

## Slindon Church of England Primary School

### Newsletter Spring 1– January 2019



#### Happy New Year!

Welcome back to all, to a New Year and to the start of a brand new Spring Term. I do hope you all had an enjoyable Christmas break. It seemed so incredibly busy as we led up to Christmas, particularly with all the preparations for the Christmas Fayre. I was overwhelmed with the support that we received this year, from the army of helpers that coordinated and supported our first Christmas Fayre held at the school. I am thrilled that we managed to raise £1300, which is phenomenal for a school of our size! We are incredibly grateful for the time and effort you gave to make it such a success. I am also very grateful for THE BEST Pork, Apple and Stuffing bap I have ever eaten in my life! The money raised will go towards an outdoor classroom, to support and facilitate our ethos of learning outside of the classroom wherever possible! Examples of what we hope may be possible are shown below.



As we begin with a renewed energy for the rest of the year, I am excited to tell you about some new initiatives that we are starting. We are now officially a Rights Respecting School and we are on a journey to Bronze– A Rights Committed School. More information about this is on page 4.

We also begin a new association with SkillForce, who deliver the Prince William Award. This is similar to the Duke of Edinburgh Award aimed at older children. Further information and an invitation for you to come in and find out more is on page 2 of this newsletter.

Lucy Cooper (Headteacher)

**DATES TO REMEMBER  
THIS TERM...**

**Thursday 17th January  
2019**

- Chichester Sings Live Performance (Years 5 & 6) 7.15pm at Chichester Festival Theatre. Tickets available from Chichester Festival Box Office– all welcome!

**Friday 18th January  
2019**

- Swimming starts for children in Reception to Year 5.

**Monday 21st January  
2019**

- Robert Mayne visiting from SkillForce to demonstrate the PWA for Chestnut Class. Aimed at parents/ carers in Chestnut Class but all are welcome.

**Tuesday 22nd January  
2019**

- Future Flyers Sport Event (see separate letter) for specific Yr 5/6 children 1.30-3.30pm.

**Thursday 24th January  
2019**

- Year 5 Enrichment afternoon at OSVA 1-3pm



I am so pleased to begin our association with SkillForce and The Prince William Award this term.

We will begin with an 18 week programme 'SkillForce Prince's Award' for children in Chestnut Class after the February half term, until the end of this academic year. There will be an opportunity for you to come and see what a session looks like– a date will be confirmed nearer the time.

From September, we will begin the Prince William Award with Chestnut Class. This will involve weekly 2-hour sessions and will take the year to complete.

The award has been devised to help children and young people to stand tall and speak up, to bounce back from life's problems and grab hold of all of its opportunities. It teaches teamwork skills, problem solving and helps children develop vital life skills such as confidence, resilience, courage and self-belief. It gives children the chance to

understand who they are and feel happy in their own skin.

The Prince William Award (PWA), supports and promotes our core values and the majority of each session will be outside, in keeping with our ethos of active learning outside of the classroom.

SkillForce employs predominantly ex-service personnel and most are trained as instructors in their pioneering character education programmes. SkillForce also runs a Veterans Support Programme supporting those who may have struggled with the transition into civilian life.

We are excited to begin working with our Instructor Rob Mayne, who will be in school on Monday 21st January from 1-3pm. Rob will be giving a presentation in the Glade before demonstrating a 'Taster Session' and we hope that as many parents/ carers as possible will join us! Please come in suitable clothes that allow you to be involved and get active.



## SATS INFORMATION MEETINGS

You will see under 'Dates to remember this term' that there are a number of events that parents/ carers are invited to. I'd like to draw your attention to the SATS Information Meetings for parents/carers of children in Year 2 and Year 6. These children will be sitting the SATS papers during May and we would like to share with you the national expectations, give you an opportunity to see past SATS paper and most importantly, to share with you the message that we give to the children. We'd like for home and school to give the same message. I'm very much hoping for 100% attendance to these meetings. As I always say, please let me know if the timing is not good for you and I will ensure that I can be available at a time of your convenience.



### Swimming at Felpham Leisure Centre

Swimming will begin on Friday 18th January for children in Reception and Years 1-5. This will be the first time swimming for children in Reception.

I am proud that we are able to offer weekly swimming lessons to the whole school and we cannot do this without the support of volunteers to help us with swimming. Please speak to Mrs Cooper in the office if you think you are able to be a regular volunteer.

It really helps us if the children in Reception are able to dress and undress independently, so perhaps now is a great reason to keep encouraging your child's independence when getting dressed and undressed at home. To help your child, please ensure that every item of their clothing, including their towel and swimwear is named. It also helps if girls are wearing socks rather than tights as they develop the mastery of tights and wet floors!

All children will need a named costume, towel and goggles (if they prefer to wear goggles) in a swimming bag every Friday.

## DATES TO REMEMBER THIS TERM...

### Friday 1st February 2019

- The Big Breakfast (for attendance above 95% during Autumn 2 (see page 5).

### Tuesday 5th February 2019

- **Yr 6 SATS** Information Meeting 9-9.30 in the Glade
- **Yr 2 SATS** Information Meeting 3-3.30 in the Glade

### Friday 15th February 2019

- INSET DAY– No School

### Monday 18th– Friday 22nd February

- Half Term Holidays

### Monday 25th February 2019

- First day back to school

### Coming up in the first week after half term...

### Wednesday 27th February 2019

- Dance House 2019 at Alexandra Theatre, Bognor Regis (further details to follow)

### Thursday 28th February 2019

- Acorn Class visit to Butser Ancient Farm

### Friday 1st March 2019

- Maths Workshops for Parents/ Carers– come and see how we teach Maths in your child's class 9-10am



I am so proud that we have officially become a Rights Respecting School. We began our journey last year when we moved away from talking about school rules and we implemented 'Class Charters' in each class (see Newsletter Summer 2– June 2018).

The new language promotes a sense of respect between ALL member of our school community. We ALL have the right to feel safe, the right to learn, the right to have a voice and the right to play.

Other Rights Respecting Schools noticed significant differences in their pupils since they began the Award. They noticed the following in particular;

- Improved self-esteem and wellbeing
- Improved relationships and behaviour (reductions in bullying and exclusions and improved attendance)
- Improved engagement in learning
- Positive attitudes towards diversity in society and the reduction of prejudice
- Children and young people's enhanced moral understanding

- Children and young people's support for global justice
- Children and young people become more involved in decision-making in schools.

An attachment with this newsletter is a summary of the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child. Why not put it somewhere at home to allow discussion about it and see how an understanding of our rights and responsibilities can have a positive aspect on every area of life.

I will keep you updated on our journey from Bronze to Gold through a page on our website. You are of course welcome to come in and see our class charters and get a feel for how we are a Rights Respecting School anytime!

If you'd like to find out more, please visit;

<https://www.unicef.org.uk/rights-respecting-schools/the-rrsa/what-is-a-rights-respecting-school/>

This month will be two years since the school's OfSTED inspection when the school was judged to be 'Requires Improvement'. As we expect an inspection any time from this term, I'd like to ask you to visit the parent view page and share your views and all the positives of school life here at Slindon CE Primary. If you have the time and would like to share the good work we are doing then please do add your feedback.

Please do add your views to <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/>. The following excerpt is taken from the ParentView website;

*Parent View gives you the chance to tell Ofsted what you think about your child's school, from the quality of teaching to dealing with bullying and poor behaviour. The survey can be completed at any time; you don't have to wait until the school is being inspected. We will use the information you provide when making decisions about which schools to inspect and when. Click 'Give your views' to register and complete a survey to help your child's school improve.*





# Attendance



Our attendance is slowly getting better! Despite the seasonal coughs and colds, we ended last term with a higher attendance level than the same period for the year before. But we still have a way to go as we dipped below our target of 95%.

The 'Big Breakfast' held last half term to celebrate children who achieved an attendance of 95% and above in Autumn 1. It was a huge success— who knew the children would enjoy the opportunity to have breakfast at school with their friends so much!

So with that in mind, we have decided to again invite ALL children with attendance of 95% or over for Autumn 2 to the 'Big Breakfast' to be held in the Glade on Friday 1st February at 8.30am. 47 children managed to keep their attendance above 95% during Autumn 2 and will receive their certificates and invitations to the Big Breakfast next week.

Amos the Bear has a new role to play this half term. The children have independently thought of a new way to determine who gets to keep Amos for the week,

after many consecutive weeks of Acorn Class winning him last half term!

The children have decided that the class with the least number of 'late arrivals' will win Amos each week for this term. So Amos has been stationed in the Foyer to write down the names of repeat offenders!

We understand that at times, different circumstances arise that make us late. But we have talked as a school about the importance of feeling calm and not rushed as we begin our school day, and of what we miss at school when we are consistently late.

Please ensure that you have medical evidence when visiting the doctors and dentist for appointments, where possible.

Don't forget that you can request to speak with Fran Hill, who is trained in Emotional Based School Avoidance (EBSA) if you feel your child is experiencing any anxiety coming to school, particularly after the holidays.

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Headteacher: Miss Lucy Cooper

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](http://www.slindonprimary.co.uk)**

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