



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.

Monday 6th March 2023

Newsletter No 9

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Dear Parents and Carers

Firstly, I would like to thank you all for your patience last week: although we expected the NEU strike action on Thursday, Monday morning's water outage and temporary closure was something of an unwelcome surprise. Your understanding and support was much appreciated and allowed us to focus on the core jobs of teaching and caring for the children.

We finished the week on something of a high, with our World Book Day. The children looked great and as a staff we appreciate that this doesn't happen by magic, so thank you for the efforts and enthusiasm from you and your children. This was a great opportunity to put books in all their forms front and centre. We enjoyed an assembly from local author Elka Evalds, author of *Granny Magic*, who also ran a storytelling workshop with Years 3 and 4 then a workshop to develop character ideas with Years 5 and 6. The children enjoyed teachers from different classes sharing stories with them and Lisa from Cirencester Library, who visits different classes each week, was in during the afternoon. This is just the tip of the iceberg – there were all sorts of exciting activities taking place throughout the day. Beyond World Book Day, we are very pleased to have been able to continue using Accelerated Reader with our Key Stage 2 children thanks to support from the PTA. If you have any questions about reading in the school then please speak to either Mrs Connolly for EYFS, Miss Ward for KS1 or Mrs Jones for KS2.

Our Christian value this term is Forgiveness. We have begun exploring this important area already, which will continue through collective worship, big questions, philosophy for children and the weekly awarding of values certificates in our Gold Book achievement assembly on a Friday. Concepts central to learning about and developing our capacity for forgiveness are those of anger, revenge, consequences, honesty and letting go. Our next church service is at 9.30 on Friday 31st March at All Hallows Church in the village, during which time we will be celebrating the important Christian festival of Easter. Our prefects have already started planning this service with Reverend McKenzie and I'm looking forward to ending the spring term in this way. Any parents or carers of children in Years 3 and 4 are invited to attend if you wish – it would be lovely to see you there.

Please see ParentMail for details of clubs that will be on offer in the summer term.

Philosophy For Children Bronze Award

I am delighted to let you know that on Friday I received news that we have achieved the standard for the SAPERE Bronze Award for Philosophy for Children. The programme coordinator wrote that 'I am very pleased to tell you that Ann Edwards Church of England Primary School is to be awarded a SAPERE Bronze Award for your dedication and progress in establishing P4C in your school. Our award assessor commented on the high quality of teacher reflection, as well as the clear support that you were giving to P4C in the school.' We are really pleased with this and are now well on the way to applying for the Silver Award! For more information about P4C, please look at the curriculum section of our website [here](#) (soon to be updated with the Bronze Award logo!).



PTA News

You will recently have received this term's PTA Newsletter. Since then, in response to parental requests, they have set up an Amazon wishlist to help the school with much-needed resources. It is fair to say that we have been blown away by the generosity shown by our community within a very short time – thank you! We certainly don't wish anyone to feel obliged as times are tough currently for so many people, but if you wish to have a look then please see the link here: https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/2JMYGV5VHPKNI?ref=wl_share

It will be updated every so often so please check back and have a look at what is needed. It is very simple to order, just add the item to your basket check the delivery address for Ann Edwards School is selected. We just ask that you please avoid ordering during school holidays as there may not be someone to take delivery.

The PTA have got some great events coming up so please do keep an eye out for those. Huge thanks to everyone involved.

NEU Strike action

The National Education Union has called for strike action on Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th March. Here is a reminder of how this will affect us at Ann Edwards with some increase in provision for the Wednesday based on an increase in staffing levels.

- On Wednesday 15th March, the school will be open for children in Years 2 and 6. Based on teachers I am expecting to be available on this day, we are now able to offer provision for the siblings of those in Years 2 and 6 and we will be writing to the parents and carers of those children this week with further information. In addition to this being based on the teaching staff likely to be available on that day, these year groups can be considered to be classed as 'examination year groups' due to their impending end of key stage assessments (SATs). Please note that attendance is expected for children in these year groups on this day. The bus to and from the army camp will be running for all invited children who usually use this facility.
- On Thursday 16th March, we will be open for particular groups of vulnerable learners by invitation. Invitations have already been sent out for this provision. The bus to and from the Duke of Gloucester army camp will run on this day as usual for all children who use this facility.

Wintry Weather

Wintry weather is forecast for the coming week so please keep an eye on Class Dojo as this offers a quick way of reaching you with urgent messages, although we will also inform you of any important updates via ParentMail and the Gloucestershire County Council website. We will always strive to be open. Since the issues with Berkeley Close not being gritted or cleared in December, we petitioned our local councillors and MP plus had an article published in Gloucestershire Live; our Year 6s wrote a very mature and persuasive letter to Sir Geoffrey Clifton-Brown. Unfortunately, despite this, we have been told that Berkeley Close will not be added to the gritting route. Thank you to the governors, staff, parents and children who have supported us in this endeavour.

Safeguarding

To enhance our safeguarding duties and vision in school, we work with external partners such as social workers, Gloucestershire County Council, the NSPCC, the police digital harm reduction officer, Lizzie Bean from Beanology, our community police officers and the police Schoolbeat officer. We are also committed to overcoming misogyny and sexual harassment, and specifically include these important issues in our sex and relationship education sessions with Years 5 and 6.

Co-op Community Food

Over the past few years we have developed a great relationship with the local Co-op in South Cerney. Every Thursday we are able to collect food that is reduced and would normally be wasted if it was not sold by the end of the day. We distribute this food to families within our school community, between 5pm and 6pm. We do not know what food we will receive and so the amount of food we collect can vary from week to week. Last week for example we delivered food to a family that was valued at £80 but on another week we have also collected food worth £180. This does mean that you need to have freed some space in your freezer as some of the meat and fridge items need to be frozen that day in order to preserve them.

We understand that at the moment some families may be finding it difficult to make ends meet, especially with the recent price rise in fuel and bills. If you think that you would benefit from one of these food deliveries, then please do contact me either directly via email or through the school office. All information is confidential and the Co-op do not ask for details of who we are delivering the food.

Jo Jones (Family Liaison Officer)

Jjones @annedwardsprimary.co.uk

Staffing Update

We recently bid farewell to one of our teaching assistants, Mrs Ann Ford, who had worked with the younger children for the last eighteen months having tried to leave once before. We are very grateful for all of Mrs Ford's hard work and care for the children during this time, and, of course, her singing!

Someone else who has worked at Ann Edwards before is Mrs Kerry Blackwell, who returned last week as a 1:1 teaching assistant in Holly Class and MDSA. Welcome back aboard Mrs Blackwell!



Keeping You Informed


As well as regular updates and sharing on Class Dojo plus staff being available at drop-off and pick-up, we also hold parent-teacher consultations in the autumn and spring terms and send annual pupil reports home in the summer. When Covid restrictions were eased, I surveyed parents and carers on a number of issues which included whether to return to face-to-face parents' evenings or continue with the ten-minute phone calls. At the time, the majority of parents and carers opted for the latter and so we have continued with phone calls. I have received feedback this year from people who have found this really convenient, for example making the call in the car outside work and helping with alleviating the need for childcare, as well as some more recently requesting a return to face-to-face meetings. I can say that continuing with the phone calls has enabled consultations to go ahead on several occasions where the teacher was unable to be in school, which otherwise would have been postponed. However, in the summer I will survey you all again around various aspects of how you feel we are working currently as a school and you will be asked about parent-teacher consultations for next academic year. I will also seek staff feedback and communicate the outcome with you all.

This year, we have moved away from providing mid-year reports to avoid duplication as teachers will be able to inform about attainment and effort, among other important areas, when they speak to you on 28th and 30th March. Schools are only required to submit one report per year.

Did you know?

...That you can find more information about our Religious Education (RE) curriculum [here](#).

Yours Sincerely



Ian Moore
Headteacher

Key Dates:

Strike Action

Strike Action

Red Nose Day

PTA Mother's Day Sale

Tempest Class Photos

KS1 Cotswold Wildlife Park Trip

Prayer Space Week – Spirituality garden focus

Parents' Evening - 10-minute phone calls

Easter Church Service (Yr3/4 parents/carers)

Last day of term

Easter Holidays

First day of term

Yr5 Cycling Proficiency

Tuesday 25th April

KS1 SATS

Bank Holiday

PTA King's Coronation Fete

Bank Holiday for the Coronation

KS2 SATS

Last day of term

PTA Street Fair Family BBQ

Half Term

Yr4 Multiplication Check

Inset Day

First day of term

Yr1 Phonic Screening

EYFS New parents meeting

Experience Church Yr1 & Yr2

Year 6 Leavers Service – Gloucester Cathedral

Armed Forces Day

Sports Day

Yr6 dress rehearsal to school

Wednesday 15th March – school open to Y2 and 6 children and their siblings

Thursday 16th March – school open to specific groups by invitation

Friday 17th March

Friday 17th March

Tuesday 21st March

Wednesday 22nd March

W/C 27th March – am or pm session

Tuesday 28th & Thursday 30th March

Friday 31st March 9.30am – 10.30am

Friday 31st March (1.30pm finish)

Monday 3rd April – Friday 14th April

Monday 17th April

Monday 17th April – Friday 28th April

EYFS/Y6 height and weight checks (date change)

1-31st May

Monday 1st May

Thursday 4th May 5pm – 6.30pm

Monday 8th May

W/C 8th May

Friday 26th May (3pm finish)

Sunday 28th May

Monday 29th May – Friday 2nd June

W/C 5th June – 3 week window

Monday 5th June

Tuesday 6th June

W/C 12th June

Tuesday 13th June

Wednesday 14th June

Wednesday 14th June

Friday 23rd June

Friday 7th July

Monday 10th July Pm

Yr6 performances to parents
Prayer space week
Y6 Leaving event
Last day of term

Tuesday 11th July PM and Thursday 13th July evening
W/C 17th July
Monday 24th July
Tuesday 25th July (1.30pm finish)

