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IN GOD’S LIGHT

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28th February 2018

**FEBRUARY UPDATE**

Dear Parents / Carers,

Apologies that this update finds you half way through March! But as usual, it has been extremely busy behind the scenes! We continue to go from strength to strength with further validation from the Local Authority and Diocese in February.

**Reading and Homework:**

Our recent reading assessments demonstrate the impact of the reading that is going on at home! In September, 47% of the school were at ‘4’ (working at Age Related Expectations); as of February half term, this has risen to 71% working at a ‘4’ or ‘5’. This brings us in line with the National Average from the Key Stage Two SATs last year.

Thank you and keep it up – especially the ‘book talk’ (see the front of the Homework Books).

**World Book Day Thursday 1st March:**

What a wonderful day! We braved the snow in order to celebrate the opening of our amazing new library and listen to Sue Bentley talk about how she became and author. The children’s questions were insightful and engaging. Sue commented on how polite our children are and what a lovely school we are.

It was great to see such a positive article in the Chronicle that reflects all the wonderful things that go on inside Pattishall School: thanks to Val Mahoney and Heather Whittington for organising such excellent publicity.

And once again – tremendous thanks has to go to FoPs and all members of the community who have worked so hard and/or contributed to the new library. A special thanks to Craig Spires for the redecoration of the whole library space and to Les Brazier for cleaning the carpets: what a difference!

The children are delighted, as are the staff. We now have an extra teaching space as well as an excellent resource to inspire the children to read.

**Parents Evening:**

Parent’s evening was a great success. We hope that a chance to view your child’s books and receive information about your child’s academic progress and mindset was helpful.

We received 50 questionnaires – thank you so much for taking the time to complete them. We are pleased to say that 96% agree that their child is happy at school. For all the other questions, 100% agreed. The feedback provided was also extremely helpful and the teaching team will be exploring some of the suggestions and ideas later in the term.

**Presentation:**

Presentation is still high priority as we strive for excellence in all aspects of school life. Tucked in shirts, buttoned up cardigans and shiny shoes put us all in the right mindset. Thank you for your on-going support.

We are changing to red gingham summer dresses from the light blue. Please do note that blue dresses will be acceptable until the end of this academic year. Thank you.

**Attendance:**

It has been a bad winter for colds and flu. This has seen our attendance dip below our overall target of 95%.

The children are only in school for 190 days out of 356 each year. It is paramount that children are in school as much as possible so that their brain develops by building and strengthening neural pathways. Days off ‘here and there’ result in gaps, as connections haven’t been made in the brain.

Please see our website for further information on how we can help if you are struggling with attendance; and the penalty notices served by the Local Authority when there is persistent low attendance.

**Church of England School:**

We are delighted to welcome Rev Canon Karen Jongman to the parish. It was an honour to be asked to welcome her on behalf of the school community at her initiation. She is looking forward to coming into school and getting to know you and the children.

Family services are at 9.30am on the first Sunday of every month, are approximately 30 – 40 minute long, involve the children and there is always a craft and refreshments: a great way to meet people and be part of the community.

Parents are warmly welcomed to Monday’s collective worship, weekly at 10.55am. We are also exploring other ways to make collective worship more accessible for all parent / carers; including notifying you of your child’s celebration certificates so you can and see them receive their awards (which are always shared on Social Media – sometimes by Miss Bruce, so you may need to follow her on Twitter too).

**Website:**

Hopefully you have had a chance to view our new website. The domain name is the same. There is already plenty of information on there; but it is a work in progress – so please keep checking in and feeding back what you find useful and what else you need on your website.

We’d like to thank Miranda Walton for all the hard work and support she has given us with the website over the years.

**Social Media:**

All classes are now on Twitter you can follow them on Twitter, or keep and eye on our Facebook page as I re-tweet all of our news.

**Class Dojo (repeated from January’s Update):**

All classes are now signed up with Class Dojo. You will be given the option to log in to view your child’s Dojo points in the near future. Parents already using this function have commented that they have enjoyed discussing what their child’s point was awarded for.

Within Dojo, the classes can decide on what their focus should be for their points; and in turn the weighting of each Dojo – so what they want to be rewarded more generously for. E.g.: in Y5/6 they can earn 3 points for Perseverance, but only 1 for settling to a task.

Teachers may communicate class messages through Class Dojo as well as Twitter. Parents may communicate through Dojo too: **although please do continue to inform the Office with regards to absence.**

Teachers are aiming to award between 10 – 15 Dojo points per week. We are running the House Point system in tandem to see if both systems are necessary: it may be that we find that House Points are better recorded through Class Dojo – but it is an organic process and time will tell.

**Growth Mindset and Mindfulness:**

We continue to use the language of growth Mindset and thank you for your on-going support with this.

**Community:**

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.

I have recently met with Helen Howard from the Highways Agency on the traffic around school and she has pledged to work with us on finding solutions to the issues we face at the busy times of day.

**Healthy Schools:**

Thank you for your continued support with the healthy snacks.

We have been given permission to park in the Parish Hall car park in the mornings so you can walk up with the children to ease congestion and blow the cobwebs away in the morning!

**Staffing:**

We are delighted to announce that Claire Sceats, Mum to Megan and Alex in Year 1, has been appointed as our Administrator and joins the team on Monday 12th March. I am sure you will all join me in warmly welcoming Claire to the team.

I cannot put into words the gratitude we have for Helen Moseley who has bridged the gap in our office-staffing since January. She has truly been superwoman, seamlessly transitioning between Read, Write, Inc teaching, managing the office, serving Dolce meals and then back to the office; with a spot of Library cataloguing and organising thrown in! Helen – we are eternally grateful and are so please that you are staying with us.

It is with sadness that I announce that Mrs Helen Hiams is retiring at Easter. Helen has been an integral part of the team for many years. She is especially renowned for her artistic talents, which Year 3 have benefitted from this term.

I am glad to say that Mrs Hiams will continue to run Art Club for us – which we are delighted about!

We have expanded our support team by appointing a whole new team! I am delighted to announce that, after an application process and selection by the teaching team, we have 5 prefects (out of 5 applications!!), led by our Head Boy and Head Girl.

Congratulations goes to our prefect team:

Katie Barker

Fran Dicken

Mia Rogers

Georgie Parslow

Oliver Hibbert

Head Boy: Daniel Walton

Head Girl: Bella Noon

Some of their responsibilities include leading Collective Worship, serving hot lunches, upholding behaviour standards in the corridors, conducting parent tours, working with the younger children when required and attending events on behalf of the school.

**Calendar of Events:**

* 12/03/2018 EYFS Mother’s Tea Party (with Prefects serving tea and performances by the Choir)
* 16/03/2018 Mums (as it has been Mother’s Day) in just before 3pm for ERIS (any parent/carer welcome)
* 19/03/2018 Shakespeare Week in school
* 22/03/2018 Year 5/6 High 5 Netball at Campion
* 28/03/2018 Stations of the Cross Service in Holy Cross 2pm – all welcome
* 29/03/2018 (Maundy Thursday) Close for Easter at 3.15pm

As ever, I appreciate your support in my quest to make Pattishall CE Primary School the very best it can be for the benefit of your children.

I am also appreciative of the efforts you go to during the 175 days when your children are at home – learning never stops and it is all about experiences. That is what accelerates brain development. The more you interact with your child and the more experiences they have, the better developed their neural pathways and the more mindful they will be.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs E. McLean

