

No 20

## **WEEKLY NEWSLETTER**

Dear Parents

This week we have been focusing on reading across the school as this is one of the priorities in the School Development Plan this year. I think it is really important that parents know the priorities we have for our children's learning and how we envisage driving this priority forward to impact positively on teaching and learning throughout the school.

### **Improvement Priority 7:     a) Monitoring of Reading and Improvement in Spelling    b) Resilience in Writing**

By the end of March, we will have a new reading policy in place across the school and it will clearly outline practice and procedures for the way in which we teach and support reading. This document will be available to you in due course to help you understand what we are trying to achieve and how we are going about doing it.

Staff have also discussed the systems and methods we use and our aim is to achieve a far better level of consistency of approach across the school. The idea is that we will all have a better idea of what is in place and you, as parents, will know what to expect each week to support your child's reading. To summarise:

- Every child will have a reading record and an individual reading book.
- The class teacher will make a decision on the colour banding that each child reads after various on-going assessments.
- When a child progresses onto the next stage, this will be recorded in the reading diary.
- Parents are encouraged to read with their child every day and write a comment on their children's reading behaviour.
- Each week your child will take part in Guided Reading with the class teacher and/or Teaching Assistant.
- When your child has taken part in Guided Reading, this will be acknowledged in the reading diary with a stamp that will say, "I have read in a group today".
- The member of staff will place their initial inside the diary.
- Every time a child is heard read in a group situation, the adult will write a comment on what s/he has done well and suggest what needs to be a focus in reading over the next few days.
- The expectation is that every child will also be heard read individually within a two-week cycle. However whether this can be achieved will frequently depend on how much volunteer support the class receives each week.
- Every child will also have the opportunity to take home a library book each week. (Please look on the website about your child's class to find out which day your child will bring home a library book.)
- The library book will be changed once a week under the direction of the class teacher.
- This book will also be recorded in the reading diary.

### **The School Library and Oxford Owl**

You may have noticed that we are very fortunate to have three laptops in our school library. This week the children will be invited to read e-books on the laptops, sometimes independently and sometimes with adult support. Some of the books that the children read can be found as e-books on a website called Oxford Owl. You can access this website at home by registering and your children can reinforce learning by navigating around the books and playing games to support their reading skills. Please log on and have a look – it is an excellent resource for home and at school. I think you will be pleasantly surprised.

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/>

## Worship Day at St John the Evangelist

On Monday our children who represent the Worship team will be taking part in a Worship Day with other local schools in our church in Churt. Rev Clare will be working with us along with one of the members of the Diocesan Education Team. Watch this space for a mini report from the children about their experiences.

## PTA Events

### Pancake Day

Next Friday, 9 February, after school, the PTA will be selling pancakes of various choices to mark Shrove Tuesday which takes place in the Church's calendar next week. Come and join us at this lovely social event after school. (Please see the flyer, below.)

### The Bunny Fun Run

This event will take place on Sunday, 25 March. Sponsorship forms will be sent out after half-term, but for now, please note that Registration will start at approximately 10.30am and the first race will start at 11am.

### Class Assemblies

Next week we look forward to welcoming parents to Fox Class Assembly on **Tuesday, 6 February** and Badger Class Assembly on **Wednesday, 7 February**, followed by "Stay & Share". Both assemblies will start at 2.30pm. The children are looking forward to sharing their learning with you and welcoming you back to their classrooms after the assemblies to find out more about what they are working on.

We look forward to seeing you over the next few days at various events in our school. In the meantime, have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes  
Gillian Morris

\*\*\*\*\*

### Dates Box:

Tues, 6 Feb	2.30pm	Fox Class Assembly + "Stay & Share" in the hall
Wed, 7 Feb	2.30pm	Badger Class Assembly + "Stay & Share" in the hall
Fri, 9 Feb	3.00pm	End of half-term – school finishes at normal time, ie, 3.00pm
	3.00pm	PTA event – Pancake Day (please see flyer, below)
w/c Mon, 12 Feb to Fri, 16 Feb	Half-term	
Mon, 19 Feb	8.30am	First day of 2nd ½ of Spring Term
w/c Mon, 26 Feb	Book Week	
Fri, 2 Mar	Mufti day – children to come to school dressed as a book character	
Mon, 5 Mar	3.30pm	Parents' Evening
Thurs, 8 Mar	4.30pm	Parents' Evening
Fri, 9 Mar	2.30pm	Mother's Day Assembly in the hall – all welcome
Mon, 19 Mar	TBC	Farnham Festival – further details to follow
Fri, 23 Mar	Comic Relief Day – further details to follow	
Sun, 25 Mar	PTA event – Bunny Fun Run – further details to follow	
Thurs, 29 Mar	9.00am	Easter Service – further details to follow
	2.00pm	School closes for the Easter break
Mon, 16 Apr	8.30am	First day of the Summer Term

# ST JOHN'S PANCAKE DAY



**FRIDAY 9TH  
FEBRUARY**  
FROM 3PM

**CHOICE OF FILLINGS**  
**EGG & GLUTEN FREE OPTIONS**

**£1 PER  
PANCAKE**