

# Headteacher's Update

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a lovely Christmas, I haven't heard of too many who tested positive over the holidays.

Every January we focus as a school on a growth mindset and this year is no different. Our theme this week was "Better me, better world". We started by focussing on ourselves, how we could work to make ourselves better, and ended the week with how we could help to make the world a better place.

COVID UPDATE.

Each time I write an update, the guidance is again updated by the government! I have attended many health and safety briefings and as a staff we have discussed what is best for our children at our school.

We will continue with the one way system and visitors to school grounds and buildings wearing facemasks. All adults inside the building to have taken a negative LFD test.

We will keep classes separate indoors as much as possible, but in the interest of children's development and mental health we will return to whole school assemblies, unless evidence suggests that this should stop. Whole school worship will be short, seating arrangements changed and the CO2 devices will be closely monitored.

I am sure that you have seen from the news that there is concern regarding staffing. We will try our best to keep the school open if we have sufficient staffing levels to keep the children safe.

Thank you for your support since the start of the pandemic. Thankfully, measures taken so far have been effective. I am crossing my fingers and praying that all will be well going forward.

Mrs Fakes



## **Collective worship**

This term we are following the theme of "service". How we can service others and the world. If all goes to plan, we will be welcoming Reverend Aidan Jones from St Mary's church to lead worship once a month and Mrs Slingsby will continue to lead once a week. This may be in person or online. We started the term by celebrating that God is always with us. We also spoke that by keeping our values of showing love, courage and wisdom, we will have a better future.

Mrs Fakes





# Daisy's dream thank you

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the collection for Daisy's dream last term. Between the collection in school and online we raised £160 for the charity.



# Choir update

Choir will restart on Monday January 10<sup>th</sup>, 3:15-4pm. The first area rehearsal will be at Calcott school on Feb 3<sup>rd</sup> (should



it go ahead). As you know, only 18 children will perform in the concert on March 30<sup>th</sup> but I am hoping that they will all have the opportunity to join to sing with the other schools in the reharsals. The second reharsal will be March 10<sup>th</sup> at Pangbourne. They should know the words of at least half the songs by Feb 3<sup>rd</sup>. Please encourgae them to practice at home. Priorty for selection to represent the school will be the children who know the songs best. https://berkshiremaestros.org.uk/jmf/

#### The password is Ma3strosJMF!

Concert dress this year is as follows: Black trousers/leggings, T-shirts in any shade of blue or green to incorporate a spectrum of sea colours with no logos or writing (turn inside out if needed).

## Swimming – Year 2

Just a reminder that swimming for Year 2 children will recommence Monday  $10^{th}$  January.

## Junk Orchestra – Hedgehog Class

Please can we ask children in Hedgehog class to collect clean cardboard rolls......these can be toilet rolls, cellophane or kitchen towel rolls. These are to be used for maraca making on 12th January as part of our junk orchestra workshops.

## **Running Club**

Running Club will recommence Friday 14<sup>th</sup> January. If your child no longer wishes to take part, please can you let the Office or Mrs Pickering know by Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> January as we have a waiting list for other pupils who would like to take part. Thank you.

#### Woodland School

With the weather being so cold in January and February, we have a break



from Woodland Adventures during the Assistant first half of the spring term but return after February half term break.

#### **FOPS news**

Happy New Year to everyone! We hope you have all enjoyed the Christmas break and received some lovely gifts from your children courtesy of the Elfridges Christmas Shop. A special shout out to Samantha & Julie and their army of helpers for running this.

We hope the children enjoyed the Christmas Disco at the end of last term and their gifts from Santa. Thank you so much to Chloe for organising and to all the volunteers, teachers and parents who helped on the night - we couldn't have managed without you.

FOPS would also like to thank everyone for their help and support during the last term. We will be providing a detailed update on how much we've raised and what we've funded as a result shortly, but we are very grateful for all your assistance in supporting FOPS so we can benefit the children.

## **Christmas Clothes & Gift Amnesty**

To help start the year off in a sustainable way, we are holding a Christmas clothing and unwanted gift amnesty. The second-hand Christmas jumper sale before Christmas was a great success, which we would like to repeat this year to allow any outgrown or unwanted Christmas clothing have a second lease of life. Also, if you've received any gifts such as smellies, gift sets, food or drink that you won't use, we would be very grateful if you could please donate them so we can use them for hampers or prizes throughout the year. Please hand in at the school office, who will pass them onto FOPS.

## Dates for the diary

05/01/22 – Start of Spring Term 1 03/02/22 – Anvil Choir Rehearsal 16/02/22 & 17/02/22 – Parents Evening 21/02/22 – 25/02/22 – Half Term Holiday 03/03/22 – World Book Day 10/03/22 – Anvil Choir Rehearsal 21/03/22 - World Poetry Day

30/03/22 - Anvil Choir Concert

07/04/22 - End of Spring Term 2 at 1:15pm

# 26/05/22 – Platinum Jubilee Bank Holiday

As always, please remember our doors are open, should you wish to discuss any concerns, ask questions or celebrate successes regarding your children. You can contact me by phone on

01189842384 or email:

headteacher@purley.w-berks.sch.uk

Karen Fakes (Head teacher)

Learn to Love, love to Learn