

## **Let's Celebrate!**

The first half term has now been completed and with that, it has been amazing to see all the wonderful work being completed, learning happening and attitudes to learning developing!

This half term has seen the beginnings of this term's topic, 'Create' which showcases the children's artistic abilities and we have had a number of visitors, for example musicians from 'Rock Steady', have come in and demonstrated their amazing music and 'Perform' have held drama workshops with each class. The Southampton art gallery brought in specialist knowledge to support our pupils in becoming amazing sculptors. I loved seeing the Year Six excel at Bikeability as well as the new Year R classes settling into school and new routines. I would also like to say a huge 'thank you' to everyone who was able to donate food for Ringwood Foodbank via the Harvest festivals and to those who have also been able to participate in the Rotary Club's shoe box appeal. Your generosity is really appreciated!



## **Federation Improvement Plans!**

All schools are continually evaluating the impact of the provision they offer and this feeds into a school development plan, which helps focus the Federation on the areas we can build upon. This year, there are a great many things we will be working on, but there are four main key areas which we are prioritising over the coming terms.

- Maths - Mr Butcher (from Sopley) is leading on developing the teaching and learning across the whole Federation. This is the second year he has been moving our Math teaching forward, working alongside the Solent Math hub (A national organisation, supporting collaborative developments and research in Math Teaching). Our next big push will be focussing on implementing 'Math Mastery in years 4 and 5, to promote fluency when dealing with mathematical representations, as well as developing strategies to support problem solving.
- Assessment - We are planning to look at all our methods of 'in the moment assessment' of children, to ensure that the Federation has a consistent approach across all classes.
- Curriculum - As you may know, a great deal of work has gone into the Federation's curriculum and we need to ensure that we embed the best of our offer, evaluate its impact on outcomes, and seek further opportunities to make it even better.
- Vision and Values - We are going to be reviewing the Federation vision, to ensure that there is a clarity of purpose understood by all, as well as our associate values, which will seek to impact on how we interact, behave, learn and work at school.



### **Staffing News:**

As a new Headteacher to the Federation, I was thrilled to be able to appoint a new deputy head. We are excited to announce that Miss Sewell, a current assistant head at another Federation, will be our new Deputy Head and Inclusion Lead. She will be joining the Federation from the 1st of January.

Miss Biddle (Sopley) will also be returning from maternity leave and returning to her post as Hedgehogs Class teacher. To ensure that we have consistency for the class, Miss Towers will continue to be Hedgehogs class teacher until December. As Miss Biddle works Monday to Wednesday, this will provide us time to recruit a great teacher to lead teaching and learning for the remainder of the week, as well as to ensure that there is a smooth handover of class responsibility.

We are also thrilled to welcome new teaching assistants to Burley, Miss Monsalve and Miss Radford, who have joined the team to support with teaching and learning across all classes.



### **Morning Snack**

We are very fortunate that our children in Key Stage One are provided with a free fruit snack from the DfE. Each morning, we do provide a time for all children to have a healthy snack at school, which many children bring in from home. In order to promote a healthy lifestyle, we would ask for this to be a healthy snack - ideally a piece of fruit or vegetable. For some children, items such as dried fruit, fruit yo yo's etc can also be a good alternative. We will be talking to the children about this in school and explaining that chocolate, crisps, sweets, biscuits and cake will not allowed for morning snack and will need to be kept in lunch boxes until lunch (unless there is a specific medical/educational reason for this, which has been discussed with the class teacher).



### **Holiday and Attendance.**

In Hampshire, I have worked alongside a number of primary and secondary schools to ensure that a consistent approach to authorised absence is taken. With those schools, there is a collective agreement that holidays will not be authorised for absence. For further guidance on attendance please could I refer our families to the Hampshire guidance on authorised leave. <https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/behaviour-attendance-parents>



### **Parent Forums**

Thank you again to those parents who were able to attend our first parent forums. As a Federation, we have already acted on a number of key points raised and investigated options to move forward. I am planning for our next forums to take the same format as before and these are planned to take place on:

**Monday 10th November @ Sopley - 4.30 p.m.**

**Wednesday 12th November @ Sopley - 2.30 p.m.**

**Friday 14th November @ Burley - 2.30 p.m.**

As before, parents are welcome to attend any forum, regardless of school, as they are designed to look at wider aspects of school life. If you feel you would like to talk about individual children, please raise this with your child's teacher on a 1:1 basis.

At these meetings, I will feed back on actions and thinking from the last forums and asking:

- What is going well ?
- What needs further thinking ?



### **Homework:**

Thank you to all those who helped fill in our survey - I would like to reassure you that no decisions regarding home learning have taken place yet - this was solely to gain a better understanding of what our families views were. As a Federation, we aim to be crystal clear on our take regarding home learning and ensure there is a consistent approach to homework across the school. This is an ongoing line of enquiry and once we have established our policy on home learning, we shall share with all our families.



### **Filming!**

You have seen our recent email regarding the filming of our wonderful schools - they are not quite ready yet, but I am very excited to share these with you soon! If you know anyone who is looking for a school place for September, I would urge you to encourage them to pay us a visit! (You could also tell them about our Facebook page and Instagram page (Burley only)).



### **Parking in the Forest**

Our families in Burley will have seen the recent news about proposed parking charges in the New Forest. We have written to the Forestry Commission to detail the potential impact on our Federation and urged them to consider permit parking for the start and end of school day for our families. I have received a reply and will be meeting with the Commission soon to discuss a path forward. I shall keep you posted on updates regarding this matter.



## PE

Mrs Hodge and I are also developing our P.E strategy to make best use of ring-fenced funding all schools receive to promote physical activity within schools. We are very much looking forward to sharing how we will be using this funding over the year.

For those who are unaware of how schools are directed to use the P.E funding, the conditions of this grant state that schools should

- support all children and young people to live healthy, active lives
- make participation in PE and school sport easier
- make sure all children can achieve and thrive through increased physical activity and sport, no matter their background or ability
- improve children's health, wellbeing, personal development and academic attainment
- embed the foundations of positive and enjoyable participation in regular physical activity.

### The UK Chief Medical Officers recommend:

- children and young people should take part in moderate to vigorous intensity physical activity for at least 60 minutes every day
- disabled children and young people should take part in 20 minutes of physical activity per day

This is underpinned by the statutory National Curriculum, which states:

### **Purpose of study**

A high-quality physical education curriculum inspires all pupils to succeed and excel in competitive sport and other physically demanding activities. It should provide opportunities for pupils to become physically confident in a way which supports their health and fitness. Opportunities to compete in sport and other activities build character and help to embed values such as fairness and respect.

### **Aims**

The national curriculum for physical education aims to ensure that all pupils:

- develop competence to excel in a broad range of physical activities
- are physically active for sustained periods of time
- engage in competitive sports and activities
- lead healthy, active lives

## Half Term

Finally - It has been a joy to see how hard the children have been working this half term - I wish you all a well deserved break this half term!

