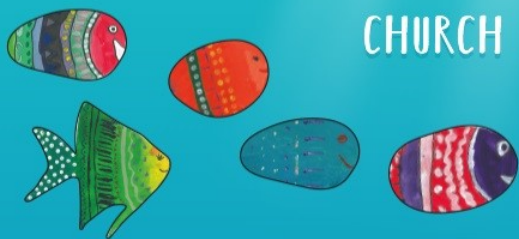




September 2023

# FISHBOURNE CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL



Only one you



Dear Parents,

It has been WONDERFUL to welcome the children back to the start of a brand new school year! Our Shark class have settled into school life beautifully and are known by name by everyone! Knowing our children is something that is hugely important in our school - we know that positive relationships have **such** a significant impact on children's

happiness and academic success. We use these early weeks of the new academic year to REALLY get to know your children well and visitors to our school always talk about the 'feel' of classrooms and atmosphere around the school building! We live out our vision of 'ONLY ONE YOU' in the way we build relationships and know that meaningful learning takes place when we have meaningful relationships.

Our oldest two classes of children take relationship building to an extreme by heading off on residential together where they have fun, collaborate and build new friendships. We are always enormously grateful to the teams of adults who go away with the children and make this kind of experience possible! Just imagine going on 'holiday' with thirty children to care for!

Our Year 5 class had an amazing overnight stay at CYE during their first week of term. They had beautiful blue skies and caught the end of the heatwave—there was no better way of spending time on the harbour! They were treated to sunsets and sunrises that provided them with moments of awe and wonder and so much enjoyment of the activities. The staff at CYE are really very special and make a point of also knowing every child by name by the end of their stay. They champion the children, nurture them and give them memories to treasure for a lifetime! It's lovely to see the way that our staff team and theirs come together in partnership to care and nurture the children.



By contrast, Year 6 head off further afield to Fairthorne Manor for a four night stay! During the week the children enjoy an action-packed, non-stop adventure that involves a vast array of opportunities! During this time they learn to support each other, look out for one another and reflect on their experiences together. It was wonderful to hear, on their return, the children acknowledging one another's achievements in our Golden Learner assembly!

After such a busy start to the new term, we were delighted to welcome Andy Higgs to school to carry out our church school inspection. The word 'inspection' strikes fear in the hearts of most of us but we had a wonderful day celebrating our school and it was lovely to hear his inspection conclusions. Both little and big fish shone throughout the day and we felt incredibly proud of our whole school family. Fishbourne Primary School is a very special place and we will make sure we share our report with you once it is published which we anticipate being in the next couple of weeks.



At this time of year, we like to share with families what our priorities are for developing our school. All development at our school builds towards achieving an optimum pedagogic approach for learning – meaning the best possible way to lead the learning taking place within our

classrooms. In doing so, we recognise the importance of our:

- knowledge of the child (our WHY!)
  - knowledge of pedagogy (our HOW!)
  - knowledge of subject/curriculum (our WHAT!)
- and equally the role of feedback, motivation and learning opportunities.

At each stage of implementing any change, we recognise the need to explore, prepare, deliver and sustain to ensure that the changes are embedded and impactful in the long term.

As a result, our priorities should be read in conjunction with the 'journey towards...' documents: <https://www.fishbourneprimary.co.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=916&type=pdf>  
<https://www.fishbourneprimary.co.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=917&type=pdf>

We recognise that change doesn't happen overnight! Underpinning our school development plan is an understanding that development is a living and breathing process, one that requires professional tinkering along the way! We are passionate about developing a strong learning and deep thinking culture within our school community at all levels and are relentlessly optimistic about our vision for all learners at Fishbourne Primary.

Our priorities for this academic year are:

- \*To ensure that key knowledge and skills will be retained more effectively across the curriculum as a result of teaching and learning strategies being informed by the principles of cognitive science
  - \*To ensure that teacher assessments of writing are accurate.
  - \*To deliver consistently high quality teaching of reading across school that results in ALL children making at least expected progress from their starting points.
  - \*To quality assure the non-core curriculum through Pupil Book Study.
- Our School Development Plan is on our website for anyone interested in learning more!

We will keep you up to date on our progress towards these priorities during the year!

We are looking forward to re-starting our Cuppa and Chat sessions this term. These provide a really informal opportunity to come along and enjoy a cuppa and talk about life in school. In these sessions we have had all sorts of brilliant ideas shared which have been actioned in school and our attention drawn to things that we can reflect on and adapt to make our school a better place to be! Sometimes the sessions are completely open-forum and at other times they may have a theme. In the first one of the academic year, we have a focus on WELLBEING of children, staff and families and would like to use it as an opportunity to get some feedback from you about the sorts of help, support or opportunities that you would like to see in school. Discussions will go beyond this theme too so please feel warmly welcome to come and join us. It helps us with a sense of numbers if you could let the office know you are planning to come! The first Cuppa and Chat of the new year will take place on **Wednesday 18th October at 9am in the staffroom.**



We are really lucky at Fishbourne to have two specialist teachers who passionately deliver their subjects during the time your class teacher has their PPA (Planning, Preparation and Assessment). The impact both Madame Gifford and Mr Servant have on our children's learning is HUGE and we feel very fortunate that our little fish have such rich, high quality experiences during this time!

#### From Madame Gifford -

The children at Fishbourne Primary School will get several years of French lessons during their time with us. I love teaching French because it is a subject that a lot of children enjoy. Most children know no French at all when they start so everyone is on a level playing field and some children will take to French quickly even when they don't find other subjects that easy. We watch films of French children speaking, we sing songs, we play games, we read stories and we use online French resources so children of all levels can engage with the activities that we do. One game that all children seem to love is called Stations. We use any vocabulary that we have been learning and pieces of paper with those words are placed in 3 different areas of the room. The children go and stand by one of the words (or phrases) and if the child at the front (who can't see) calls out that particular phrase they have to sit down. The winner is the last person in. We cover a wide variety of topics during their French learning journey through the school. My favourite is food, especially because we usually have a French food-tasting session at the end of the topic. The children often find there are foods that they have never tasted before that they really like! The ultimate end goal of French at Fishbourne Primary School is that our children will have developed an appreciation and respect for other cultures, have learnt basic French vocabulary so they can communicate and respond appropriately and have participated in experiences that will have built their confidence in speaking French to an audience and increased their enjoyment of this language. We hope all children will leave our school with a positive attitude towards French and other languages.

#### From Mr Servant -

If I had a musical note for every time a grown up has said to me they were told that they can't sing when they were at school, I'd now have enough for a whole symphony! Well, no child ever gets told that at Fishbourne Primary - in fact, singing is the basis of our whole curriculum! (And if you are one of those grown ups, it is never too late - join a choir!)

Music is taught at Fishbourne based on the Kodály method, which has singing at its core. Zoltán Kodály was a Hungarian composer/educator whose method was adopted by the Hungarian government in 1945 - 15 years later over half the primary schools in Hungary were music primary schools, with music taught daily. In fact, Kodály said "To be concerned with the kindergarten and its music is not a minor pedagogical matter, but the very building of a nation."

Our musicians at Fishbourne Primary develop their understanding basic phonics of music and their concept of musicality - **Melody, Articulation, Dynamics, Tempo** (if your Italian is up to scratch, you'll know that means speed, or another word pulse), **Structure, Harmony, Instrumentation, Rhythm, Texture**, hopefully remembered by the mnemonic, **MAD T-SHIRT** - through song, games and body percussion, in other words, using their own instrument which everyone has access to: the human voice and body. The children learn different songs, and by doing so are actually "doing" the concepts - only then are the concepts identified and given a label. Kodály asked "How did you learn to read? You caught the sounds of the language. You caught how the sounds linked together to form words and how the words linked together to form sentences. Only then could you be taught how to read the words on the page."

So if your child comes home singing "Queen, queen, Caroline, washed her hair in turpentine," they haven't been subliminally exposed to the latest hair product, but have been learning all about rhythm and the beat. Really, I promise!

It's been a delight to see how the children at Fishbourne realise they can all do music using their own instrument that they all have, and how this has been so well demonstrated when our musicians at Fishbourne come to the end of their musical journey at primary school and take part in their wonderful Year 6 production.

A musical education is such an important part of a child's development and has in the last few years been backed up by many different research projects. Learning to anticipate where a beat comes, and learning different rhythmic patterns, has been shown to help develop the areas of the brain used when children are learning to talk, read and develop their literacy - so music really does need to be at the root of a child's learning and development! Maybe we should all be asking our children, how does "Queen, queen Caroline go?"



#### Dates for Next Academic Year

11th Oct— School Photos  
Wed 11th and Thu 12th Oct—Learning Review Meetings - sign up on parentmail  
Mon 16th Oct—Bend the Rules Day - more information coming soon!  
Wed 18th Oct—CUPPA and CHAT 9am  
The Dog Trust visiting school  
19th—Flu vaccinations - please register online

#### HALF TERM: Mon 23rd October—Fri 27th October

Mon 30th Oct—Fri 3rd Nov—Whole School Learning Experience  
The Lost Words  
Wed 1st Nov—Whole School Forest School Day  
Fri 10th Nov—School Disco  
Thu 23rd Nov - Sophy Henn visiting school  
Fri 1st December – Christmas Shopping Day and Christmas Jumper Day  
Fri 15th Dec—Carols Around the Tree 2.30pm

#### INSET DAYS

**Tuesday 2nd January**

**Monday 19th February, Monday 3rd June, Monday 24th June**

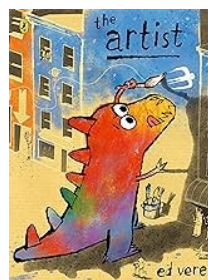


Coming up next week, the children are in for an absolute treat! We have two authors visiting school - Ed Vere and Vashti Hardy. Both authors are really well known to our children and we are so very excited to be welcoming them to our school. Our huge thanks to Chichester Children's Book Fest for choreographing this ever-growing project.  
<https://www.childrensbookfest.com/>

Ed will be visiting us on Wednesday 4th October and talking about his new book *The Artist* with children in Year 1 and 2.

Vashti will be visiting us on Thursday 5th October and talking about her book *Harley Hitch* with children in Year 3/4 and Brightstorm with children in Year 5 and 6.

Each child will be gifted with their own copy of the book, gifted to the children by Children's Book Fest.



At Fishbourne CE Primary School we nurture our learners to

