29 October (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday) - Parent Consultations - details to follow.

Wednesday 31 October - Governor Teaching & Learning Meeting

Friday 2 November - Governors Teaching & Learning Walk

Tuesday 6 November - Individual school photographs

Wednesday 7 November - Governors Finance & Personnel Committee Meeting

Friday 9 November - FOSS Disco

Wednesday 14 November - FOSS Cake Break (KS2 baking)

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/KSI 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

We will update you on other dates in following Newsletters.

I am really looking forward to greeting those of you who are able to join us for our first event of the school church year at the Harvest Festival on Wednesday 17 October 2018.

Yours sincerely

Mrs E Gore-Rowe
Headteacher

