



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 7:12

RESPECT PERSEVERANCE SERVICE

Friday 5th November 2021

Newsletter No 4

- Headteacher's Welcome
- Philosophy for Children
- Dog Fouling
- iSing Pop code for free postage and packing
- Reading Bus Volunteers wanted
- Key Dates

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope this finds you well. It's been lovely to see the sun and blue skies this week, even if it has been extremely chilly!

We have enjoyed a really successful first week back at school. New topics have begun, we've had really good uptake at parent-teacher consultations and we have begun a focus on our new value of Service.

You will have received a letter about our consultation to change our pupil admission number from 45 to 30. Should this be approved then it will offer what I believe to be greater stability for strategic and financial planning for the school. This year we welcomed 27 new Reception children but have to plan each year for the possibility of 45; knowing that we have a ceiling of 30 will be really helpful. If you have any questions about this then please email me directly.

Philosophy for Children

As a school, Ann Edwards Church of England Primary School has now embarked on a three-year 'Going for Gold' journey for Philosophy for Children (P4C). I strongly believe that embracing this approach will benefit children of all abilities and backgrounds, building on our work in recent years on vocabulary and oracy (the ability to express oneself fluently and grammatically in speech) to enhance oral communication, build interpersonal relationships and understanding and develop critical thinking. Over time, the teacher supports the children to think more deeply and philosophically by encouraging the 4Cs of P4C – critical, creative, collaborative and caring thinking. This year, each of our teachers, including myself, is working towards our Level 1 P4C qualification in order to be able to teach this well consistently.

Hopefully you will notice your child/ren beginning to talk about 'philosophy' or 'P4C' sessions that they have engaged in and enjoyed. Topics and questions can come from anywhere: news items, consideration of our school values, spirituality, topic work, morality, peer group disputes – you name it.

P4C was established over forty years ago by Professor Matthew Lipman of Montclair State University in the United States and is now practised around the world. In P4C, a stimulus, such as a story, video clip or image, is shared with a group of children. The children are encouraged by a trained facilitator, such as a teacher, to come up with the kind of big, engaging philosophical questions about the stimulus which are at the heart of P4C. Philosophical questions are open to examination, further questioning and enquiry. They are contestable, central and common – that is, there is more than one valid point of view, the question is important in the lives of the children, and it is a shared issue or concern.

Children might come up with philosophical questions such as:



- Is it ever OK to lie?
- What makes you you?
- Do we have to respect everyone?
- Can good people do bad things?
- Do we all have the same rights?

Through a vote, the children then choose the question they would most like to discuss. The teacher gives the children time to think and reason individually about the question before facilitating the exchange of ideas and opinions as a group, or community of enquiry, developing critical, creative, collaborative and caring thinking. As questions grow more philosophical and imaginative, children learn to listen carefully to each other, to explore differences of opinion respectfully, and to value the ideas of others.

P4C is a whole school approach. It can be used across the curriculum, in every subject, and with all ages and abilities. It can be used with groups such as school councils, eco councils, and with governors and parents. We work with nurseries, primaries, secondaries, colleges, universities, alternative provision, and in SEND settings. P4C is intended to be a regular activity so that the children develop their skills and understanding over time. The role of the facilitator is crucial to ensuring quality dialogue and progress, as well as integration with the curriculum.

Dog Fouling

We have received some complaints about dog excrement on the roundabout at the front of school. Although we are asking the parish council to provide a sign, I wanted to send this polite reminder. (However, we are aware that our parents and carers are cleaning up after their faithful friends on the whole – but it only takes one person not to be for it to cause a problem).

iSing Pop code for free postage and packing

We have been made aware that the voucher code for ordering iSing Pop products with free postage and packaging was not working. I am pleased to say that Mrs Jones has contacted them and this has now been remedied. Please use the code EDWARDS21, which we have been assured will work until midnight on 24th November this year. Thank you.

Reading Bus Volunteers Wanted

Do you have some time that you could help keep our fantastic big red reading bus tidy and organised each week? Just think, you could put 'voluntary librarian' on your CV – how good would that look?! It wouldn't need to be too long, maybe half an hour a couple of times a week after you've dropped off your child/ren or before you pick up, maybe just one slot a week. Please contact the school office if you would like to volunteer.

Thank you for all of your support.

Yours Sincerely



Ian Moore
Headteacher

Key Dates

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	wc 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)



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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
YR5 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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