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20th October 2017

**OCTOBER UPDATE**

Dear Parents / Carers,

We continue to go from strength to strength, with another action packed month behind us! I cannot believe that we are already at half term!

The FOPs Disco was a roaring success and thoroughly enjoyed by all. The children also enjoyed the fantastic M&M Productions version of ‘The Hobbit’. They were transfixed and gained so much from the theatrical experience.

The Great Pattishall Bake Off was another well received event, making over £50 for Macmillan. Myles Kilby was our Star Baker – I’d love to know how many eggs were in that cake! Pictures are on Facebook and Twitter.

Speaking of cakes – the Year 5/6 and Year 4 cake sales have been great – I have never seen cakes being sold so quickly! Huge thanks to all those bakers out there!

Year 6 also had a brilliant day at the home of The Saints with Northamptonshire Police where they learnt so much about citizenship and staying safe. We hope that this will be an annual event.

**Pupil celebrations:**

On Thursday 28th September, Mrs Green took 6 KS2 girls to a football tournament at Campion School. The girls had only had two training sessions as a team and we were taking years 4, 5 and 6 for a year 5 and 6 tournament.

The girls were nervous about their first match as we were one of the smallest teams there. However, they worked brilliantly as a team and were persistent up front leading to a win in their first match. This result gave them the enthusiasm and confidence they needed to take them through the rest of the matches.

We played 6 matches in total without a break, winning 4 of them, drawing 1 and losing 1. We were so impressed with the attitude towards each other and the sportsmanship they showed the other teams. Their hard work and energy paid off and we were so pleased to come second overall missing out on 1st place by 1 point. Well done girls, you were fab!

**Reading:**

As you know, Reading is one our key focus areas this year. We are currently seeking quotes for the renovation of our library.

How lovely to see so many Grandparents in school for ‘GenVW’ – the children loved showing their families their work and sharing books together. There will be similar events for parents and carers around March and June.

**Communication:**

Great to see such positive use of our social media sites – thank you. Year 3’s Twitter is now up and running – so watch this space!

@mrsmcleanpps

@reception\_pps

@year1\_pps

@year2\_pps

@pps\_year3

@patishallyear4

@lowrithorpe

@pattishallsport

Please do feel free to catch me on the playground, pop in or make an appointment with the office if you wish to discuss anything in more depth. Some of you have emailed in too – which is absolutely fine, however it may take me a while to respond as over 300 emails drop into my inbox in a week.

Our Maths and English Curriculum evenings were extremely well attended – thank you for supporting us and thank you to staff for preparing and delivering the information, which has also been sent home if you were unable to attend. You are warmly welcomed to our Behaviour Forum on Monday 6th November.

Many thanks to all staff and parents for making the parent’s evenings another successful event; and thank you to our governors for the refreshments.

**Growth Mindset:**

We continue to use the language of Growth Mindset in school. For more information on Growth Mindset, please have a look at: <https://www.mindsetworks.com/science/> There’s even a mindset quiz you can take to see what your own mindset is like.

**Mindfulness:**

Mindfulness goes hand in hand with Growth Mindset. When you practice Mindfulness, the prefrontal cortex physically grows; grey matter forms in the hippocampus (the memory hub in the brain) making recall easier; and neural pathways bypass the amygdala (the prehistoric brain that serves your fight/flight/freeze responses: i.e: your fixed mindset voice).

Mindfulness is now being prescribed by GPs for depression, anxiety and anger as a result of the neuroscience behind it.

Engaging in screen time is the opposite of mindfulness.

If you're interested, I can recommend: **"Sitting Still Like a Frog"** - great for bedtime routines.

[https://www.amazon.co.uk/gp/aw/d/1611800587/ref=mp\_s\_a\_1\_1…](https://www.amazon.co.uk/gp/aw/d/1611800587/ref%3Dmp_s_a_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1506715788&sr=8-1&pi=AC_SX236_SY340_FMwebp_QL65&keywords=sitting+still+like+a+frog&dpPl=1&dpID=418v-S99S%2BL&ref=plSrch)

**Homework:**

The Homework Books (not for Reception) are due to be dispatched to school on 23rd October, so expect them to be sent home after half term! The children will have daily reading, spelling and times tables to learn. All children will also receive at least one Topic related homework each half term. Achievement of their homework will result in raffle tickets and house points.

By 2019, all Year 4 pupils will undergo a times tables screening, similar to the phonics screening in Year 1.

**Presentation:**

We continue to remind the children that a smart appearance and a tidy desk helps them to have a tidy mind, ready for learning. Thank you for your on-going support. Another project I am exploring is the rejuvenation of the classrooms: many need painting and new furniture. If you’d like to make a donation, or offer some time to help decorate, do let me know so I can organise a working party.

**Behaviour:**

The Department for Education decrees that we should review, update and share our Behaviour Policy with all stakeholders every year. Ours is ready for review and so it seems like a timely opportunity to open up a consultation for all stakeholders. There will be a parent forum on Monday 6th November at 6pm. Do come along and have your say.

**Attendance information:**

Our overall attendance for September was 97.8%. Well done to Years 1 and 6 for having the highest attendance!

Attendance over 95% significantly improves the children’s chances, so thank you so much for this.

**Community:**

I was warmly welcomed by the Parish Council on 12th October. We discussed how the school can be more involved in community life and how the community can be more involved in school life. If you or someone you know, has some spare time to read with our children, or help out with a gardening project, please do make contact.

Please can I ask that we all consider the local residents by not parking across driveways, on bends, narrow pavements or yellow lines: if we can car share where possible or walk to school, I would be most grateful. As a village school in the heart of the community, we all need to work together to ensure each other’s safety.

**Church of England School:**

As a church school, we value our community and would love to share our worship with you. On Mondays at 10:55am we are lucky enough to have John Atkin, Rev Doug, Rev Richard and Richard from the Lighthouse Trust continuing to lead our worship. If you are able to attend, we would love to see you there.

**Healthy Schools:**

Many thanks to you all for supporting us in our drive to uphold our Healthy School status. The children are enjoying their healthy playtime snacks and their treats at lunchtime. We will continue to encourage children to have their healthy snack at playtime and to save their treat for lunchtime.

Please send in snacks separately, as children will not be able to go in their lunch boxes before lunch. Thank you.

**Plea from Mrs Hiams:**

Please save your Pringles (other stackable crisps in tubes are available!) tubes for Mrs Hiam’s Art Club. Thank you.

**Plea from the children!**

We would love to get in some chickens to live behind the Year 2 and Year 3 classrooms. If anyone has a chicken coop up for grabs, please do let me know. Thank you.

**Calendar Events:**

November

* 04/11/17 FOPs Film Night time TBC
* 10/11/17 Armistice Service in Holy Cross 10:45am *Lead by Student Council*
* 17/11/17 Wear Spots for Children in Need
* 23/11/17 Music Concert performed by children who have peripatetic lessons, time TBC
* 27/11/17 Mufti for Gosset Ward
* 29/11/17 Blue Butterfly internet safety

December

* 11/12/17 Year 3/4 Church Assembly – Holy Cross 9.15am
* 12/12/17 FOPS Crazy Hair Day for tombola prizes
* 15/12/17 Christmas Jumper Day for Save the Children
* 19/12/17 Carols on the Playground 3pm
* 19/12/17 FOPS Winter Festival
* 19/12/17 Christingle in Holy Cross 6pm
* 20/12/17 Whole School to see Peter Pan at The Deco
* 20/12/17 Whole School Christmas Lunch!
* EYFS/KS1 performance dates TBC

**Staffing:**

Mrs Johnson has had her operation and is recovering very well. We hope that she will be re-joining us at the end of November.

We say goodbye to Mrs Webster as she embarks her new career in Waitrose, Towcester. She has been a fantastic member of the team and has formed some wonderful relationships with the children. I know that you will join me in saying a fond farewell. She will be coming back on Wednesday afternoons to volunteer in our library.

Mrs Sarah Mills and Mrs Helen Mosely are joining the team temporarily and Mrs Claire Mills is joining us full time, all as Teaching Assistants.

We are also lucky to have extra support from Mrs Jane Battams (running Key Stage Two interventions) and Mrs Gemma Wigley (in Reception) once a week.

Many thanks for all your kind comments and on-going support. If you have any questions – do come and ask me face-to-face: always happy to help as we’re all in this together.

Have a happy and safe Half Term.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs E. McLean

