



# Newsletter

## Issue 3 Autumn 2020

### Message from Mrs Toplis, Head of School

So, the first half term of the year is complete and probably one of the strangest half terms of my career, but I am so proud of each and every one of our children. Their resilience has been amazing and they have just got on with the everyday, even though it has been different.



We have had an exciting half term too and all the staff have enjoyed getting stuck in to our new schemes of Read Write Inc. and Mathematics Mastery. Last week, we assessed the children again with their phonics and can see how much progress they have made since the start of term. Our Year 1 and 2 children are enjoying their 6 part Mathematics Mastery lessons and our Reception children are on that journey and using lots of Maths in their continuous provision.

Today, we have had our first afternoon tea with Mrs T. Well actually Mrs T had 3 afternoon teas, one with each year group! The afternoon tea can be won by any child who has received a Golden Ticket during the half term and then they are entered into the draw. Have a look at our Facebook page for a photo of the winners.

We have also awarded our first Kindness Award this year. The staff all put suggestions forward of children who have lived our motto 'always choose kindness'. It is always a tricky choice but head over to the Facebook page to see the winner of this too.

I do hope that everyone can have a restful half term with some time to get out and enjoy our lovely county. Please remember to abide by all the local rules, so that we can all return safely on 2nd November.



CE Toplis

### Dates for your Diary

**School finishes for Half Term on Wednesday 21st October and reopens Monday 2nd November**

12.11.2020 - Family Learning Activity Launch

11.12.20 - Christmas Jumper Day

14.12.20 - Y1 and Y2 Christmas Parties

W.b. 15.12.20 - Christmas Dinner (hopefully)

16.12.20 - Reception Christmas Parties

**School closes for Christmas at 3.10 pm on Friday 18th December and reopens Monday 4th January**

### Attendance Watch

Our target school attendance figure is 96.0%.

Our current figure is

95.3%

The best Class this week was

Turtles on 100%

## Read Write Inc.

After half term, the children will be in their smaller Read Write Inc. groups according to their phonic stage and will also start to read a book as part of their session. After 3 or 5 days of reading the book in school, they will then bring it home to share with you and then start a new book in school.

The books to bring home are black and white copies and we keep the colour copies in school. These books are not very substantial and so we have provided every child with a named plastic wallet to keep them in to try and protect them. They will also bring home a book that goes alongside their book and a story to share with you too. A reading record book also comes home for you to record you daily reading with your child. 10 minutes a day at home will make such a huge difference to how quickly they learn to read.

We hope you enjoy the new books. The book they have been reading in school (black and white) will be very familiar to them and this is how it should be. We want them to be fluent readers who believe that they can do it. The alternative book adds the further challenge and then the story to share with you is for the love of books and for you to be a great role model for reading.

Please make sure that you wash your hands before reading any books and also afterwards too. Books must be kept in book bags and sent into school every day. When the books are returned they need to be quarantined for 72 hours before being sent home to the next group. We will not have enough books to go around if children do not return their books when needed, so the safest way is to make sure that they are always kept in the book bags! Thank you.

## Google Classroom

Well done to all those that have activated your child's Google Classroom account. The Leopards class were definitely the winners as almost every parent in that class has activated their account. Please don't leave it until you need it!

You will also have been sent another Google Classroom invite, this time to the reading book classroom. In this classroom you have access to some of our Read Write Inc. books if you find yourself isolating at home. My intention is to continue to record books to share on this platform. Please ignore the colour next to the title of the book and just go with the colour in the stream. The alternate colours were from before when we were using our old system.



## Arriving on time

I appreciate that it is not always easy, but please try and arrive for school on time and within your allocated window. I have noticed a few late arrivals have started to creep in, where the beginning of the term was brilliant. The first thing that the children do each day is their phonics so even 5 minutes late every day soon adds up to over half an hour a week of lost learning time.

After half term, the children will be in their smaller phonics groups and it will be vital that they are there at the start of the session.

To remind you:  
Year 2: 8.45am - 8.55am  
Year 1: 8.55am - 9.05am  
Reception: 9.05am - 9.15am



## Staff Changes

Many of you will remember Mrs Humphrey who has been at John of Gaunt for a long time. Mrs Humphrey has decided the time is right for her to retire and so she is finishing at half term. We wish her a very happy retirement.

We have successfully appointed a Higher Level Teaching Assistant (HLTA) to support us at John of Gaunt and this is Mrs Timmins, who is moving from BVS to us! Mrs Timmins will join us after half term.