

# Farncombe Church of England Infant School

Inspiration Imagination Individuality



## Newsletter 9

10<sup>th</sup> December 2021

### Autumn Dates

#### December

- 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 (live Y2, film YR&1)
- 16<sup>th</sup> Carols - Reception, 2.15pm\*
- 17<sup>th</sup> End of Term, 1.45pm

#### January

- 4<sup>th</sup> Start of term
- 14<sup>th</sup> Wise Moves Dance Workshops\*\*

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

### Presents Thanks

Thank you to the many parents and children who donated a Christmas gift to be given to local needy children. There were two large and overflowing cardboard boxes full of gifts which were dropped off at the depot on Wednesday. Charitable giving in this way is such a tangible way to show our young pupils how they can love their neighbours. Thank you!

### Happy Days in School

Many thanks to the Year 2 families who completed questionnaires this month. These will still be welcome right up to the end of term. The children speak of happy days in school with lots of friends. They feel safe everywhere and can explain what they would do if they had a problem. This is really important information for us.

Parents will be aware that this has been an extremely challenging term for us in school, and not many staff have experienced such a joyous series of months. In this context, these questionnaires are a real testament to the strength of the Year 2 team, as the children have clearly been shielded from any problems we have experienced. Well done and thank you to Belinda Watson, Liz Siviers, Liz Parrish, Aidan Parker and Lyn Stacey.

#### Some quotes:

*'I always feel happy at school - there's nowhere that makes me feel more happy.'*

*'We make lots of friends.'*

*'The teachers are nice.'*

*'What's special about our school? Our values.'*

A Year 1 questionnaire and one for parents will follow next term.

### Covid Update

We now have three confirmed cases of covid among our pupils. One is in Lime Year 2 and has been absent for over a week. A second is in Apple Year 2, tested positive this week. The third is in Willow Year 1, and tested positive yesterday. Many parents will be aware of the high number of cases among junior and secondary school aged children. These three Farncombe cases all have older siblings in local schools.

Thank you to all parents for your caution and sensible approach in terms of testing and absence from school. Please find attached a new flow chart for covid guidance.

We have continued to operate year group bubbles with absolutely no mixing indoors between year groups for a number of weeks now. This has been an extremely difficult time for staffing, with very high numbers of absence. Earlier this week we had eight members of staff absent, which is a full third of our team. Thanks to our dedicated and hard working staff, no classes had to be closed, although we came very close to this. We haven't had a single day this term with 100% staff in school. This has been due to a combination of staff themselves having covid, looking after family members with covid and other seasonal illnesses.

Thank you parents for your understanding and patience with this. Let's hope the booster shots are effective!

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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.*

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