



ANN EDWARDS CHURCH OF ENGLAND
PRIMARY SCHOOL
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"Learning and achieving in a caring community."

Do to others what you would want them to do to you- Matthew 7:

Friday 1st October 2021

Newsletter No 2

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Dear Parents and Carers

Well, we find ourselves in October already and with only three weeks of term one left! How did that happen? They say that time flies when you're having fun, so that must be it. Our new Reception children are well settled in now, supported by our amazing Year 1 role models, and the Year 6 residential was a huge success. The leadership team are about to start teacher lesson observations and next Friday the school is closed for an INSET day during which teachers will be engaging in further training on reading, administering the new school website, developing children's speaking and listening skills through the Voice 21 oracy programme, looking at the school development plan and running teacher appraisals.

It is lovely seeing so many of you face-to-face in the mornings and afternoons and I am looking forward to catching up with you all during our Open Evening on 13th October.

Thank you to everyone who is continuing to be flexible when asked to collect a child exhibiting Covid symptoms and engaging with the NHS testing programme when necessary. Please note that home learning will be provided only when a child is not unwell and is self-isolating pending a PCR test or result; if they are ill then they need to rest and recover.

Positive Behaviour Feedback

I have had the joy of showing three important visitors around the school in the last seven days, and each of them has gone out of their way to praise the children's behaviour, how engaged classes are in lessons and how calmly they follow routines and move around the school. Our Local Authority Performance Advisor specifically made a point to include written reference to behaviour in her report. I am very proud of this, particularly given the challenges faced during the pandemic and all of the changes the children have dealt with in returning to school this term.

School Strategic Overview

The school development plan is an essential document, informed by self-evaluation, vision and aspiration, that drives our continuing improvement as a school. Although the majority of the plan relates to objectives we are working on this year, another key part is the 3-5 year strategic overview. This was developed last year through extensive consultation and planning and is attached to this ParentMail for your information. I can assure you it is not an onerous read so please do check it out!

You will see that this overview begins with our whole-school curriculum intent, from which all other subject intents derive. I would like to add that our curriculum extends beyond the National Curriculum to nurture our children, instill secure values, stoke their curiosity, aid their spiritual growth and enable them to serve as responsible 21st century citizens. We have two trained Forest School leaders on the staff, our staff are undertaking whole-staff Trauma-Informed School training and all teachers are working towards their Level 1 Philosophy for Children qualification.



Results from Parent/Carer Survey

Also attached is the summary of the results from the parent/carers survey completed just before the summer holidays. Analysing these results has been really useful in helping the leadership team to move forward and in our planning and considerations for this year. We had a good level of responses and I am extremely proud that 100% of responders said they would recommend Ann Edwards Church of England Primary School to another parent, which is amazing!

Staff Changes

Last week we said goodbye to Mrs Anneka Hicks, one of our lunchtime supervisors and also a hard-working first aider, who has moved to a new position elsewhere.

We have been really fortunate to secure the help of two experienced teaching assistants who are both long-term supporters and ex-employees of the schools: Mrs Ann Ford who will be working in the Early Years Unit and Mrs Lorna Buchanan who is based in Holly Class, both working Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings this term. Welcome (back) aboard!

Parent Governor Vacancy

You will shortly receive communication regarding a parent governor vacancy. This is an exciting opportunity to join our school at a key stage in its development, following 13 months of significant change in leadership, the pandemic and development of a new 3-5 year strategic plan and reimagining of school development planning. This is a strategic role. Any governors should be able to commit to spending time in school, for example a minimum of half a day per long term, would need to be able to attend five Full Governing Body meetings plus sub-committee meetings (Ethos, Resources or Curriculum & Standards) throughout the year and take responsibility for governance of a particular area of the school development plan. Please contact me via the school office to arrange an informal chat about the role if you are interested.

Parent-Teacher Consultations and Open Evening

Not to be confused with our forthcoming Open Morning for new prospective Reception parents/carers, our inaugural Open Evening for existing pupils and their families is taking place from 4.30 – 6.00 on Wednesday 13th October. The idea is that the children will act as tour guides, taking you around all of their different learning spaces and sharing their work with you, which will be available in their classrooms. Teachers will also be available for informal discussions and there will be refreshments and information on display in the hall. Additionally, this will be an opportunity for you to meet members of the governing body, who will be available during the evening.

Following our parent-carer survey, we will continue running parent-teacher consultations via telephone again this term. Our administrators, Ele and Sarah, will be writing to you soon with further information. These will take the form of ten-minute telephone conversations that will be informed by the work you will have seen during the Open Evening a couple of weeks before.

Drum Lessons

Drum Lessons will continue with professional drummer Tim Downes-Hall. Tim has been teaching for over 15 years and has been playing for 4 decades. The lessons are aimed at children of all ages and abilities, starting at year 1. No experience necessary. They will be within school time on Friday afternoons. Please contact Tim on 07886037014 or email at timd-hdrums@hotmail.co.uk

Change to end of school year date

In light of the additional bank holiday next year commemorating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, which falls within the May half-term holiday when schools are already off, the Local Authority has contacted schools to say that staff and children will be recompensed for this day by schools having an extra day of holiday added to the long summer break. This means that the summer term will now end at 1.30 on Thursday 21st July. Let's hope that holidays are simpler to organise and more likely to happen next summer!

Atlas Camps: October half-term and beyond

Following on from the successfully run Summer camp, Atlas Camps are looking at holding a holiday camp in October Half Term. As this is an externally-run club, they need a minimal number of bookings per day to make it viable. If you know that you need to utilise this camp during this holiday, then please book ASAP so staffing levels can be worked out from their end. Failure to make a minimum number of bookings per day may see certain days/the week unfortunately cancelled.

It would be helpful if you could email the school office (admin@annedwardsprimary.co.uk) if you are able to think ahead to whether you would find a holiday club useful for all or some of the February half-term and Easter holidays, to let us plan ahead. Please can you use the subject line 'Atlas Camps.'

I hope you have a good weekend and we're not all too waterlogged.

Yours Sincerely


Ian Moore
Headteacher

Key Dates

INSET Day – school closed	Friday 8 th October
Harvest Experience (Y1 am & Y2 pm in church)	Tuesday 12 th October
New EYFS Open Morning	Wednesday 13 th October
Open Evening: 4.30 – 6.00	Wednesday 13 th October
Harvest Festival (in church)	15 th October (invite EYFS/Y1 parents)
Year 3 and 4 Trip to Sevington	19 th , 20 th and 21 st October
Last day of term	Friday 22 nd October (3.00pm finish)
Black History Month	1 st -31 st October
First day of term	Monday 1 st November
Parents' Evenings telephone consultations	2 nd & 4 th November
Wear Something Bright for Firework Night	5 th November (not Charity event)
Individual Tempest Photos	Monday 8 th November
Staff-run clubs begin (November to February)	Monday 8 th November
Remembrance Sunday (children at Cross)	Sunday 14 th November
Children In-Need	Friday 19 th November
Anti-Bullying Week	15 th -19 th November
iSing Pop! workshops	22 nd -24 th November
iSing Pop! Concert (church)	Wednesday 1 st December (KS1 pm and KS2 evening)
PTA Christmas Fayre	Thursday 2 nd December
Prayer Space Week	w/c 6 th December
Christmas Jumper Day and Dinner	Wednesday 15 th December
Church Christmas Service	Thursday 16 th December 9.30am
Last day of term	Friday 17 th December (1.30pm finish)
INSET Day – school closed	Tuesday 4 th January
First day of term	Wednesday 5 th January
Young Voices concert (Birmingham)	Thursday 27 th January
Heart Start Week	14 th -18 th February including skipping workshops 17 th / 18 th February
Last day of term	Friday 18 th February (3pm finish)
Half term	21 st February – 25 th February
World Book Day	Thursday 3 rd March
Parents' Evening	8 th March and 10 th March
Sports Relief/Comic Relief	Friday 18 th March
Class Photos	Monday 21 st March
YR5/6 Easter Experience	Tuesday 29 th March
Prayer Spaces in Class	Monday 4 th April
Yr 5 Cycling Proficiency	4 th April-8 th April – 25 th -29 th April
Easter Church Service	Wednesday 6 th April 9.30am
Last day of term	8 th April (1.30pm finish)
INSET Day – school closed	Monday 25 th April
First day of term	Tuesday 26 th April
Art Week	26 th – 19 th April
Bank Holiday	Monday 2 nd May
Yr 4 Braeside residential	4 th -6 th May
Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations	Friday 27 th May
Last day of term	Friday 27 th May (3pm finish)
Half Term	30 th May – 1 st May (3 days)
First day of term	Monday 6 th June
EYFS New parents meeting	Wednesday 15 th June
Sports Day	Wednesday 6 th July
12 th and 14 th July	Yr6 performances to parents
Last day of term	Thursday 21 st July (1.30pm finish) – change of date



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