



Dear parents,

How lovely for the children to have a dusting of snow recently—for some it was their first experience of 'goose down feathering the air'! I wonder if we'll have another flurry. We've had a great start to 2017 with our Reflection Day—it was wonderful to see so many of you coming in to talk with your children about their favourite activity, reading the responses of the children and taking time to reflect yourself too. The children loved sharing with you.

INSET Day

Many parents and children wonder what we do on INSET days. Though lots of tea and coffee are involved they are important days when the whole staff are together to review the impact of initiatives and undertake training to support further improvement. The teacher's had a productive INSET day at the start of this term. We reviewed our safeguarding procedures again to ensure we undertake our responsibilities in line with best practise. In addition we enjoyed a practical session on two maths problem strategies which your children will be taught over this term: 'act it out' and 'working backwards'. Do ask your children about these. All staff had a helpful and thought-provoking autism awareness session led by Sara Stephens from the LA Advisory Team too. Investing in all our staff in this way ensures we develop a consistent, positive and coherent approach to all aspects of school life.

Reflection Day

The hall looked very different on Tuesday—full of sparkling lights and reflective activities. The children had the opportunity to undertake activities with their class friends and teachers. They explored friends, forgiveness, thankfulness, kindness, being still, dreams for the world and what makes us precious. Children's thoughts:

- I liked thinking about what I am most thankful for—my family, food and water. Matilda
- I really liked dissolving the tablet in the water—it was the forgiveness reflection— it was like the bad feeling melted away. Florence
- I enjoyed the quiet time I had in the tent—I thought about how some people are poor and how people help them. Callum
- We liked the forgiveness activity—it was good to get rid of worries by saying sorry. Ben & Thomas
- I like thinking about who loved me and who I loved because I don' t usually do that. Esme
- I had time to write down how I felt. Lily

Ms McGough, who led the day, said she was impressed with how the children fully engaged with the activities and with the many parents who came in to share the experience at the end of the day—more than any other school she'd worked at—well done parents! Thanks go to Miss Dracup and Ms McGough for planning and organising such a great day. A huge thank you to Mr Dougan, Mrs Jenner, Mrs Hudd, Mr Blomfield and Mrs Colley for supporting children so well on the day.

Vision and Hearing Screening—Reception pupils

The vision and hearing screening for Reception children is booked for Monday 3rd April 2017 at 9.15am at school. This will be undertaken by Gloucestershire Care Services NHS Trust. Parents will be informed of the screening results. If parents want to opt their child out of the screening they can do so by contacting 0300 4218225.

Bags2School Collection

The PA ran another Bags2School collection on the 25th January. We thought it would be an ideal time to declutter wardrobes after receiving stylish, new clothes as Christmas gifts (hopefully not too many camera testing Christmas jumpers). Thank you for sending in so many clothes to recycle—there was a mountain in the front entrance! The clothes are sold to wholesalers and importers inside and outside the EU. They will benefit those who rely on 2nd hand clothes as their sole option for good quality items, promote the REUSE of clothes while earning money for our school: **£140**. Thank you if you contributed and our special thanks are extended to Mrs Hudd for organising the collection.

Popcorn Nights

The children enjoyed snuggling in their PJs and onesies in the school hall this month as they watched the BFG and The Secret Life of Pets. The children said: It was a lovely time to meet up with friends outside school. I enjoyed it because the film was funny and exciting. I liked the treats like chocolate buttons and popcorn—Edgar, Matilda and Dexter. Thank you to the wonderful PA team for organising the events.

2017-2018 Term Dates

We have just confirmed dates for the next academic year . These will be in the front entrance and on the website. As parents you are wonderful at working together with us to support your children's learning journey. Holidays in term time are a thorny issue and we do understand the issues involved. However we would ask you not to take holidays in term time. We hope the early notice of term dates for 2017-18 will allow you to organise this.

Dates for your diary

We have listed some of the key dates for your diary.

January

- Tues 3rd - INSET Day (For staff)
- Wed 4th - First day of Spring Term 3 for pupils**
- Mon 9th - Value for learning and life: Responsibility
- Tues 10th - Reflection Day (with parent opportunity after school)
- Fir 13th - KS2 Popcorn night
- Mon 16th - Value for learning and life: Responsibility
- Fri 20th - KS1 Popcorn Night
- Wed 25th - Bag2School (Please bring in clothes for recycling by 9am)
- Mon 25th - Value for learning and life: Forgiveness
- Thurs 26th - PA Meeting: 7pm: School
- Fri 27th - PA Cake Stall (Donations welcomed)
- Mon 30th - Value for learning and life: Forgiveness

February

- Fri 3rd - Class 1 assembly—10am, school hall, parents welcome
- Mon 6th - Value for learning and life: Honesty & Trust
- Fri 10th - Final day of Spring Term 1 for pupils**

- Mon 20th - First day of Spring Term 2 for pupils**
- Clubs start for children—information to follow
- Mon 20th - Value for learning and life: Honesty and Trust
- Mon 27th - Value for learning and life: Friendship
- Tues 28th - Y4 'In The Net' play: ensuring pupils know how to keep themselves safe on the internet

March

- Thurs 2nd - World Book Day
- Mon 6th - Value for learning and life: Friendship
- Fri 10th - Class 5 assembly-10am, school hall, parents welcome
- Mon 13th - Value for learning and life: Respect
- Mon 20th - Japanese Day: finding out more about the culture and life in Japan
- Value for learning and life: Respect
- Tues 21st - Welcoming and working with young people from Japan
- Mon 27th - Value for learning and life: A sense of fun

April

- Mon 3rd - Value for learning and life: A sense of fun
- Vision & hearing checks for pupils in Reception
- Fri 7th - Final day of Spring Term 2 for pupils**

- Mon 24th - First day of Summer Term 1 for pupils**

Thank you for your continued support.

Zoe Avastu
Headteacher

