



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

Our special chosen Bible story is the Parable of The Good Samaritan.

Friday 13th January 2023

Newsletter No 6

- Headteacher's Welcome
- Strep A and Winter Illness Update
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Dear Parents and Carers

I hope this finds you and yours well, at the end of our first full week back of 2023. I have had the pleasure of showing round different prospective parents this week as well as a senior member of the local authority, and it always humbling and heart-warming to receive positive feedback from visitors about our ethos, curriculum and opportunities for the children. Just now, on a school tour, one class was making use of the opportunities offered by our ICT suite, another was using the space in the spare classroom for exercise, a group of children were changing their books with their TA on the library bus, groups of children were working with adults in the bay areas and the EYFS children were having great fun doing PE in the hall. This is on top of the hard work going on in classrooms supported by the teachers' excellent subject knowledge. There is always so much going on!

Music is an important part of our curriculum and enrichment here at Ann Edwards and we're benefitting at the moment from preparation for the Young Voices concert that our choir is taking part in on 26th January. For those of you yet to experience it, Young Voices is the largest concert series for Primary school children in the world. Parents make up the audience and there is a live band, professional singers, dancers, lighting – the lot! Please take a look at the website www.youngvoices.co.uk for more information. The members of our school choir are fantastic role-models for the other children and inspire everyone to go for it and sing out; we're also looking forward to a performance from them in our Gold Book achievement assembly this afternoon. As well as being fun and giving children access to concepts, values and aspirations through the lyrics, singing in a large group is a wonderful opportunity to be a part of something bigger than yourself, which is so important. To supplement our music provision and to add to our offer on Wednesday afternoons for Year3 and 4 now that Mrs Rennie has been employed elsewhere, I have appointed a specialist music teacher, Mrs Jacki Pattenden, for the rest of this year.

Each term, we focus on one of our core Christian Values and this term it's Perseverance, so we began the New Year by thinking about the labours, doggedness and persistence of the three wise men in the Nativity Story, leading up to our special Christingle morning last Friday to coincide with Epiphany. We were humbled by the generosity shown by Tesco's in donating all of the materials we needed for each child to be able to enjoy making then taking home their own Christingle. This was also an opportunity to live out our inclusive ethos as we used lemons instead of oranges because a member of our school family has a serious orange allergy. The children enjoyed the morning and each set themselves a goal of bringing hope to others, of letting their own lights shine in the world.

We embed our values through our collective worship programme as well as exploring weekly Big Questions and Philosophy 4 Children Sessions. Also, we always enjoy finishing our week with our special Gold Book assembly during which we award values certificates for children whom have been seen to really live out our values during that week.

Strep A and Winter Illness Update

The UK Health Security Agency and NHS have been monitoring the national and local picture with regards to Group A Streptococcus (GAS) and adapting their advice to schools accordingly. I am pleased that all of our pupils who became ill with this bacterial infection have recovered and that we are no longer subject to the restrictions placed on us at the end of the autumn term and that. However, please be reassured that we will liaise with the relevant authorities in line with the guidance and follow any instruction given.



Whilst it is a new year, issues from last year remain. This term, the UKHSA has issued advice to families and to schools regarding winter illnesses, designed to minimise the spread of infection in schools and to support the NHS. In summary, the advice is to:

- Keep children at home if they have a fever, until the fever has resolved
- Remind your child about the 'Catch it, Bin it, Kill it' message regarding good handwashing and the use of tissues
- Get your child flu vaccinated if they are eligible.

The full advice can be seen [here](#). Obviously, we want as many children and staff in school as possible, as being in school is so important. However, whilst winter illnesses are still circulating at high levels, the advice is that these steps will help attendance to be as good as possible. Please also find attached information sheet on Strep A.

PTA Meeting Wednesday 18th January

We are really grateful to our hard-working PTA for arranging fun events for our community as well as helping raise funds for our fantastic school. Their next meeting is on Wednesday 18th January at 8pm at The Old George, South Cerney. This is a social opportunity for parents and carers to get together as well as an important meeting which will cover a range of important issues and exciting opportunities. Please go along if you can!

Parking

Please remember that it is illegal to park on the yellow safety lines outside of school. Also, please make sure you don't stop your car in front of the army bus as it is then required to reverse in order to pull out, which we would like to avoid for the safety of our community. Thank you.

Safeguarding

For those of you with older children using Snapchat, please be aware that some inappropriate images of children are being circulated on this forum. One method is for children to receive unsolicited images when they are 'mentioned' (i.e. tagged) by others, who are not always children they know. Snapchat, along with other social media platforms, has an age limit of 13 but children in our school are using it so I think it is important that we share guidance to help keep them safe. So, if you are consenting for them to use this platform then please make sure you have a working knowledge of the app and also check their privacy settings and that they are their friends/contacts are people they actually know (and trust). An increasing number of our older children are also using WhatsApp and so please keep an eye on groups that they are part of, who else is in that group and who can see their number, details and status.

Part of our work as a staff is to be aware of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) in order to be able to help the children in our care as much as possible. This life can be life-changing. As part of our ongoing training on this, Mrs Collins shared a video during our recent INSET day which specifically states the importance of not just professionals being trained but also parents and carers, so I am sharing this important video with you all now. Please click on the link below:


<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XHgLYI9KZ-A>

(This is not appropriate for children to watch but is shared for adults).

Did you know?

...That information about our Music curriculum can be found here: <https://annedwards.gloucs.sch.uk/information/curriculum-information/music-curriculum/>.

Yours Sincerely


Ian Moore
Headteacher

Key Dates

Young Voices (Yr4-6 children in school choir)
First Aid Champions Week
1st Aid Champions Week - Skip Hop workshops
Last day of term
Half term
World Book Day
Red Nose Day
Tempest Class Photos
Prayer Space Week – Spirituality garden focus
Parents' Evening - 10-minute phone calls

Thursday 26th January
Monday 13th - Friday 17th February
Thursday 16th- Friday 17th February
Friday 17th February (3pm finish)
Monday 20th February – Friday 24th February
Thursday 2nd March
Friday 17th March
Tuesday 21st March
W/C 27th March – am or pm session
Tuesday 28th & Thursday 30th March



Easter Church Service (Yr3/4 parents/carers)	Friday 31st March 9.30am – 10.30am
Last day of term	Friday 31 st March (1.30pm finish)
Easter Holidays	Monday 3 rd April – Friday 14 th April
First day of term	Monday 17 th April
Yr5 Cycling Proficiency	Monday 17 th April – Friday 28 th April
KS1 SATS	1-31 st May
Bank Holiday	Monday 1st May
KS2 SATS	W/C 8 th May
Last day of term	Friday 26 th May (3pm finish)
Half Term	Monday 29 th May – Friday 2 nd June
Yr4 Multiplication Check	W/C 5 th June – 3 week window
Inset Day	Monday 5 th June
First day of term	Tuesday 6 th June
Yr1 Phonic Screening	W/C 12 th June
EYFS New parents meeting	Tuesday 13 th June
Experience Church Yr1 & Yr2	Wednesday 14 th June
Year 6 Leavers Service – Gloucester Cathedral	Wednesday 14 th June
Armed Forces Day	Friday 23 rd June
Sports Day	Friday 7 th July
Yr6 dress rehearsal to school	Monday 10 th July Pm
Yr6 performances to parents	Tuesday 11 th July PM and Thursday 13 th July evening
Prayer space week	W/C 17 th July
Y6 Leaving event	Monday 24 th July
Last day of term	Tuesday 25 th July (1.30pm finish)