

# Farncombe Church of England Infant School

Inspiration Imagination Individuality



## Newsletter 8

26<sup>th</sup> November 2021

### Autumn Dates

November  
26<sup>th</sup> Donations of wine and jolly jam jars please

December  
3<sup>rd</sup> Mufti for the Christmas Fair  
3<sup>rd</sup> Donations of cakes etc. please  
10<sup>th</sup> Carols - Year 2, 2.15pm\*  
13<sup>th</sup> Carols - Year 1, 2.15pm\*  
15<sup>th</sup> Pied Piper Theatre Show  
16<sup>th</sup> Carols - Reception, 2.15pm\*  
13<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> Christmas Shopping Events  
17<sup>th</sup> End of Term, 1.45pm

Next INSET: 21<sup>st</sup> February, 19<sup>th</sup> April, 22<sup>nd</sup> July

\* = Parents invited to event

\*\* = More details to follow

### Covid Update

We continue to have zero confirmed pupil cases, but are still affected among the staff. Two members of staff were absent yesterday for PCR tests and a third will be absent for part of next week as her son has tested positive. Thank you for your continued patience and understanding.

### Christmas Celebrations

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.

### Inclusive Schools

Last week our inclusion officer, Jo Higginson, visited. She was pleased with our attendance last half term, which is lower than our usual, but better than many schools in the current climate. Jo was also pleased with how we have continued to be a very inclusive school. This not only behoves us as a church school (welcoming the most vulnerable, giving the most to those who have the least) but is also the national strategy for all schools. There are often children who join Farncombe in Reception who are not yet ready for the boundaries, expectations and rules of school. Rather than rejecting these children and showing condemnation, I am sure you are glad we show understanding and seek to guide these children into safe, productive and loving behaviour. Many of these children become some of our highest achievers and greatest stars later in their school careers. We know our systems work because we see a great improvement in the self-regulation and emotional maturity of individuals and groups as they move through school towards the focus and discipline required in our Year 2 classes. We also see a significant reduction in instances of conflict between children by the time they reach Year 2. I am always so proud of our fantastic Year 2 children! Feel free to speak to me at the gate or in school if you have any questions about our inclusion agenda.

### Friendship and Consent

At this time of year we always reinforce our rules around friendship and consent. The following was discussed in assemblies this 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'. We often use a guided peer massage in school and these were used this week as a practical example of asking for consent. This is useful practice for future safety.

### Donations for Charity

It is one of our traditions at Farncombe to encourage all pupils to give away a gift at Christmas time. This helps our children to understand the importance of generosity and is a helpful way for them to demonstrate the 'love your neighbour' part of our school vision. When purchasing gifts for family and friends online or in local shops, please just add an extra toy to your basket and ask your child to bring it into school any day between now and December 6<sup>th</sup>. These gifts will be donated to local needy children. Thank you.

### 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.

### Retirement!

After 18 years of working at Farncombe School, Billie Skilleter will be beginning a well deserved retirement at Christmas. Billie has been a wonderful TA over the years and our pupils and staff will always remember her cooking, her patience and her dry wit. Moira Houston, Bec Turner, Jacqui Bryant and Jessi Poulson will continue working in Beech Class.

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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.**