



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 16th June 2023

Newsletter No 14

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Dear Parents and Carers

What a lovely, sunny week we are having! The summer term is certainly in full swing, with lots of amazing learning, thinking, performing and creating going on all around the school site, both inside and out. It is a term of contrasts, with our welcome evening for the new EYFS families being followed the morning after by the Year 6 Leavers' Service at Gloucester Cathedral with lots of other Church of England schools. We are also saying goodbye to members of staff and working with new ones as they prepare to join us in September. It's an exciting time!

Our value this term is Creativity. We have explored the Christian idea of God the Creator as well as the idea of Christians being expected to develop and use their talents to live life in all its fullness (John 10:10) and to benefit others. We have thought of creativity not just in the creative arts (although that is, of course, important) but also creative thinking in everything from our Philosophy 4 Children (P4C) lessons to mathematics and everything in between, as well as being creative in solving problems that may arise on the playground between children. As ever, we are exploring this value through whole-school collective worship, exploration of our regular Big Questions in classes and through P4C, culminating in children from across the school being awarded a values certification in our Gold Book achievement assembly on a Friday afternoon. I lead collective worship, often supported by the children in some capacity, and we also enjoyed Reverence McKenzie leading us on Monday to learn about Pentecost. Next week, we have Lizzie Glover from the Baptist Church, a regular visitor, leading Monday's worship as well as being joined by Elizabeth Sedgwick, Commanding Officer at Duke of Gloucester Barracks, leading us on Wednesday ahead of Armed Forces Day. We also have our weekly Open the Book worship on a Tuesday led by members of the congregation of All Hallows Church and a class each week, based around a particular bible story (with a message...and costumes!). This week it was Holly Class' turn. Throughout our collective worships, we are enjoying lots of celebration and reflection through song, particularly iSing Pop! (Boy, can Ann Edwards children sing!).

The ethos committee (made up of myself, Reverend McKenzie and staff and governor representatives) is currently exploring ways of increasing opportunities for our community to have increased experience of our Christian distinctiveness and the life of the church. For example, we now invite parents and carers from across the school, depending on the term, to join our end-of-term church services, and we will continue this next year. We are also currently considering inviting you to experience one of our Open the Book sessions per class each year (further information to follow).



Please also find the latest PTA newsletter attached with this newsletter. I would like to give genuine, huge thanks to our wonderful PTA – putting the FUN into fundraising! You are amazing and are making such a difference.

Governor Monitoring Summary

Our governors body works with the school to help us be the best we can be for your children. Each governor has a specific responsibility, for example for something such as finance, SEND or safeguarding, or for a curriculum subject such as science. Governors come into school regularly to monitor different aspects of our operation, linked to the school development plan. At our meeting on Wednesday night, the following summary was shared of governor monitoring themes for 2022-23.

During 22/23 monitoring forms have been filed for a variety of subject by several governors. Forms have also been completed for church visits and sports visits, safeguarding and pupil premium to mention but a few. During visits governors have spoken with staff and children hoping to work with them to better understand the school and build upon our relationships with the staff and children.

When reading all the forms submitted to the clerk during this academic year these were the main celebrations:

- Staff work hard and know the children well
- The school is a happy place to be
- Children’s well-being is a key focus
- Dedicated staff
- Focussed and productive learning
- Children are proud of their school and this is celebrated
- Learning and achieving in a caring community

Governors have identified the following areas for future monitoring and support:

- Maximising the number of teaching assistants during a time of significant budgetary pressure and county-wide recruitment challenges
- Finalising the current review of the two-year curriculum cycle ready for September 2023
- Staff wellbeing and workload

Governance is a key part of the leadership and management of the school and your feedback will be sought on this in the forthcoming survey.

Parent/Carer Teacher Meetings, Assessment and Reporting

After consulting with parent governors as well as teachers, I would like to share the following summary ready for the new academic year so that expectations are clear. Please note that the consultation generated a variety of contrasting views and I have reflected and worked hard to take on board opinions balanced with practical considerations to build the following programme.

September	We begin the year with a 'Meet the Teacher' session straight after school in the first week back for children in Years 1 to 6. Families of each Reception child are offered a home visit.
October	We hold our first parents' evening via telephone. Feedback to me has been that there is often less to say here and it's more of a 'getting to know you' and 'how your child has settled in' conversation. There is also less work in books to see at this stage.
January	We hold a 'book look' like we did this year, where parents and carers can come into school to celebrate their children’s books with them.
April	Face-to-face parents' evenings in school - parents and carers look through their child/ren's books and then meet with the teacher. This will include discussions around attendance (as required) and key priorities for the remainder of the academic year.

This programme ties in to the following assessment schedule.

You should expect assessment information three times a year: a general update in the autumn then more detailed in the spring and summer. Autumn and spring are via parents' evening and the summer via the end-of-year annual



report. The timing is the autumn parents' evening is arranged so that we can feedback on how children have settled in, but our first formal assessment point takes place at the end of the long term. However, we do baseline the children in September so we can update parents and carers on that, specifically any deviation from the previous end of year information.

We don't necessarily share 'scores' from any more formal tests used but rather whether a child is significantly below, working towards age-related expectation, currently working at age-related expectation or working at greater depth. We also celebrate progress for children irrespective of their attainment. We run assessments all through the year, for example end of unit maths assessments, to inform our ongoing teacher assessments and to enable us to make the necessary adaptations. However, we have three, more formal, assessment points where teachers collate all of the evidence from across the term to state where they are at that point. Teachers and leaders then review and analyse this information to identify changes to quality first teaching, establish the intervention timetable and inform any referrals.

Sports Day

Thank you for your patience while we have finalised arrangements for Sports Day this year. We have, again, been busy reflecting, consulting and planning to make this event as positive as possible for all of our children.

Parents and carers are invited to attend Sports Day on Thursday 6th July. The day will begin with all year groups taking part in the field events from 10:00 - 11:30. We will resume after a lunch break, at which point the whole school will participate in track events from 1:00 - 2:45pm.

Your child will need to come to school in PE kit wearing a t-shirt in their house colour. Please also be prepared for the weather: with sun hats, water bottles and sun lotion as required. (And possibly an umbrella, if last year is anything to go by!)

As the weather is often unpredictable, we are keen to source gazebos for the day to offer shelter for the children. If you are able to lend a gazebo for sports day, please do get in touch with the office staff.

As ever, we appreciate feedback and would like to continue to offer an enjoyable experience catering for all. We understand that taking part in such events, with an audience, can be overwhelming for some Ann Edwards' pupils. With this in mind, we would like to offer a **Quiet Sports Day experience** for any pupils and families that would benefit from this. Please let your class teacher know as soon as possible if this is something you would be interested in for your child. This session will only be open for a small number of children and their families and will run from **09:00 - 09:45**.

We are really looking forward to it!

Safeguarding

Please have a look at this helpful guidance from the NSPCC (National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children): *Talking about difficult topics - How to start the conversations about 'difficult' subjects that you need to have if you want to keep your children safe.*

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/talking-about-difficult-topics/>

Staff Update

At the end of this term, we will be saying farewell to the wonderful Mrs Faye Collins. Mrs Collins is our SENDCo (special educational needs and disabilities coordinator) as well as a part-time class teacher. During her seven years at Ann Edwards, Faye has progressed from a newly qualified teacher to a member of the senior leadership team, and is now set to leave the world of mainstream primary education behind to begin work in an alternative provision setting closer to her home. Mrs Collins and I share a vision of inclusion and child welfare and her legacy is guaranteed to live on after she departs. I will update you on SENDCo arrangements for the Autumn term when I share the new staff list.

The deputy headteacher, Miss Lund, is currently signed off work unwell. Huge thanks to Mrs Gleeson, who usually teaches Year 2 each Thursday and Friday, for stepping up to teach full-time for so long, including through Year 2 SATs.

Mr Mobey remains off work due to illness; we are in regular contact and he is aware of how much he is missed.

I was very pleased to appoint Mrs Caroline Broad and Miss Amber McGrory to join our teaching team for September. Also, Mrs Jacki Pattenden, who currently provides specialist music teaching for Years 3 and 4, will be staying with us for another year, working a day per week. We have also been fortunate this year to have benefitted from Miss Becky Parkes stepping into Holly Class back in January and she will be staying with us for a day per week next year to continue to spread her amazingness. Additionally, Mrs Kerry Blackwell and Mrs Lorna Buchanan, both currently on our fantastic staff team, will be teaching part-time next year. We have a really strong teaching team in place.

Next year, Mrs Amy Connolly will continue to lead the Early Years Foundation Stage, oracy P4C but will also be taking over the leadership of early reading and phonics when Miss Ward moves on. Mrs Vicki Roseblade will continue to lead mathematics but will also be stepping up to lead Key Stage 1. This middle leadership team will be completed by Mrs Tina Jones, who will lead Key Stage 2, Key Stage 2 reading and continue her leadership of music.

Along with myself, the deputy headteacher and SENDCo, the senior leadership team will comprise Mrs Emma Jones, our school business manager, along with Mrs Jo Jones (yes, having the surname *Jones* is a key pre-requisite for promotion at Ann Edwards!). The latter Mrs Jones' job-title will change from Family Liaison Officer to the warmer-sounding and more accurate Home-School Link Worker, and she will continue to be Children's Mental Health Lead.

As ever, the children will have two 'shuffle-up' sessions towards the end of term for them to spend time with their new teachers, with us providing additional transition support for some children based on our knowledge of what will best support them. We will inform you of arrangements for next year in July which, in my experience across a number of schools, works well and also allows sufficient time for full planning and refining of arrangements rather than communicating too early and being at risk of having to then make changes.

Did you know?

...That you can find more information about our Early Year Foundation Stage curriculum [here](#). We are currently reviewing our two-year cycle for all curriculum subjects and will update you ready for the new academic year.

Yours Sincerely



Ian Moore
Headteacher

Our PTA Amazon wishlist can be accessed here: list can be accessed [here](#):

Key Dates:

Armed Forces Day	Friday 23rd June
Sports Day	Thursday 6 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 for parents and carers	Monday 24 th July, pm
Last day of term	Tuesday 25th July (1.30pm finish)
First day of 2023-4 academic year	Tuesday 5 th September for Y1 to Y6 (YR details to follow)

