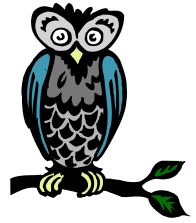




THE OWL



October 2015

Autumn Term

Staffing

For the foreseeable future, until Mrs Gray returns, the Infant class will be taught on 4 days per week, by Miss Fryer. Mrs Rand and Mrs Lawn will continue to teach on Wednesdays. I will continue to keep parents updated.

Clubs

Gardening Club has now finished due to the reduction in daylight hours after school. Board games club and Coding club will continue for the whole of November on Mondays and Tuesdays but will not run in December. I will be teaching recorders, both beginners and those who want to continue from last year, during a lunch time next half term for children in Y2-Y4. Please ask your child to let me know if they would like to be part of the group. Although it is useful for children to have their own recorder, we have some school ones we could loan if your child wants to try it out first. Buntings continues to operate every afternoon until 5.15pm. One day's notice is needed for Fridays, please.



Harvest

Thank you to everyone who supported the Harvest Festival in St Mary's Church. The boxes decorated by the children were very much appreciated and I received some lovely comments from people in the congregation who were impressed by the children's singing ability and behaviour throughout the service. I have been told that the collection totalled £289.46, and the raffle of donated harvest produce raised £147.00, for a total of £436.46. This total will be split equally between the Farming Community Network (FCN) and this year's Bishop's Harvest Appeal (a school for disabled children in Uganda, via Mission Direct). The tinned produce and less perishable items in the boxes were taken to Jimmy's Night Shelter in Cambridge to support homeless people. It was lovely to see so many of you there especially as it was the first service led by the benefice's new Rector, Ruth Pyke. Ruth will be coming in to school after half term to take assembly and we look forward to welcoming her.



Poppies

We will be selling poppies after half term, the poppies will be available in each class, so if your child would like a poppy please make sure they bring a donation with them to school.



Check book bags

We have found that some letters haven't reached home and have been lurking in book bags. Please could you check for letters daily to make sure you haven't missed something important. Although we use Parentmail for most communication, we tend to send hard copies of letters which require a response. There is also a 'letters home' section on the website.

Children in Need

Once again, we will be supporting this charity event in school. Friday 13th November will be a non-uniform day and we are asking children and staff to come to school dressed as their favourite childhood hero for a donation to Children in Need. Please make sure that the costume you choose is suitable to last the whole day and that your child has a coat and shoes for outdoor play. It would be fun for the children to have a cake at snack time. If anyone is able to make cakes with a spotty or Pudsey theme, please would you let Mrs Scally know in the school office.



Volunteer helpers

We would like to revive our bank of volunteer helpers. Previously, parents and others have come into school on either a regular or ad hoc basis to support children's reading, to help with swimming and other sporting activities or simply to give a hand with gardening or outdoor maintenance. There may be other skills you have which would be useful in school to help with perhaps cooking or musical activities. Please have a think about it and let the office know whether you are able to help. All volunteer helpers will need to undertake a safeguarding check and agree to the school's confidentiality policy.

Bag2School

Once again, we are asking you and your friends and family to donate unwanted and outgrown clothes and shoes. School receives money based on the weight of the bags and you benefit from more wardrobe and drawer space. Bags will be available after the holiday and will be collected on the morning of Thursday 26th November. Unfortunately, we cannot store them on the school site so you will need to arrange for the bags to come in to school that morning. A list of acceptable items will be printed on the bag, eg they won't take bedding, but you may use ordinary bin liners as well as the official bags.



Open Afternoon

We will be holding an Open Afternoon between 2pm and 4pm on Saturday 7th November and would like some children to act as ambassadors during the afternoon, either showing visitors round, with supervision, or participating in classroom activities. Please encourage anyone you know who is looking for a school place to come along to the Open Afternoon.

Decorations Day

This will take place on Friday 27th November. In the morning, the children will be put into mixed age groups to make tree decorations and a range of other things for the hall and entrance areas. Children should come to school in suitable clothes; uniform is not needed. This year we are embracing the theme of 'buttons and bows'. If you would like to help on Friday, we would welcome your support either for making in the morning or display during the afternoon. This is usually a fun day and will finish with Celebration Assembly. If you are able to stay after assembly there will be refreshments available in the hall so you can admire the children's efforts. If anyone has any spare buttons or ribbons to make the decorations, please let the office know.



FORS News

We hope you've all had a great return to school this term. FORS have yet again been busy little bees, and this week is no exception. We really enjoyed hosting the Welcome Breakfast, and hope it made a lovely start to your day. Thanks to everyone who made it. Friday brings with it another busy day in FORS Land, starting at 2pm with our AGM.

The AGM is the more sensible side of what we do - it's where we showcase what we've done throughout the past year, and what we've put those funds towards. It gives us a chance to outline plans for the future and, on a personal

note, allows me the opportunity to thank each and every one of you for all the help and support that you've shown both me and the committee. We also elect our new committee for the next academic year, and if this is something you would be interested in, please let a member of FORS know. It's a great opportunity to find out a bit more about what we're actually up to, and we'd love to see you all there.

Never ones to be too serious, we thought we'd follow that sensible session with a more fun and exciting one! From 3:30, the new FORS committee will be hosting their FIRST event. Our family Beetle Drive will run until 5:30, and will include a buffet tea. Tickets are £4 each, with a family ticket costing just £10. Everyone is welcome to try and battle for the crown of Beetle Champion 2015! Please RSVP ASAP to the office!



A few dates for your diary for next term.

On Thursday 19th November, FORS will once again be hosting their Christmas Shopping Boutique. It's a great opportunity to buy some amazing handmade gifts, alongside some of the more luxury goods and the perfect present needed to make Christmas special. Why not start advent off with a bang, and join us for a mince pie and glass of mulled wine? Doors open at 7pm, and it's definitely an evening not to be missed.

And just a week later, on Thursday 26th November, FORS will be holding a Pampered Chef evening at the very gorgeous Pink Geranium in Melbourne. This will be one of your final opportunities to buy Pampered Chef products, as they are leaving the UK market in 2016. Don't miss this chance to grab some truly wonderful items that make perfect gifts for Christmas and support your local school at the same time. More details will follow after half term.

All that's left is to wish you all a lovely half term holiday, and Happy Halloween!

Charlotte Eeles
FORS Chair

Reception Class – Lighthouse Update

Many thanks to everyone who responded to my plea for cardboard tubes recently. As you can see from the photo, the Reception children used them to make some superb lighthouses (with real working lights). The children enjoyed this activity as a culmination of everything they have learned about lighthouses this half term.

Mrs Kershaw



Data Collection Sheets

Please return your annual data collection sheet and adult collection and password form to the school office as soon as possible.

And finally.....

We wish you all a restful half term and look forward to seeing you back at school on Monday 2nd November.

Diary Dates

November:

- 2nd: Return to school
- 2nd: Board Games Club starts (3.15-4.15pm)
- 3rd: Coding Club starts (3.15-4.15pm)
- 4th: FORS meeting (9am)
- 4th: Swimming lessons start
- 7th: Open Afternoon (2-4pm)
- 8th: Remembrance Sunday
- 13th: Children in Need day
- 16th: Individual school photos
- 19th: FORS Christmas Shopping Boutique (7-9pm)
- 23rd: Final Board Games Club
- 24th: Final Coding Club
- 25th: Final Swimming lessons
- 26th: Bags2School collection
- 27th: Decoration Day
- 30th: INSET Day

Diary Dates

December:

- 1st: Return to school
- 8th: Christmas Production – Dress rehearsal (9.15am)
- 9th: FORS Christmas Wrap
- 9th: Christmas Production (2pm)
- 10th: Christmas Production (6pm)
- 16th: Early Years Christmas Performance (10am)
- 18th: Carol Service (1.15pm)
- 18th: Term finishes (2pm)