

# Farncombe Church of England Infant School

Inspiration Imagination Individuality



## Newsletter 4

8<sup>th</sup> October 2021

### Values Day

Thank you to Bianca O'Neill, RE Subject Leader, for organising a brilliant day based on our school values. This has been part of our covid return and recovery, allowing children to visit other classes and meet all our teachers. All children have earned a bead for completing an activity linked to each value. Please do ask them about these and celebrate the message of each value.

### Autumn Dates

**October**  
8<sup>th</sup> Values Day  
15<sup>th</sup> Individual and Sibling Photographs  
22<sup>nd</sup> Bank Holiday (SCC adopted for the queen's platinum jubilee)  
25<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> Half Term Break

**November**  
1<sup>st</sup> INSET  
2<sup>nd</sup> Community Police Officers visiting playground  
4<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> Parent-Teacher Meetings  
11<sup>th</sup> Flu Immunisations  
12<sup>th</sup> Friends Quiz Night for Parents  
16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> Alice Holt Visits \*\*

Next INSET: 1<sup>st</sup> November, 21<sup>st</sup> February

\* = Parents invited to event  
\*\* = More details to follow

### Phonics and Reading

Thank you Reception and Year 1 parents for embracing our new system of phonics and reading. Teachers in Sycamore, Beech, Willow and Oak are all confident that our new Little Wandle scheme is going to improve our already very good reading provision and standards. Reception children started Reading Practice in class this week and were proud and confident in using the phonemes they know to read words after just a few weeks of school. Year 1 will continue to focus on phonics until the Summer Term, when we will re-integrate them onto bookbands, ready for Year 2.

Please do continue to read to your child on a regular basis; why not read a chapter while they are in the bath or at bedtime? Reception Storytime started last week with Fly By Night and this week they enjoyed The Train Ride. Year 1 are currently enjoying Vivien French's 'The Hedgehogs and The Big Bag' during their weekly storytimes with me, while Year 2 are relishing one of my all-time favourites: Jill Tomlinson's 'The Owl who was Afraid of The Dark'. At home (with my 10yo son) we are reading the fourth and final book from the Wizards of Once series and look forward to hearing the author Cressida Cowell speak at the Cheltenham Literature Festival this weekend!

### Lord Lieutenant Certificate of Appreciation

It was lovely to be presented with a certificate of appreciation from Perdita Hunt OBE, one of the deputy lieutenants in Surrey. Perdita visited assembly last Friday and explained how she was representing the queen who 'always wants to see good things happening and to thank the people doing these good things'. Perdita talked about the remote learning provision here, our recovery curriculum and our continued care for the children and wider families. As a school we were nominated somehow for this appreciation, so thank you to whoever put us forward! The certificate can be seen on our school Instagram page.

### Support for Refugees

Our new Collective Worship Monitors led part of the Year 1 and Reception assemblies this week, telling the children about a way to help the refugee families fleeing Afghanistan and travelling to the UK. Your child may have mentioned donating last year's coat. These have been requested from the charity Care 4 Calais, who particularly want children's good quality coats and jumpers. Please do not bring coats in yet - look out for further information regarding collection dates and points. Thank you in advance for these donations.

### Attendance and Punctuality

Thank you to all Year 1 and Year 2 parents who helped to achieve our amazing 97% attendance during Summer 2021. Now that the bubbles system has ended, we are able to join together again for whole school assemblies. These are taking place early on Friday morning and surprised some families, who had perhaps fallen into a habit of arriving a few minutes late, discovering an empty classroom at 9.05am. Please ensure that all children are in school promptly: Year 2 from 8.45 - 8.55, Year 1 from 8.50 - 9.00 and Reception from 8.55 - 9.05. Thank you.

### Recruitment News

Caroline Philips who has been working in our office for 13 years is now moving into a full time role at another Surrey school. We will all miss Caroline and wish her well in her new post. Congratulations to Abi Gorringer who has been appointed to senior school assistant in the school office. Abi has a good deal of admin experience, has volunteered with The Friends and is an ex-parent here. Do visit Abi at the office 'hatch' to introduce yourself and help welcome her back to Farncombe.

### Covid and Illness

We are still quite badly affected by covid among our staff team. This week we have had a teacher absent to care for her child with covid, a TA absent to take her child for a PCR test and three other members of staff away for other illnesses. Ginny Burt, our School Business Manager, has been quite ill and absent since the beginning of term. Please send good thoughts and prayers her way. Thank you for continuing to report covid tests. Thank you also for your continued patience and support as we move towards the end of the pandemic.

Email: [info@farncombe.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:info@farncombe.surrey.sch.uk)

Instagram: @Farncombe\_infants

Headteacher: Andrea Simonsson

*'Let all you do be done in love' is our guiding vision for our speech, deeds and thoughts. This enables us to create a nurturing and inspiring environment in which everyone can have life in all its fullness.*

**Farncombe Church of England Infant School: Inspiration, Imagination, Individuality.**