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*Be strong and
courageous.....for
the Lord your God is
with you*

Tuesday 6th February 2024

Headteacher's Newsletter No 7

Dear Parent/Carer



Unbelievably it is February and January has come and gone in a flash. School has been very busy and the children have started the term with enthusiasm and determination. I am optimistic that they will carry this positive attitude into February and the rest of the year.

Whole School Blessing – Tuesday 16 January -9.00am

Father Anthony Searle led a whole school blessing in January which was a great way to start the year. Rev Searle, Robyn Connelly, were joined by a number of parents as we visited all the classes and key areas of the school, prayers were read by the children and Father Searle blessed all the areas in the school.

Then the whole school gathered in the hall, received a whole school blessing and sang 'My God is a Great Big God,' whole heartedly. The children responded with some very thoughtful prayers for their year groups and enjoyed the experience of being sprinkled with Holy Water.



This half term our Christian Value is:
'Forgiveness'

TALK ABOUT
FORGIVENESS TOGETHER.

Everyone makes mistakes, it's part of being human. Sometimes our mistakes hurt others and then we need to say sorry. Sometimes mistakes made by other people hurt us. When this happens we need to be able to forgive. Forgiveness can be difficult and costly but without it a new start is impossible.

Talk together about:

- A time when you needed to say sorry
- A time you didn't say sorry but wish you had
- A time when you had to forgive someone who had hurt or upset you
- How it feels when you are given a new start because someone has forgiven you

Our Behaviour for Learning is: **'Resilience'** and
our Vision Character is: **'Bounce Back Badger'**





www.freshstartcatering.uk

Thank you to those of you who have registered for Fresh Start hot school meal service which starts immediately after half term. I was pleased to see so many of you attended the 'Come and Taste' session after school yesterday, I hope you enjoyed a small sample of what will be on offer.

The school Council were also invited to taste the food and to ask questions that they had collected from their classes. They asked some really good questions and really enjoyed the food. They all cleaned their plates completely of food. When asked what they thought we had a number of responses such as; 'This is the best food I have ever tasted' and 'Delicious'. They then returned to their classes to share their experiences.

I am pleased to confirm that the menus are available and you may now order for next half term. A reminder that you must order by Thursday at 12pm for the following week. It is only the 'deli' that can be ordered on the day by 9am.

Start of School Day

As you are aware this term we introduced a soft start which enables the children to come straight in to school between 8.30 and 8.45 am. School starts promptly at 8.45am.

However, there are still a number of children who are arriving after 8.45am and coming in through the office. Whilst we are currently not signing children in as unauthorised late until 8.55am, the children are still marked as late in the register and it does cause disturbance when children are entering the class when the majority are settled. Children may also miss important information at the start of the day. It is understood that there may occasionally be unavoidable lateness but please note that school starts for everybody at 8.45am.

NSPCC Number Day

Thank you to everyone for getting so involved in NSPCC Number Day 2024, we are pleased to say we raised **£119.75** for the NSPCC! Children had great fun completing maths activities based around carrots and potatoes they brought in, as well as a very tense whole school live competition to find the longest carrot (35cm) and heaviest potato (1054g)! We had 'Who wants to be a Mathionaire' quizzes and maths based on different picture books - this included working out how many legs there were at an animal party, trying to draw one million jelly beans on the playground and organising penguins into triangles! We all had a lot of maths fun, while supporting a great cause.

Children's Mental Health Week

This week we are celebrating Children's Mental Health Week by taking part in various daily activities based around the '5 Ways to Wellbeing' that our Peer Mentors introduced us to this half term. It is important that our children have strategies to look after their mental wellbeing and understand that there are lots of people they can talk to if they need support. On Friday, we will be taking part in a whole school 'active' session, supporting both our physical and mental health and having fun!



Thank you

Last Friday we received a large delivery just as parents were arriving for the end of day collection. Mrs Moorhouse and Mrs Allard in the office would like to say an enormous thank you to all the parents who very kindly stopped and helped unload the lorry. It was really appreciated.

Move More in 24

Please see below some useful information from Buckinghamshire Council which I have been asked to share with you.

This time of year, there is often pressure to set yourself what can be unrealistic goals with regards to health and fitness. BetterPoints is there to encourage you to incorporate more physical activity into your everyday lives. And through using the free BetterPoints app, you can be rewarded for doing so, adding motivation to continue the changes long term.

By starting the new year with a short-term goal of being more active, the hope is that people will continue to build on the habits they have started and keep up the good work throughout the rest of the year and beyond.

Just a few small changes can make a huge difference. It doesn't have to involve signing up for fitness classes or gym memberships, although you can do this if you want. It can be as simple as walking the children to school, playing a game of catch with your children, heading to the local park at the weekend or breaking up long periods of sitting to get your body moving. Just doing something to increase your heart rate for a short time can have so many benefits.

BetterPoints is a free mobile app that works as a motivational tool to encourage people to take part in more physical activity by offering rewards.

To date more than 3,000 Bucks residents have downloaded the app which sees them earning BetterPoints for being active, accessing local leisure facilities and even taking the bus for more sustainable ways to travel in the county. The points earned can be converted into vouchers to spend in local and national high street shops or given to local charities as a monetary donation.

According to current data, one adult in every five in Buckinghamshire is currently inactive, spending less than 30 minutes a week doing any form of activity. A lack of physical activity can lead to serious health concerns such as heart disease, type 2 diabetes and some cancers. It can also have a long-lasting impact on mental and physical wellbeing.

If you want to find out more and 'Move More in 24', download the [BetterPoints](#) app today.

End of Term

A reminder that we break up on Friday 9th February at 3.15pm and return to school on Monday 19th February. I hope you all have an enjoyable half term break.

A few date reminders

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| • Friday 9 th February | Break up for Half Term 3.15pm |
| • Monday 19 th February | Start of Spring 2 nd Half Term |
| • Tuesday 27 th February | Year R Hogshaw Farm Trip |
| • Thursday 29 th February | Year 3 The Living Rainforest Trip |
| • Monday 4 th to Friday 8 th March | Assessment Week Year 1 - 5 |
| • Monday 4 th to Friday 8 th March | Book Week |



- Tuesday 5th March
- Thursday 7th March
- Friday 8th March

Cake Sale Year R, 3 and 5
World Book Day
Friends School Disco

Yours sincerely



Celine Hawkins
Headteacher



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