



Slindon Church of England Primary School

Newsletter Autumn 2– November 2019

Dear Parents/ Carers

Autumn Term 2 is now well underway and usually December is one of the busiest times of the school year. And whilst the calendar is indeed looking full of exciting school events, it's actually looking like it will be the quietest month compared to how the beginning of the Autumn Term has been! Huge thanks to all of our hard working staff and to you all for keeping up with us!

The teachers and myself received many wonderful comments and thanks after the Parents/ Carers evenings this term. In a small school, each of us have to wear many 'hats' and the requirements of the job are of course exactly the same as in any primary school, but there are less of us here. So to hear your appreciation of how hard the staff work and the thanks given, really meant a lot to everybody.

As you know, positive relationships are one of the four overarching principles of our school. We know that being able to communicate effectively, openly and honestly is part of what enables us to have the positive relationships we have built. With this in mind, we have sent home a parent/carer survey today, and would very much appreciate you taking your time to complete and return the survey before **Wednesday 11th December**. Working together in this way, with the children at the heart of all we do, is what makes our school so great.

Over the past few weeks I have been busy showing around lots of potential new parents, whose children will be starting Reception in September 2020. It seems that many a good word is spreading! And so I finish my writing, as I often do, feeling a very proud Headteacher.

Lucy Cooper

Headteacher

On the 16th October, the whole school went on their first trip **all together** (since Miss Cooper has been Headteacher) to Tuppenny Barn. We chose this venue as it enhanced our learning within the theme of Harvest. Our values very much align with those at the heart of Tuppenny Barn's approach– in the promotion of sustainable living in all of its forms . We had a fantastic day (see the photos in the 'News' section of our website in the month of October). This is a recount of the day, written by Lilija in Year 6.

We all came to school on a thankfully, dry day dressed in jeans and trainers, full to the brim with excitement; it was a day we had all looked forward to and we were all set for Tuppenny Barn. The trip on the coach was full of chatter and coach journey memories, oh and rock, paper, scissors. Everyone was guessing what might be in store for us when we arrived.

As the coach came to a stop, everyone was delighted and longed to get to the barn and to proceed with our activities. When we finally got off the coach we went into the barn made of sustainable materials which is where we had our safety talk. After that we were all set for our activities.

First, we departed to the flower beds to collect kale and leeks for our cooking; the leeks were for soup and the kale was for crisps. We took the crops to the kitchen and prepared them along with potatoes, sweet potatoes, carrots and celeriac. I grated a carrot and taught Ben to peel a potato.

Later, we went on a tour of the grounds. We went to the pond and saw a sailer-man bug which had long legs that looked like rowing oars. As we journeyed through poly-tunnels and passed flower beds, we guessed the names of vegetables and herbs. Once we finished we discussed our facts over lunch; a popular one was bees creating heat to melt an invading wasp!

By Lilija– Year Six



Christmas Fundraising

As I wrote about in the last newsletter, our PFA volunteers have dwindled this year as some of our children moved onto secondary school, we employed previous volunteers or they took up new jobs!

So this year we are not having a Christmas Fayre to raise funds for the school outdoor classroom project. In the past, several people have expressed that they lack the time to come and help at PFA events and would rather just be able to donate money. We also know that at this time of year, money is tighter for all of us! So please just donate as much or as little money as you would like, but **please do not feel obliged to donate** any at all.

This Christmas, we will be fundraising through;

- Friday 6th and Friday 20th December will be 'mufti days'. Children may wear their own clothes for a donation towards school funds.
- Monday 9th December will be a Christmas Cake Sale in the Glade. Please send in cakes and money to buy cakes!
- Monday 16th December is Christmas Film night. We make a small amount of profit for the charge of £3.00 per pupil. Please see separate letter that has gone out.

We are also raising funds for The Children's Society through our 'Christingle Collection boxes' and for Save the Children on Christmas Jumper Day.



As some of you will remember, two years ago we took part in a pilot programme supported by the Department for Education, that provided our children with an online service to report any bullying and cyberbullying concerns they may have, in order to prompt quick and effective action. We were pleased that the pilot was extended for another year, and this year although the funding has finished, we have decided to continue with Tootoot.

We know ourselves that bullying is rare in our school, due to our size, the quality of our relationships and the culture and climate we maintain. Feedback from yourselves and the children supports this view. But as with all schools, we must never be complacent and so we are pleased to offer this service to our pupils in Key Stage 2. This week, reminders of log in details will be sent home with the children and a new log in given to children in Year 3.

Research has shown that some children find it easier to report bullying online when they are away from school, and we want to give our children every opportunity to have their voice heard. If you have any questions about Tootoot, please do come and see Miss Cooper. A separate letter will be emailed to parents/carers of Key Stage 2 children today.



Over the summer, we were desperately sad to learn that The Prince William Award would no longer be continuing and were terribly sad to hear that SkillForce had gone into administration. We were one of the first schools in the region to work with the programme and we loved Rob Mayne coming into school to work with the children in Chestnut Class each week.

The children were equally disappointed and voiced their opinion in a formal letter to Prince William himself. They were pleased to receive a letter in response from Kensington Palace (see 'News' tab on our website under October).

As teachers, we could see the impact that the programme was having on our school community and also believe passionately that it is this– focusing on developing character, and not SATS booster groups, that raises progress and attainment across the curriculum (have a look at our website under the 'Our School' tab for more information on The Prince William Award).

So after much searching, Miss Cooper met with a man called AJ, from a company called Commando Joe's. After listening to what they could offer our children and travelling to Manchester to find out more, Miss Cooper met the team behind Commando Joe's– who work with veterans to deliver a programme that supports the development of the whole child in building character, whilst simultaneously enhancing the curriculum.

This programme will be mainly teacher-led, with support from the Commandos as and when we want it, to provide an extra 'buzz' to launch various missions- which will tie in with our topics in each class. Commando Joe's will be a whole school programme from Reception to Year Six. Mike Hamilton OBE, will be personally coming to our little school to deliver the staff training during our INSET day on the 1st June, to enable us to start from the Summer Term this year.

In the new academic year, we will invite you to participate in a Commando Joe's session to find out more, and in the meantime do visit www.commandojoes.co.uk



Swimming

In the Spring term, after Christmas, the Year 6 children will stay at school on a Friday afternoon and the Reception children will go swimming– along with the rest of the school.

This term, we have not had any volunteers to help accompany us which has meant that at times, we have only just made the correct adult:child ratio. As a small school we rely on your support to help us give these opportunities to our children. If you are able to volunteer to come swimming with us in the Spring Term then we would love to hear from you! Please speak to Mrs Cooper in the office.

Important Dates to Remember for Autumn Term 2

Remember you can keep an eye on the calendar on our school website by just googling it from your mobile phone– you don't need to log in to do this. Texts are sometimes sent out as a helpful reminder.

- **Wednesday 6th November**– NHS Influenza Vaccinations—All Year Groups
- **Friday 8th November**– Chestnut Class to Cineworld (am)
- **Thursday 14th November**– Children in Need Day
- **Monday 18th November**– Acorn Class to Cinema, Chichester (am)
- **Monday 18th November**– Catkins Class Village and Woodland Walk
- **Monday 18th November**– Parents/ Carers Evening
- **Tuesday 19th November**– Parents/ Carers Evening
- **Tuesday 19th November 3.30-5pm**– Messy Church in Catkin Class
- **Wednesday 20th November 3-3.30pm**– Acorn and Catkin Class Music Concert in Coronation Hall
- **Friday 6th December**– Mufti day to raise funds for the Outdoor Classroom Project
- **Monday 9th December**– Great Christmas Bake Off Cake Sale– please see page 3
- **Tuesday 10th December 3.30-5pm** Messy Church in Catkin Class
- **Wednesday 11th December 1-4pm**– Year 5 MFL Enrichment Day at OSVA (see separate letter)
- **Thursday 12th December 2.15-3.00pm**– Christingle Service at St Mary's Slindon. Please let the office know if you can walk with us to church. We leave at 1.45pm.
- **Friday 13th December**– Christmas Jumper Day—please see page 6
- **Friday 13th December**- Christmas Shopping Day– (see separate letter sent out)
- **Friday 13th December 8.30-9am**– The Big Breakfast (by invitation only)
- **Saturday 14th December**– Choir singing at Arundel Cathedral– please see page 6
- **Monday 16th December 3.30-6.00pm**– Christmas Film Night in The Glade
- **Thursday 19th December 1.30-3.00pm**– Catkin Class Nativity in Coronation Hall– Everyone welcome!
- **Friday 20th December**- Mufti day to raise funds for the Outdoor Classroom Project
- **Friday 20th December**– Last Day of Term

We return to school on **Monday 6th January 2020**. We wish you all a very Merry Christmas!

We are singing at Arundel Cathedral on Saturday 14th December, along with a number of other schools and the Arun Choral Society. A letter has been sent out– please do come and support us, tickets can be purchased from Mrs Cooper in the school office.



Save the Children
CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

On Friday 13th December, we will be fundraising for Save the Children by bringing in a donation and wearing our Christmas jumpers. School uniform on bottom half and Christmas jumpers on the top.

**SLINDON
CHURCH
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Attendance

We continue to strive to raise our attendance levels which remain below national averages.

Please remember that if your child is absent from school and we haven't received a message from you, then we start to worry that all is not well. You will receive a text reminding you to contact us (we know what it's like when you've been up all night looking after a poorly child!) But we will begin calling you and your 2nd and 3rd priority numbers if we still have not heard from you.

We need to know which code to use in the register but more importantly we need to know that you and your family are safe and well.

Please remember to keep your child off school for 48 hours after sickness or diarrhoea.

Not sure what's going on at school?



Keep an eye on our school website, including the school calendar where you can find all the information you need.

www.slindonprimary.co.uk

Make sure we have your correct email addresses and telephone numbers so that we can communicate with you as necessary.