

Spring 2023 Newsletter

It is hard to believe we are already over halfway through the academic year. There has been so much progress in our improvements and developments in school and we have some exciting opportunities for parents to come and see for themselves what has been happening and also find out more about what have planned next. There will be lots of opportunities for parents to be involved in the development of our very special school.

Staffing update

Unfortunately, Mrs. Porter is still poorly and unable to return to work at the moment. We are conscious of the impact this is having on our children in Acorns so have gone back to the drawing board to look at how we can improve this long term. Miss. Kidd, who teaches Beech Class, is going to take overall responsibility for both classes supported by a very experienced supply teacher, Mrs. Booth and the support staff team of Mrs. Bailey, Mrs. Goodwin, Mrs. McKenna and Mrs. Rashid. Mrs. Robinsworth and I are supporting the team to ensure it goes from strength to strength. There is further information later in this newsletter about some opportunities for parents to come and see the setting and recent developments over the coming half term. As always, we continue to keep Mrs. Porter in our prayers and wish her all the best for her recovery.

and the support staff team of Mrs. Bailey, Mrs. Goodwin, Mrs. McKenna and Mrs. Rashid.

Miss. Mulcock returned to school in January but unfortunately has been poorly since shortly after the Spring Term started. Whilst she was due to work with Oak class, Mrs. Robinsworth returned the teaching Oak class in January and is now supported by an experienced teacher, Mr. Bunyan, enabling her to continue in her associate role of school improvement. We keep Miss. Mulcock in our prayers and wish her a speedy recovery.

Both Mrs. Robinsworth and I will continue in our roles for the foreseeable future as part of an agreement with Romero Catholic Academy Trust who we both work for. This enables the school to access additional support from within the Trust including CPD, resources and innovative practice and has enabled the school to make good progress this year. There is still a long way to go to ensure the school receives the recognition it deserves but with the support of the governing body and the hard work of the staff, we are confident we can build on the achievements from this year so far.

Laudato Si Satellite Centre

Mr. Warwick and I continue to plan development of the land behind school and it is hoped we will be able to start this work later this year; this will include introducing more planting, growing fruits and vegetables and developing the land to incorporate more sustainable options. More children have had the opportunity to visit the waterfall and celebrate the land we have literally on the doorstep and we have a growing portfolio of videos and photos of the deer and squirrels as they explore the land. If this is something you would like to support with, or you would like more information, please contact school and let the staff in the office know.

Upcoming Parent engagement sessions

We would like to invite parents into school to help see the fantastic work which has been going on. In addition to the pupil led class worship sessions each term, which we introduced earlier in the year, we would like to invite parents into the following session:

Parents of our children in Acorns and Beech classes are invited to a 'Stay and Play' session on Friday 3rd March when you are welcome to stay when dropping off the children and find out more from Miss. Kidd about our plans with both classes.

We have a curriculum showcase on Monday 6th March at 2.30pm when all parents are invited to come and look around school with their children and see the work they have completed this year so far.

Our Parents' Evening is on 9th March and I strongly urge all parents to make an appointment, even if by phone, to discuss the progress and achievements of your children.

At these events, we will also have further information about My Happy Mind, which was introduced earlier this year. This has been a fantastic programme which we would love to get parents involved with.

Curriculum update

Mission and Values work started in January across school and enabled children to focus on values work along with essential personal and social development. We have been encouraging the children to develop their creativity as well as critical thinking skills, and the work they have produced has been fantastic.

My Happy Mind is a programme which we introduced in January and is helping children to grow in confidence, independence and resilience, providing them with a fantastic base for growing academic knowledge on. Information about the parent app was sent home before half term and I strongly encourage all families to make use of this. Please don't hesitate to contact school if you want further information.

Century Tech for KS2 has recently been introduced to enable children to practise areas they may lack confidence in with Reading, Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling as well as Maths. Please ask your child about what they are doing with this as we are excited about the difference it can make to pupil confidence and hopefully close any gaps arising as a result of the disruption caused by the pandemic over the last three years.

The children have thoroughly enjoyed this opportunity and we have seen many children make much more progress in just a few days than we normally do over the course of a year.

Pools for Schools has been in school this term and has enabled every single child to have the opportunity to develop confidence and skills in the water in a safe environment. The children have thoroughly enjoyed this opportunity and we have seen many children make much more progress in just a few days than we normally do over the course of a year. We will be reviewing the impact of this and determining whether to continue this annually, reducing the cost of transport and access to

swimming externally and hopefully reducing the disruption to learning from the time spent travelling to and from the Leisure Centre.

Phonics and Early Reading is being reviewed and improved this half term with a new programme called Red Rose Phonics; once the new scheme is in place, parents will be invited in to find out more information about this but we do not anticipate it changing very much for home reading.

Acorn and Beech Class curriculum is being very clearly developed to enable all three year groups to have access to high quality provision and learning opportunities which take into account their current stage of development as well as address any gaps they may have as a result to the disruption to learning.

Pupil voice

This is going from strength to strength as we plan more opportunities for pupils to share their ideas, opinions and experiences. Pupil leadership through our Mission Leadership groups is very important to us. Please encourage your children to talk to their teacher about ways they can be involved in developing and improving our school.

I would like to thank you for your continued support. It has been a blessing to be given the opportunity to support this school over the last 8 months and see it start to show the true potential underneath after so many years of uncertainty and challenge. If you have any questions about what we are doing at the moment, please don't hesitate to ask one of us.