



"Growing and Learning Together with God"
Spring Term 1 Value : Inspired Minds and Wisdom



Fritwell Church of England Primary School

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Newsletter 6 - Half Term

Friday 18th February 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Message from Mr Hart



It is never an easy decision to close the school but, based on predicted weather conditions and the advice of County, we felt it wise to do so. Our staff and pupils are always our priority, as well as the parents who need to travel to and from school. I hope that you all remain safe today.

It hardly seems possible that we have reached half term already, despite it being a 7-week term. We have had more children and staff off poorly this term but the strength of the team has ensured that the children have received good, consistent provision.

Our Maths adviser, Kate Magill, has been in school supporting us in the development of our maths curriculum. She was pleased to see standards improving and she challenged us further to encourage our students to use the skills acquired in further problem-solving research. We will be looking at ways to provide this opportunity over the coming year.

It was good to have our Foundation Governors in on Wednesday to talk to the children about R.E. and collective worship, which was followed by worship with Revd. Helen Barnes. We are blessed to have their support and challenge.

In addition to celebrating the Queen's Jubilee later this year we will be rejoicing in 150 years of education at Fritwell School. In partnership with our FoFS team we are already refining ideas to mark this special milestone and, as always, we are indebted to them and their ability to provide support for our children. Further details will be released next term but ensure that you save the Friday 10th June in your dairies. My thanks go to them for the wonderful doughnut sale on Valentine's Day.

Congratulations go to our new Nursery children who have completed their first term at Fritwell and who are such a joyous group within our school!

I have been pleased to see the children generally more industrious in their learning activities and next term our focus will be to encourage that resilience in learning that shows depth and personal research skills.

Year 6 Catch-Up/Boosters

After half term, Mr Martyn Simmonds and Mrs Gill Simmonds will be working with Sharks class on Monday and Tuesday afternoons to help us run booster sessions for Year 6, preparing children for their upcoming SATS and ensuring that they are 'secondary ready.' Mr Simmonds and Mrs Montgomery will be taking groups of children to work on focused Arithmetic, Maths Reasoning, GPS and Reading skills, while Mrs Simmonds will be teaching the rest of the class for Science and RE lessons. These sessions will continue to run until SATS week which is Monday 9th May. If Sharks parents have any questions regarding these booster groups, please contact Mrs Montgomery via the school office.

Class Activities

Tiddlers & Minnows

This week the Minnows and Tiddlers have continued their learning about different celebrations. On Monday they looked at Valentine's Day; the children were able to make cards to give to their friends and loved ones. Later in the week they learnt about the Hindu festival of Holi. The children had great fun making some paint splatter artwork to represent the powder paint used to celebrate Holi.



They have started learning about time in maths and the children showed great enthusiasm taking part in some challenges against the clock to investigate how long it takes to complete tasks. They discovered that they can be very quick at taking their shoes off and putting them back on again!

Sticklebacks

The class enjoyed their well-earned Hexagon treat yesterday where it was lovely to be able to come together with children from other classes and share in an activity.

The Sticklebacks children have been focusing on alphabetical order in English and they made their own class glossary, defining science words linked to their topic.

In geography they drew large maps of the school and looked on Google Earth at a bird's eye view of our school to see if they could identify the different parts of our site.

In PE they finished their gymnastics unit and explored different ways of moving over and under the apparatus. Their gymnastic skills have really improved.

Hexagon Afternoon Treat – Art and Games





Seahorses

This week Seahorses have been writing their own adventure stories about President Taft and a sidekick saving the day against aliens, an evil scientist or the Vice President; they have had a great time playing around at using comping and complex sentences to build suspense and draw the reader in and then use a short sentence to excite the reader with the action.

In maths Year 2s have been using counters to share and group numbers to help them with division, while the year 3s have been utilising flexible partitioning to help them divide 2-digit numbers by a 1-digit number.

Hexagon Afternoon Treat – Junk Modelling



Class Activities (continued)

Stingrays

Stingrays have had a busy last week of term. In Maths they have been continuing to work on their multiplication skills using practical resources to help them understand how to multiply two 2-digit numbers. The resources they were using were provided by funds raised by FOFS and they are certainly proving invaluable to help all the children understand some difficult concepts.

In PE they all enjoyed playing some mini matches using the skills they have been learning in their Tag Rugby sessions.



The children have also enjoyed learning about the Sikh faith as they considered how Sikhs' show commitment to their faith. It was interesting to hear their views on arranged marriages, particularly when they were asked to consider whether their parents would choose the right partner for them. Their responses were more complimentary than you might think!

They have started to conclude their final drafts of a Biography based on Romulus and Remus. They are nearing completion and all the children have made a great effort with sentence starters, facts, and using the correct tenses.

Sharks

This week Sharks have been learning about the features of biographies by reading about famous women from history: Nina Simone, Virginia Woolf, Mamie Phipps Clark, Rosalind Franklin and the Greek astronomer and mathematician, Hypatia. They have learnt about different verb forms, including the past perfect and past progressive tenses and have identified the difference between statements of fact and of opinion and how these are used within biographies.

Sharks have enjoyed their Forest School sessions throughout this half term, including their marble-treat session this week. As well as building dens, creating artwork and finding lots of great hiding places, they have developed their teamwork and communication skills and resilience.



Hexagon Afternoon Treat – Forest School



Sharks Forest Schools (continued)



Boys Football Match

On a very windy Wednesday afternoon our Year 6 Football Team drew 1-1 in their match against Bure Park Primary School. The conditions were tough and the control of the ball difficult but the boys played hard and kept the defence strong. Well done!

Girls Football Match

Yesterday afternoon the Girls Football Team played their first match against Marsh Gibbon Primary School here at home. It was a fantastic result of 5-0 to us! Well done to all the girls for their determination and skill in securing a win. Go Team Fritwell!



****Parent/Teacher Evenings****

*Please note that the message below is **not** applicable for those parents Julie has already contacted, who have requested virtual meetings.*

As you will all be aware, Parent/Teacher evenings are coming up after half term.

If your child is on the SEN register you will be receiving an invite for you to book a time for the **Tuesday 8th March** meeting.

If your child is not on the SEN register you will be receiving an invite for you to book a time for either the **Tuesday 15th** or **Wednesday 16th March** meetings.

Towards the end of half term you will all be receiving these, giving explicit instructions on how to book your time slots. Please read through the letter and the additional notes carefully, especially those parents with more than one child at the school, as they should not be too difficult to follow.

Any time slot which is blanked out will have been taken already and is not available to book so it is best to do your bookings early.

Bookings for all children will open on **Friday 25th February** at 5.00pm.

World Book Day – Thursday 3rd March

This year it is the 25th Anniversary of World Book Day on **Thursday 3rd March**. The Primary Leadership Team and the teachers have decided that our theme can relate to the Queen's Jubilee and books about the queen, e.g. Gangsta Granny, The Snow Queen, and Queen and I, **as well as** characters from one's favourite book. So your child can dress up as someone from royalty or a character from a favourite book, or a combination of both!

During the day there will be shared reading in the classrooms and children are welcome to bring in their favourite book to show others.

There will be a prize in Early Years, Sticklebacks plus Seahorses, and Stingrays plus Sharks for the most **inventive** costume; not necessarily the "best" but the most original and imaginative.

Those children having a school dinner on that day will also have a chance to win a Golden Ticket from Fresh Start.



FoFS Section

Don't forget Pancake Day on Shrove Tuesday, the 1st of March. Also, please do get in touch with Fran Brooks or one of the FoFS team if you are able to volunteer your services to help at this year's Easter Egg Hunt. Thank you for your support!



I wish you all a restful mid-term break and look forward to seeing you on February 28th.

Kind regards,

Jon Hart
Headteacher



Mondays a.m.

Tuesdays – 3.30 to 4.30pm

Wednesdays – 3.30 to 4.15pm

Wednesday Lunchtimes

Thursdays a.m.

Thursdays – 3.30 to 4.15pm

Thursdays – 3.30 to 4.30pm

Friday – 1.00pm

Friday – 1.15pm

Music for Schools Music Lessons

Football Club (Adam Bradley) Years 2 - 6

Sewing Circle Club Years 4 - 6

Boys Football Club Years 5 – 6

iRock

MultiSports Club (Premier) Years 1 - 3

Girls Football Club Years 4 - 6

Stingrays plus extras – Swimming

Sseahorses – Forest School

Tuesday 1st March

Wednesday 2nd March

Thursday 3rd March

Tuesday 8th March

Tuesday 8th March

Tuesday 15th March

Wednesday 16th March

Wednesday 16th March

Friday 18th March

Mon 21st to Thurs 24th March

Wednesday 23rd March

Thursday 24th March

Friday 25th March

Tuesday 29th March

Thursday 31st March

Thursday 7th April

Thursday 26th May

Friday 10th June

Tuesday 5th July

Tuesday 12th July

FoFS Pancake Sale after School

Boys Football Match vs Brookside – away

World Book Day – *non-school uniform*

SEN Parent/Teacher Evening

Sharks Sharing Assembly 2.45pm

Parent/Teacher Evening

Parent/Teacher Evening

Boys Football Match vs Langford Village – home

Red Nose Day – *non-school uniform*

Year 5 Bikeability Training

NCMP Weights & Heights – Reception and Year 6

Girls Football Match vs Bure Park – away

School Disco

Stingrays Sharing Assembly 2.45pm

Girls Football Match vs Chesterton

iRock Concert 9.30am

Sticklebacks Sharing Assembly 2.45pm

Queen's Jubilee Celebrations

Seahorses Sharing Assembly 2.45pm

Tiddlers & Minnows Sharing Assembly 2.45pm