

Head Teacher: Mrs E.S. McLean

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29th March 2018

MARCH UPDATE

Dear Parents / Carers,

It's not long since the February update, but a lot has happened since then...

The EYFS Spring Tea Party was a lovely event, well attended with wonderful performances from the choir and the Reception class. Thanks goes to the Prefect Team for serving the drinks and making sure the event went smoothly. We were also delighted to welcome Rev Káren and John Atkin to the party. It was also wonderful to see so many of you for ERIS on 16th March: there was a great 'buzz' in school - this is definitely something we would like to extend through next year.

Well done to the Year 5 and 6 Netball Team who worked so hard and really demonstrated our team spirit and sportsmanship. We hope to develop a programme of clubs to help better prepare the teams for sporting events in the new academic year.

Our termly music concert was a fantastic opportunity for our talented musicians to share their progress and build their confidence as performers. 22 acts played for the audience's delight: including our wonderful choir. Thanks to Mrs Keeble for assisting and to our Head Boy, Daniel, and Head Girl, Bella, for leading the event.

If you attended this event, you will have noticed our "mad hair"! We had a day of craziness in order to raise money for the Brain Tumour charity on behalf of the lovely Mrs Berry. Mrs Berry's daughters jumped out of an aeroplane in order to generate funds, so we thought it would be the least we could do to support such a worthwhile cause so close to our hearts.

Communication:

You can contact the school and follow our journey and events via:

- Monthly Updates – Sent via ParentMail and available in the Foyer
- Our new website – www.pattishallschool.co.uk
- Phone – 01327 830 301
- Email – pattishalloff@outlook.com
- Facebook – @pattishallCEprimaryschool
- Twitter – @mrsmcleanpps
- ParentMail, including the calendar
- By signing up to Class Dojo – please speak to your child's teacher for more information
- Around Pattishall – <https://www.pattishallparish.org.uk/news/around-pattishall/>
- Having a chat with any of the staff team on the playground: we are always happy to clarify any question or query you may have.

Homework:

The Government's on-line Times Tables Screening will be in legislation by June 2020 (current Year 2's). We have not been selected as a trial school this year.

Keep up the good work of learning all tables up to 12x12! Screening aside, a sound knowledge and understanding of number sequences will make Maths so much easier for your children. It is the smallest thing that will make the biggest difference to improving fluency and confidence. Children without these early foundations often build a negative mindset around Maths, particularly when more abstract concepts are introduced, such as algebra ($2n = 2$ times tables...)

- Year 1: 2, 5 and 10
- Year 2: 2, 5, 10 and 11
- Year 3: 3, 4 and 8
- Year 4: 6, 7, 9 and 12

Attendance:

Our attendance is improving! Spring must be in the air! Keep an eye on social media for weekly updates for each class.

Children are only in school 52% of the year; so please do make sure they're in as much as possible. We will always send a child home who is not well enough to learn – so do send them in unless they have been sick or had an upset stomach.

The office is now tracking attendance and will be sending letters out to individuals if it drops below 95%. If you need support with attendance, please do approach one of us: we have a supportive, experienced and helpful team. We are here to work with you, not against you, on your child's learning journey.

For more information on attendance and the implications of persistent poor attendance, please refer to our website.

Church of England School:

On Monday 23rd April, we are excited to welcome Heidi Street-Ward into school. Heidi is an artist who specialises in making felted wall hangings. She will be working with Reception, Year, 1, 2 and 3 to make a banner for the Foyer, with images of the Victorian school building, Holy Cross and our farming heritage; also a nod to our 120 year anniversary this year.

We are grateful to the Diocese for funding this project. We need 7 helpers throughout the day so if you'd like to be involved do let me know.

Family services are at 9.30am on the first Sunday of every month, are approximately 30 – 40 minutes 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 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). Watch this space.

Staffing:

Clare Sceats began on Monday 12th March and has settled in brilliantly to the team, working alongside Jane in the Office.

We are pleased to announce that Helen Moseley and Lisa Evans will be supporting Year 3 following Helen Hiams' retirement; although Helen Hiams will be continuing with Art Club for the foreseeable future. Lisa Evans will also be supporting Year 4 during Maths.

We are saying good-bye to Mrs Sarah Mills who has been supporting us in Year 5 and doing supply teaching across the school. We all wish her well on the next step of her adventure, working as an HLTA in Year 6 at George Grenville Academy in Buckingham.

We currently have an advert out for a new teacher so that we can go back to 7 classes in September. This will potentially be for a Year 5 position: although nothing is finalised and will depend on the successful applicant's skill set and preferences.

Mrs Green and I are currently discussing the possibility of employing a Sport and Play Leader for lunchtimes. We have yet to finalise the details, however it would probably be 2 hours per day over the lunchtime period, plus planning and preparation time. If this sounds like something you might be interested in, do come and have an informal conversation with Mrs Green or me.

Calendar of Events: *Please check in with the website, Facebook and ParentMail calendar*

- 16/04/2018 Closed for INSET
- 17/04/2018 Open for children
- 17/04/2018 Year 6 SATs information evening 6pm
- 23/04/2018 Heidi Street-Ward in for the day
- 23/04/2018 Year 6 SATs Booster classes begin
- 27/04/2018 FoPs Year 2 Cake Sale
- 27/04/2018 FoPs Disco
- 04/05/2018 FoPs Year 1 Cake Sale
- 01/05/2018 Year 2 SATs taking place throughout May
- 14/05/2018 Year 6 SATs Week begins
- 11/05/2018 FoPs Movie Night
- 18/05/2018 Year 5 and 6 to Kidzania in London
- 25/05/2018 FoPs Reception Cake Sale
- 25/05/2018 Whole class photos
- 04/06/2018 Closed for INSET
- 05/06/2018 Open for children
- 08/06/2018 Sports Day
- 14/06/2018 Reserve Sports Day (in case of bad weather on 8th June)
- 17/06/2018 Family Service Take Over (for Father's Day) at the Methodist Chapel, Astcote
- 22/06/2018 Music concert 2.15pm
- 22/06/2018 FoPs Disco
- 29/06/2018 Year 1 and 2 to Food & Farming, East of England Showground (details to follow)
- 20/07/2018 Close at 3.15pm for Summer

ON-GOING REMINDERS:**Growth Mindset and Mindfulness:**

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

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 to those who have already made the transition – they look lovely!

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!

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
Head Teacher