



# Forward March!

## UN CONVENTION ARTICLE 17:

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*With God's help  
we will  
live kindly,  
love each other,  
learn and  
laugh together!*

## Autumn Term 2016 Newsletter 1

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the first Headteacher's Newsletter of the new academic year. I will be writing to you regularly through the year to let you know important information about what has been and will be happening in school. Once again I have been really impressed with the attitude of the children right across the school since they returned from their summer holidays, they are very keen and looking smart in their new uniforms. We have had some wonderful comments about how smart they look so thank you to all our parents!

Our Reception children have settled in really quickly, as have the new children who have joined us in other year groups. The children have begun the year full of enthusiasm for their learning and have quickly felt secure within their new classes and with their new teachers. A visitor to school this week commented that the pupils were calm and purposeful in their learning and this enables the children to progress so well.



We have been very busy in school over the holidays. I would like to thank all the dedicated staff as they have been in school on numerous occasions over the holidays. We are very lucky at this school where so many staff have spent time in school over the holidays getting ready for a fresh new start, a new beginning at the March CE Primary, because they have the idea of the power that a good education has on the future of our world.

I am really excited about the new year, so let's all work together to get this school even better than it is. Together as a team we can ensure that the March Children receive the best education and opportunities whilst they are with us.

### Values

This half term we will be focussing on the value of Justice in Worship and RE lessons. They will be focussing on personal social and global justice. Fair play is a very strong instinct in most of us. We tend to become upset when things aren't fair and we or others get a raw deal. A simple 'rule of thumb' on what is JUST is provided by the so-called 'golden rule', taken from Jesus' words in the Sermon on the Mount:

'Treat others as you want them to treat you' (Matthew 7:12).

The children will be discussing in class how they could demonstrate the school values outside of school life. We would like you to share these ideas with the children so that they understand that our schools Christian values are not just demonstrated in school but the wider community and life that they are part of.





### **New Staff**

I would like to welcome Mrs Jane Swindells and Mrs Rebecca Bird to the teaching team. They are both experienced teachers who bring a wealth to experience to the school and I am sure you will all make them very welcome.



### **Goodwood Revival**

Last week our Year 6 pupils had the most amazing opportunity to take part in the Goodwood Revival. They were all dressed as 1940's school children and travelled on a vintage bus to the grounds. Their singing was mentioned by many people and Mrs Lee was proud of the enthusiasm they had for singing at every opportunity. When they returned to school the school was filled with chatter with "that was amazing!" and "I'll never forget that!"

Thank you to our Year 6 parents for making the children lovely lunches and packing them into the gas mask boxes we really appreciated the support early in the morning! Well done Yr 6 you did us proud and we are so glad you enjoyed the experience.

The rest of the school were all dressed in 1940's outfits including the teachers and enjoyed the air show after lunch as we all sat on the field. The children had a perfect view of the Spitfire and Lancaster as it flew past the school. A wonderful day for all.



### **Prayer week**

This week we have been focussing on the importance of prayer and different types of prayers that can be made. Each afternoon different classes have been outside taking part in prayer activities with staff and Governors. WE had had the most enlightening time with the children as they never cease to amaze me with their thoughts about other communities around the world. The children were able to take part in Broken world activities, creating a ribboned prayer tree, making cups of thankfulness, Joseph's Technicolor Coat and Healing prayers and plasters. Please do come into school during next week to see the work created by the children and discuss their thoughts with them.



Gentle reminders...

**Attendance and punctuality**

All pupils are expected to be in school on time as learning across all year groups starts promptly. School is open from 8:35 and all children are expected to be in school for the official start time of 8:55. It would greatly help all teachers (and pupils) if everyone was in on time so that learning is not disrupted by a late comer.

In line with Government Policy and our School Attendance Policy, we are not able to authorise any request for holiday during school term time. Please see the Attendance Policy for further details and possible consequences of this. I am happy to clarify any request of absence with you. I would like to sincerely thank all parents/ carers for supporting our Attendance Policy last year.

**Safeguarding.**

The Head Teacher is the designated child protection officer at school. Mrs Jackson is also a Child protection officer. If you have any concerns about your child or another in relation to safeguarding/Child protection issues, please do not hesitate to contact us. Our Child Protection policy is on our website.

### **Naming Clothing**

Already we have had a significant amount of lost property due to unnamed clothing. Please make sure all items are labelled as we cannot be responsible for an unnamed clothing being returned to the correct child.

### **Parking**

This is always an issue due to the lack of available spaces but **PLEASE** do not park across the **only dropped curb we have!**

This week cars have been parked on the double yellow lines next to the drop curb which means that children have to walk into the road to check traffic to cross safely. I don't like having to ask cars to move off this area but I also don't want have to be the person to call **999** and request an ambulance for a seriously injured child.

Please be patient when we ask you to move, we are doing this for the safety of your children and we do understand that space is limited.

### **Update to Annual Trips and Consents form**

This week you have had a new Trips and Consent form, please make sure that you have handed this in. We are trying to minimise the amount of paperwork we send home to parents and forms to complete as requested by you. Please make sure that you have updated us with any new medical issues or changes to telephone numbers.



**Prayer group for parents Monday 19<sup>th</sup> Sep 8.45am at school**

### **Prayer for the new school year**

Lord, we ask for Your help as we begin this new school year.

Allow us to experience Your presence in the many blessings You put before us.

Open our eyes to the new challenges and exciting opportunities that this new school year brings.

Open our hearts and minds to new friends and give us enthusiasm in our learning

Inspire me to do my best this year!

Amen

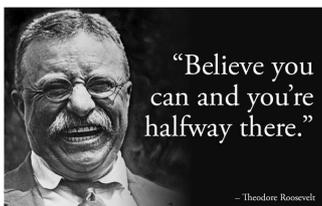
Finally ...

If you would like to talk to me about anything please do stop and chat or make an appointment if you would like more privacy or a longer length of time. I am here to help and support you all.

Thanks for taking the time to read this fortnight's newsletter. If you would like to discuss any items from the newsletter in more detail, please do not hesitate to come and see me, my door is always 'Open'.

Mrs Nicky Metcalfe

Head Teacher





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