



Dear parents,

How wonderful to be enjoying the Autumnal sun — I'm sure it makes everyone smile a little more. It's been a great term at school—enjoy reading about some of the fun the children have had.

Big Friends, Little Friends

The children in Class 1 and Class 5 have been paired by our teaching team. This supportive partnership is an opportunity for our older children to take on board a leadership and nurturing responsibility. It also supports the younger children in feeling safe and happy within school. The children have already enjoyed book sharing, a sport session and I've seen many children playing happily together during break times. You're doing a great job Class 5—it's wonderful to see you caring and leading.

Music

The specialist music teaching in Class 3 and 4 is going with a bang! The children are learning to play a range of percussion instruments exploring pulse, tempo and rhythm patterns. They have loved playing the large drums in particular and we're all working on not increasing the tempo when we do this, it's trickier than it looks. It's been great fun playing and we look forward to carrying on after half term.

Sport for all.....

We have started a new sport initiative in school called Take 10. The aim being to increase the activity of all children by at least 10 minutes. This is being undertaken in a range of ways: walking, dancing, jogging (Mrs Rome is preparing for the London Marathon again this year!) through short bursts over the day. The children and staff are enjoying it and we look forward to counting the total increase in active minutes. We are exploring some exciting options on how to move forward with sport in January. We are delighted that Mrs Childs will work a day a week with us and become our Sports Leader. She will oversee sports initiatives, Y5 young leaders and organise competition. We are delighted she is taking on this role.

Cycling Proficiency

The Year 6 pupils relished their recent safe cycle training with the Gloucestershire Road Safety Team this month. The children learned an array of skills including ensuring their bikes were safe, recognising potential road hazards, turning right and understanding the basics of the highway code. The children achieved well and the trainers complimented them as a group on their strong listening and skills and politeness. Thank you for being so enthusiastic and positive Y6.

Class 2

At the end of December we say a fond farewell to Mrs Childs who will be leaving her role in school as classteacher. We all recognise the contribution Mrs Childs has made to KS1, her care and commitment to every child is exceptional and she will be missed in this role. Mrs Childs will take up the post of part time teacher of pupils with SEN—an area of strong interest and become our Sports Leader.

We are delighted that Mrs Kavanagh will be joining our team to teach Class 2 in January 2019. Mrs Kavanagh is an experienced KS 1 teacher, who has led English, computing and been KS1 in her present school. She will be visiting us for transition meetings next half term so do give her a warm welcome when you see her.

Fire Drill

The school performed a fire drill to ensure everyone knew how to keep themselves safe if the fire alarm was triggered. The building was evacuated in less than three minutes and you'll be happy to hear everyone was accounted for. Especially well done to our Reception children who walked out calmly despite it being their first drill.

Class One Parent Evening

We are delighted that Mrs Parsons is recovering well from her operation and will return to school after half term. She is hoping to run parent evenings for the parents of children in Class 1 on November 13th and 14th. We will confirm and send out parent evening letters at the start of Term 2. A huge thank you to Mrs Curran and Mrs Williams for taking such good care of the children in C1 while Mrs Parsons has been away.

Anthony Horowitz

The Y5 and Y6 children enjoyed their visit to Cheltenham Literary Festival recently. They solved the Beano trail swiftly and then saw the author Anthony Horowitz speak. He gave key messages about holding onto your passion, reading a lot, using sharp sentences to start a story and always write about what you know. Thank you to Mrs Burns for organising the trip and the parent helpers who joined in.

Art In Nature

Year 1 and Y2 children have been learning about the artist Andy Goldsworthy. They enjoyed a fantastic trip to 'Art In Nature' where they were given the opportunity to create art in they style of Goldsworthy. They also created some amazing (and sticky) prints using foam tiles. Their designs were based on natural objects—they were wonderful. A super day was had by all.

WW2 evacuation

The children in Y3-Y6 had an amazing day at STEAM exploring their WW2 theme. They looked wonderful dressed up and with their gas mask boxes leaving the school! When at steam they had several learning sessions where they had the chance to fully explore life as an evacuee—they even met people who remembered the war and shared their experience. There was a real buzz at school on their return and I know it inspired them. The staff at STEAM commented on how wonderfully behaved our children were and how many interesting questions they asked. Thank you KS2 for being such great ambassadors for our school.

Class 5 Dance Day

Class 5 created an amazing dance around WW2 and evacuation with Mrs Shaw, our advanced skills dance teacher. The children shared ideas and devised moves. At times they worked as one and at others in groups. The piece they created was emotive and even painful to watch at times. An incredible performance which moved us all. Thank you Class 5.

Dates for your diary

I have listed below some of the key dates for your diary:

Thurs 18th - Harvest Festival 2pm: parents welcome
- **Last day of Autumn Term 1 for children**
Thurs 19th - INSET for staff

Mon 29th - **First day of Autumn Term 2 for children**

November

Thurs 8th - Open morning for prospective parents 8:30-12:00
Mon 12th - Open afternoon for prospective parents 1:45-3:00
Tues 13th - School photographer—individuals & siblings
Tues 13th - Class 1 parents evening 4-7pm
Weds 14th - Class 1 parents evening 4-7pm

December

Fri 7th - Christmas bazaar 4-6.30pm
Thurs 13th - KS 1 Christmas performances 2pm & 6pm
Fri 14th - Flu immunisations for Rec—Y5—further information to follow
Weds 19th - KS 2 Christmas performance 6pm
Thurs 20th - KS 2 Christmas performance 2pm and 6pm
Fri 21st - **Last day of Autumn Term 2 for children**

January

Mon 7th - **First day of Spring Term for children**

Thank you for your continued support,

Zoe Avastu
Headteacher

