

Newsletter - 22nd September 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you have all seen the information sent home yesterday about Forest School. These sessions will be up and running from next week for year 1 and 2 children. Thank you for your patience as we worked out how to staff these sessions. We know how valuable these sessions are for children to enhance their learning experience. It has been a challenge to find a suitable alternative to staffing since Easter and Wild Explorer enabled us to keep the outdoor learning going during the summer term, but we didn't have the trained leader to officially call it Forest School. I am very excited to now be able to offer the Forest School sessions with a trained leader and therefore a fire! Please see the email from yesterday giving more detail about clothing, and dates (which are also below).



As you all know this week we were inspected by Ofsted. You will know from recent media coverage Ofsted has made some changes to the way they inspect schools, and I am happy to say our inspector really did look after all the staff's well-being during the inspection to make it as pleasant an experience as it could be. I wanted to thank you all for your kindness and support over the past few days and for completing the parent survey. You can view the results to this online and see we had 99% of parents would recommend us, so we are blown away! Many thanks also for all the sweet treats given for the staff from parents, three days of cakes and chocolate definitely helped get us all through! I cannot give you any more information as the outcome must remain confidential until the report is published. I will be able to share the outcome with you in about 25 days time. I can say that your children were fantastic during the inspection and made us all very proud.

Sorry for the short notice to cancel the first 'Read with me' session on Wednesday. This will now take place next **Wednesday 27th September at 8.50 - 9.05am**. These sessions are an opportunity for parents and carers to come into school and share a book with your child. This will be for year 1 and 2 children initially this term. Reception children will join in with these sessions once they are fully settled into school. Mrs Lucy Whiffin, Headteacher

Harvest Celebration

On **Monday 9th October** we will be holding a harvest celebration at St Johns Church. It will start at **2.00pm**. The children in year 1 and 2 will be walked down to the church. If you can support your child's class by helping them walk it would be much appreciated, please talk to the class teacher.

We are also asking for donations of food to be bought into school on this day (tins or packets). These donation will go to Chichester Food Bank.

Behaviour Celebrations

As a school we want to build on our recognitions for children who try the best in class and show kindness at all times to others. This week we have introduced positive notes which will be used by any adult at school to celebrate achievements. These will be given to children to bring home. Please join us in really celebrating these with your child, and make a big fuss about these as we do in school.

Our 'recognition boards' are having a really positive impact on children and are being used to teach children about the behaviours we are expecting them to show during learning. This is the opposite to an older approach of names being written on a board for negative behaviours and is all about 'flipping the script' for children as we recognise the positive behaviours over the negative ones.

Please be assured that this does not mean the negative behaviours are not being dealt with. We have very high expectations for behaviour which was picked up by the Ofsted inspection, and know children need clear and consistent rules and boundaries. As we review our behaviour policy this term, we will be seeking parent's views. We will soon be sending a copy of the behaviour policy home for your comments.

Dates for your Diary

September

Wednesday 27th September - Read with me @ 8.50am Y1 and 2

October

Wednesday 4th October - Author Visit (see letter sent yesterday) Y1 and 2

Monday 9th October—Harvest Celebration 2.00pm @ St Johns'

Wednesday 11th October—6 Weeks in Meeting for Reception

Parents Tea and coffee from 8.45 am

Thursday 12th October—Photo day

Monday 23rd - Friday 27th October —HALF TERM BREAK

Monday 30th October 2023 INSET DAY Tuesday 31st October—Return to school

Remaining INSET DAYS 2023—2024:

Monday 30th October 2023 Tuesday 2nd January 2024

Monday 19th February 2024 Monday 3rd June 2024

CHRISTMAS DATES TO FOLLOW IN NEXT NEWSLETTER

Forest School

Here are the dates again for the Forest School sessions for year 1 and 2, classes will alternate fortnightly:

Year 1 morning session

Thursday 28th September—Hedgehogs Class

Thursday 5th October—Owls Class

Thursday 12th October—Hedgehogs Class

Thursday 19th October—Owls Class

Year 2 afternoon session

Thursday 28th September—Squirrels Class

Thursday 5th October—Badgers Class

Thursday 12th October—Squirrels Class

Thursday 19th October—Badgers Class

Children are to come to school **dressed in their Forest School kit on these days. They will stay in their Forest School clothes all day so no need for a change of clothes.** This needs to include long sleeve tops and long bottoms, waterproof jacket and trousers and suitable shoes—walking boots or wellie boots.