



ANN EDWARDS CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Berkeley Close, South Cerney, Gloucestershire GL7 5UW

Tel: 01285 860335 Fax: 01285 860892

Headteacher: Ian Moore

Email: [admin@annedwardsprimary.co.uk](mailto:admin@annedwardsprimary.co.uk)

Website: [www.annedwards.gloucs.sch.uk](http://www.annedwards.gloucs.sch.uk)

"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 17<sup>th</sup> December 2021

Newsletter No 6

- Headteacher's Welcome – and thank you
- Key Dates

Dear Parents and Carers

We had a lovely, festive end-of-term celebration this morning in collective worship, during which (as well as enjoying lots of Christmas singing, pausing to reflect on the meaning of Advent and celebrating individuals' achievements) we took a moment to reflect on the journey we've been on since returning to school after the summer holidays. For so much of our time together, we have been able to mix again, meet together for collective worship and singing, enjoy extra-curricular opportunities like clubs, run KS2 school trips and so much more. Throughout this whole time, from September to now, many children's learning has been disrupted by periods of self-isolation, waiting for test results or close family members being diagnosed with Covid. The staff have been absolutely amazing throughout this time, reverting to running a school how schools are meant to be run – with all the daily and extra opportunities they offer – but also going the extra mile as we're all just so mindful of how much our children have missed out on in the last two years. Also, throughout all of this time, these same staff members have been living through the pandemic and having their own concerns over loved ones, just as you have – while working with an unvaccinated population exhibiting so many different symptoms. So far, so good – full steam ahead with all the bells and whistles!

And then we hit mid-November, and the cases in school at first start creeping up and then racing up. At first we moved to collective worship in phases rather than whole school and then back to online meetings on Microsoft Teams. No more eating all together in the hall but now in bays and classes. Events cancelled or moved online. Back we were in the thick of it once again. However, we knew what to do – we'd done it before. This morning's collective worship is testament to that, we've switched back to virtual events and they're working; so much better than not having them at all. The EYFS/KS1 Nativity is a video rather than a live performance, but it raises a smile and brings a sentimental tear to the eye just the same – and gave the children a real chance to shine and have fun. Ultimately, they will always remember 'doing the Nativity' at school – it will just be a different memory to what we had from when we were at school. The *iSing Pop!* concert was cancelled but the workshops still took place, so the children sing (and dance along!) to those songs so amazingly well.

So, this week has been a good week in school (although I am fully aware that some children have been unable to come in, sorry). The Nativity video has gone live, the children have had fun, a Christmas Tree Festival attended (and hot chocolate drunk!), festive hats have been made and lunches consumed, music (lots of music!) has been sung, heard and danced to and events like our Christmas Service have helped our spiritual enrichment at this special time of year. At this term's peak we had seventeen positive Covid cases and around a fifth of the staff awaiting PCR results; today we have four positive cases. Although how things will be in January is still uncertain, we will deal with whatever it throws at us. We may, for example, find ourselves back in the realms of home learning from the start, or very early on, or we may not. Either way, I have made the decision to put the focus purely on the day-to-day education and pastoral care of the children and working hard to enable the staff to do that to the best of their ability with as few distractions as possible. So, I'm afraid there will be no school-run clubs next term, lunches will remain in bays and classes (although, I must say, that is working really well) and we won't be planning any educational visits. We will keep things under regular review and communicate with you in as timely a way as possible.

Please make sure that all of you who can do book a booster jab and also consider the extent of social mixing and the possibility of lateral flow testing in the days prior to returning to school.



Thank you all so much for your flexibility and good grace in managing your disappointments with cancelled or changed events and frustrations around having children sent home or a barrage of information coming home from school. Your cooperation and support has been, and continues to be, very much appreciated.

I hope you and yours have a peaceful, safe and happy festive period and I look forward to hopefully seeing all of the children back on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January, when we will be continuing our Philosophy For Children journey with our whole-school Philosophy Day.

Merry Christmas!

Yours Sincerely



Ian Moore  
Headteacher

### Key Dates

First day of term	Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> January
<del>Young Voices concert (Birmingham)</del>	Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> January - POSTPONED
Heart Start Week	14 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup> February including skipping workshops 17 <sup>th</sup> / 18 <sup>th</sup> February
Last day of term	Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> February (3pm finish)
Half term	21 <sup>st</sup> February – 25 <sup>th</sup> February
World Book Day	Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March
Parents' Evening	8 <sup>th</sup> March and 10 <sup>th</sup> March
Sports Relief/Comic Relief	Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> March
Class Photos	Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> March
YR5/6 Easter Experience	Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup> March
Prayer Spaces in Class	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> April
YR5 Cycling Proficiency	4 <sup>th</sup> April-8 <sup>th</sup> April – 25 <sup>th</sup> -29 <sup>th</sup> April
Easter Church Service	Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> April 9.30am
Last day of term	8 <sup>th</sup> April (1.30pm finish)
INSET Day – school closed	Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> April
First day of term	Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> April
Art Week	26 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup> April
Bank Holiday	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May
Yr 4 Braeside residential	4 <sup>th</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup> May
Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations	Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> May
Last day of term	Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> May (3pm finish)
Half Term	30 <sup>th</sup> May – 1 <sup>st</sup> May (3 days)
First day of term	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> June
EYFS New parents meeting	Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> June
Sports Day	Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> July
12 <sup>th</sup> and 14 <sup>th</sup> July	Yr6 performances to parents
Last day of term	Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> July (1.30pm finish) – change of date



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