**Autumn Term Update**

The Autumn Term is a magical time of year, with the change of the leaves and the count down to Christmas. Here in school, we have been working hard whilst enjoying the beautiful setting we are blessed with.

In September we welcomed 17 new children to our Reception class: it has been so wonderful to see how far they’ve come in such a short space of time.

We also welcomed Mrs Wigley, Mr May and Mrs MacDougal to the teaching team; as well as Melanie Lawrence and Chrissy Gomes to our Midday Meal Supervisor team.

In October we were lucky enough to be able to invite Adrian Townsend into school to share his writing technique and some of his favourite books. The children were fascinated and really enjoyed his retelling of ‘Gran’s Gang’ and that the key to a good story is to ask, “What if….?”

We also found out that, after a year on the waiting list, we have been selected to become a Pets As Therapy School. We will be welcoming Lady (the lurcher) and her owners, Sue and Andrew Barrington, into school as a ‘Reading Dog’: where children are able to read to Lady in order to gain confidence in public speaking and fluency.

As Reading is at the heart of our curriculum, we also enjoyed inviting our Grandparents in for ERIS (Everyone Reading in School) on the 5th, to celebrate Grandparent’s Day.

All staff received training in Attachment Awareness and Zones of Regulation (thanks to Emma Hunter); this coupled with our newly appointed ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant) means that we have a unique and cutting edge approach to handling behaviour and children’s barriers to learning. Our behaviour policy is all about consistency and kindness. This links with our new values: Love, Joy, Kindness, Thoughtfulness, Respect, Courage and Co-operation.

Now in November, we are working towards being involved in the dedication of the Prisoner of War memorial stone in Pattishall. School will be open from 10am on the 10th November for those attending the dedication to view the work the children have produced on what Pattishall was like 100 years ago – when the school was just 20 years old, compared with now. We must thank Iris Illingsworth and Jayne Hawtin for supporting us with gathering resources; and Nina Swain for offering her time to paint memorial rocks with the children, for them to dedicate at the Armistice Service on Sunday 11th November, and later hide around the village.

Looking forward to December, we have a busy schedule with the lower school Christmas production, a whole school trip to the Pantomime, Christmas lunch, our Christmas tress-dressing ceremony, the choir singing at Towcester Tesco and our new tradition – Carols on the Playground. At 2pm on Tuesday 18th December, we would like to invite the whole community to share a hot chocolate with us, sing carols with us, listen to the choir and the Song Birds and watch our dance troop perform. We hope to be accompanied by the Towcester Studio Band once again.

Afterwards, our amazing FoPs team will be hosting our Winter Festival in the school, where games, crafts and Father Christmas himself will be on offer!

Many thanks if you put a blue token in our box in Towcester Tesco over the past few weeks – fingers crossed we receive the maximum amount to buy a class suite of Raspberry Pi computers to enhance our computing curriculum. We also have another vote based bid out there at the moment with Aviva: please do log on and share your votes with us! If we win, we will be in the running for funding towards a new kitchen, which will move us one step closer to serving our own meals and enhancing our nurture provision.

A final thank you must go to Barclaycard. Their ‘Day to Make a Difference’ really did just that over half term, when a team of volunteers came in and repainted our school hall and entrance. We were also lucky enough to receive heavily discounted paint from Community Re-Paint, so the school is looking fresh and ready to be decorated for the festive season.

We hope that you can join us on Tuesday 18th December at 2pm to share our festive cheer. If you’d like to know more about the school, or get involved please do not hesitate to contact me or the office on 01327 830 301.

With every good wish, Mrs McLean

Head Teacher