

Farncombe Church of England Infant School

Inspiration Imagination Individuality



Newsletter 7

19th November 2021

Autumn Dates

November

19th Donations of tombola gifts please

26th Donations of wine and jolly jam jars please

December

3rd Mufti for the Christmas Fair

3rd Donations of cakes etc. please

10th Carols - Year 2, 2.15pm*

13th Carols - Year 1, 2.15pm*

16th Carols - Reception, 2.15pm*

13th - 16th Christmas Shopping Events

17th End of Term, 1.45pm

Next INSET: 21st February, 19th April, 22nd July

* = Parents invited to event

** = More details to follow

Alice Holt Thanks

Thank you to all the staff and parents who led trips to Alice Holt Forest this week. A half day outing is the perfect introduction to coach travel and safety procedures when off-site for our younger pupils. Thank you also to Dee for providing delicious winter picnic lunches for the children as they returned.

Covid and Christmas News

We are still badly affected by covid. Numbers among our pupils are low, but today there is one teacher absent as her child continues to isolate following a positive PCR test. There is also another teacher with an ill child, due to covid complications. Another member of staff has been isolating for three days in preparation for a hospital visit. Surrey County Council have given clear guidance to schools to reinstate Autumn 2020/Spring 2021 covid measures as needed. Our whole school celebration assembly each Friday is the only time we are currently mixing year groups indoors, and this will be kept under review as we all keep a close eye on cases. Thank you parents for helping us by reporting tests and their results. A few children were sent home today after presenting with persistent coughs. Thank you to the parents who came to collect them for PCR tests.

In school we had planned to film class nativities and share these via an unlisted youtube link, as we did in 2020. However, with pupil cases low and the maximum time needed to work through our recovery curriculum, we have taken the decision to hold outdoor carol concerts in year groups. Dates for these are opposite. Parents are invited to come into the playground for 2.15pm. Children will sing a number of Christmas songs and carols and we may include one for parental participation too! Hot chocolate will be available to purchase afterwards. This feels like a great compromise between a crowded church (which some parents would feel ready for, but others would not want to attend) and merely virtual events, as we hopefully move towards the end of this pandemic.

Godalming Learning Partnership Update

All teachers attended a moderation meeting last week, to ensure our writing judgements are consistent with those in other Godalming Learning Partnership schools. There was great consensus across the town, which obviously supports good transition to next schools in September. Next week, I will spend a morning at another local infant school to help monitor, evaluate and improve an aspect of their curriculum. Farncombe will receive a similar visit next term, allowing all local schools to share expertise and support one another.

Hall Hire

Our spacious school hall is available to hire. We currently have Tai Chi twice a week and Hero Martial Arts each Tuesday. Prior to covid, our hall was also used by a local pilates group. If you would like to explore hiring our hall for your community group, please speak to the office staff. The cost is £15 per hour. There are over 100 folding chairs available as well as a selection of trestle tables. All funds received are added to our school budget, which in turn benefits all pupils.

Friendship and Consent

At this time of year we always reinforce our rules around friendship and consent. The following will be discussed in assemblies next week: We remind children that even if their best friend is playing a game, they don't have to play the same thing if they don't want to. We remind them that no one at school can touch their body without permission. Sometimes a game will start off fun for everyone but then change into an activity that a child no longer enjoys. In this situation we remind children to say 'Stop, I don't like it'. This can be used for many other situations. All children will be reminded of this next week and taught to respond immediately to this sentence. You might like to discuss this at home next week.

Phonics and Reading

Thank you so much to the parents in Year 1 who have made the change to our new phonics and reading scheme. Books from our previous system will be available in playground this afternoon and next week for parents to take and keep. Any left will be donated to charity.

The teachers and TAs have worked extremely hard to make the beginning of our new approach a success. They have been ably led by Literacy lead, Belinda Watson. The impact on our new reception pupils has been significant, with all Beech and Sycamore children making an excellent start to reading. I have had the pleasure of reading with several groups this week and have been so impressed! Books will be sent home with Reception children for additional practise from January.

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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.

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