

End of Autumn Term Newsletter

Let's Celebrate!

I cannot believe it is Christmas, which means we are a third way through the school year! It has been lovely to see the children in full swings of learning! My particular thanks goes to all the teachers who supported with the recent residential trip - I was privileged enough to visit on Wednesday night and see all the children having a great time (and I even got to attend the residential disco!) and a huge 'thank you' to all our great parent groups who have helped fund raise and organise such a lovely experience, taking all of the children to the Pantomime.



Federation Improvement Plans

As mentioned before, there are always lots of plans afoot and every school, across the land, will be working on their improvements - here's a little update on ours...

Maths - Mr Butcher (from Sopley) has been using our staff meeting time to teach the teachers about problem solving. He has shared lots of examples with the wider team and supported all the teachers in developing particular strategies to support all children from Year R to Year 6 with tackling new and ever increasing problems! Our Local Authority math advisor has undertaken monitoring with Mr Butcher and was really pleased at the progress seen and consistency of our approach. Next term, Mr Butcher will be visiting classes to see where our practice is working best and plan out next steps.

Curriculum - The curriculum is an ever developing project. Mr James (Sopley), Mrs Shutler (Burley) and I have been reviewing the curriculum design for our Year R and 1 class, to ensure that we are able to provide consistency of provision across our Federation. We are also looking to ensure that our curriculum maps are set up so that they are easy for all to understand, use and interpret. Teachers have been working together to plan out the next term's learning in more detail and curriculum maps will be making their way to all our families very soon in the new term!

Vision and Values - Thank you to everyone who was able to take some time and feedback on our last survey. I am in the process of collating key ideas and thoughts from staff, parents and

children before the Governors and I finalise our vision for the federation, for the next few years. This will also include looking at our values and ensuring that our values support our developing children within our schools. We are aiming to share this work next term and we are looking forward to talking to the children more about how this will further shape our provision in our schools.

Assessment - As we get to the end of term, all teachers undertake what is called 'Summative Assessments' This is a point where teachers 'sum up' what children have achieved and help inform the whole school thinking as to where alterations to provision and staffing may need to be made. We have also invited in our lead learning partner (from the Local Authority) to refresh our training on some key assessment principles. This will lead us onto ensuring that all classes are using success criteria to support children in self identifying where they have been successful in their work and what could have made their work even better.



Staffing News

This half term there have also been a number of changes. We are really sad to be saying goodbye to Mr Floyd, who is moving to a school much closer to home. He has played an essential part in developing both schools and making them presentable and safe and he will be really missed. We are thrilled to announce that his replacement, Mr Applegarth-Jones has already started and I'm sure all the children will get to know him very well soon!

Our new Deputy will also be starting in January. Miss Sewell has already visited the schools since her appointment to work alongside myself as part of ongoing self evaluation work. Although Miss Sewell will be covering in some classes, she is predominantly non-class based and will help create a bit more capacity within the leadership team. She will be taking on the role of SENCO as part of her role, as well as becoming one of our Designated Safeguarding Leads and other various roles. Miss Sewell and I will be together at the gates for the first few weeks, whilst she settles in.

Mrs Bleakley will now be based at Burley and will teach in Kestrels class on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, whilst Mrs Hodge teaches on Wednesday afternoon, Thursday and Friday. Mrs

Bleakley will also be teaching in Mrs Carey's class every Friday (as Mrs Carey will return to working four days a week).

We are also thrilled that Miss Towers will be remaining with us for a bit longer. Miss Towers will continue teaching in Hedgehogs on a Wednesday Afternoon, Thursday and Friday and Mrs Biddle, who has now fully returned from her maternity leave, will be teaching on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Miss Towers will also be teaching in Mr James' class on a Wednesday morning, while he plans the next week's learning.



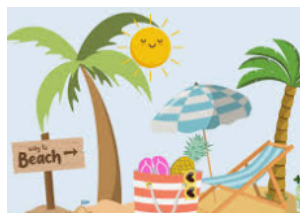
Clubs

Next half term we will be running lots of clubs for 5 weeks. The aim of this is for every child to have the opportunity to participate in a club for half a term. Mrs Hodge (Burley) has been working hard behind the scenes to organise this and will be coordinating the team to help make this a success!

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>

Please note that one session equates to a morning or an afternoon and therefore if your child is not in school as they are on holiday for 5 days, this equals to 10 sessions. Penalty Notices can be issued for a pupil who has had 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in the last 10 school week period and unauthorised absence also includes where children come into school later (after 09.00 a.m.) and there is a 'U' in the register



Parents Forums

Thank you again to those parents who were able to attend our first parents forums. Our next forum will be focussing primarily on teaching and learning and I am really interested in gaining views on some key questions including:

- What more could the school do to support parental understanding of how to best support their child with their learning journey?
- What resources are/are not useful for supporting learning
- Would additional training be useful and if so what would this look like?
- Which aspects of the curriculum are working well?
- What more could be done?

The dates of the next forums are as follows ;

Tuesday 27th January @ Sopley - 9.00am

Thursday 29th January @ Burley - 9.00am

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.



Homework

Thank you again for everyone who responded to our survey regarding homework, there was a wide range of responses and strong views for and against home learning. After Christmas, we are going to be trialling an online platform to support teaching and learning in class, but also provide a platform to promote home learning. We will initially be trialling using 'Reading Eggs' in Year R and 1 and 'Century' in Years 5 and 6. Both of these we are keen to seek feedback on and we shall write and ask about impact on your child's learning, ease of use and enthusiasm before committing.

We would be really interested in finding out about how your child receives this, manageability and enthusiasm to have a go (or resistance to have go). More information on this will be coming out very soon.



Parking in the forest

Following on from my meeting with the Forestry Commission, I have been assured that there will be an agreement drawn up where parking will not be enforced between certain hours around the school. I have asked for this to be confirmed in a letter, which we can share with our families.



Shoes

From the start of the new term, we kindly ask that all children wear shoes while in the classroom. This is for practical and safety reasons, including:

- Preventing injuries from stepping on staples, pins, stones, or other small objects.
- Avoiding children walking in socks or bare feet to the toilets, which may be wet or unhygienic.
- Ensuring children's feet are protected in the event of an emergency evacuation.

To support this, we ask that each child has two pairs of shoes at school:

1. Outdoor shoes – worn when arriving in the morning (these could be wellies or regular outdoor shoes).
2. Indoor shoes – a hard-soled pair such as plimsolls for use inside the classroom.

Thank you for your cooperation in helping us keep the children safe and comfortable.



Christmas

Finally - It has been a joy to see how hard the children have been working this half term - I wish everyone a merry Christmas and hope all our families are able to relax, reconnect and enjoy this time together.



Key Dates for the Term Ahead.

Monday 5th January	Return to school
Monday 9th February	Year 1 and Year 2 trip to Beaulieu
Tuesday 10th February	Parents Evening
Wednesday 11th February	Parents Evening
Monday 16th to Friday 20th February	Half Term
Monday 23rd February	Inset Day