



December 2023

# FISHBOURNE CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL



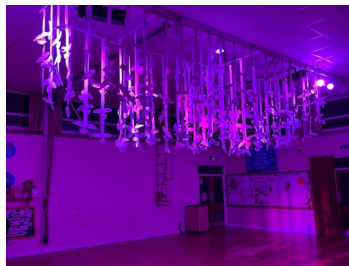
Only one you

Dear Parents,

There is no doubt that Christmas in a primary school is one of the most magical times of year and sharing in your children's joy and excitement is both a privilege and a joy! We have had a very special end of term and it's been lovely to see our traditional nativity play returning to our school calendar and a real feel of 'pre-pandemic' fun! Looking back just a couple of years to those choppy waters we navigated together as a school family, it is important to take a moment to remind ourselves how fortunate we are to be able to celebrate Christmas in the way we have been able to this year.



Hopefully by the time you read our newsletter, you may have popped in to see our 'Flight of Doves' - an art installation inspired by the work of Peter Walker. It all started with a little idea... a moment of inspiration in Chichester Cathedral where someone saw something that touched them... they welcomed that idea and gave it space to grow... they shared it with someone else who welcomed the idea too, gave encouragement and the idea grew further! By the time the idea was shared with the children at school, it was welcomed with enthusiasm and we were well on the way to making it happen! You see, each of the doves hanging from the ceiling holds within it a prayer or hope for peace. There is a dove here from every child, every member of staff, every governor. They reflect the shared hope we have for peace in the world. Last year, we built a connection with Sanctuary Chichester through a fundraising project. The children at Fishbourne, through their Thinking Circles, decided they wanted the money raised to be used to buy a copy of our school book, Only One You, for each child arriving in Chichester, seeking refuge. We are really grateful to everyone for their generous donations and will look forward to sharing with you the total raised at the beginning of the spring term.



**You can read more about Peter Walker whose work has inspired ours here:**  
<https://peterwalkersculptor.com/>  
**And Sanctuary Chichester whose amazing work all funds raised will support:**  
<https://sanctuaryinchichester.org/>

Your children will have come home with a peace dove last week for you to cut out and place in a window of your home, creating a ripple through our village of peace in the same way we did with rainbows and fish during the pandemic. It will be lovely for the children to see our Flight of Doves making its way through the village in the lead up to Christmas.



Our children were all so keen to get stuck into our Christmas fundraising... all of Key Stage 1 were involved in the community tea party and were supported by Year 6 on the afternoon who did the most amazing job of welcoming our guests and sitting, chatting with them all. Chameleon Class also wanted to hold their own little fundraiser for Sanctuary and collected sweets that they put into bags to sell to the rest of the school! The joy they had in putting these together was so lovely to see and the rest of the school were delighted (of course!) to buy up the product of their hard work! Chameleons raised £110 in their endeavour.



Didn't they do well? Our first nativity play since 2019 was a triumph and the children performed brilliantly well, singing their hearts out and enjoying every moment! We were so proud of each and every one of them who shone in their own, unique ways. It was really so lovely to have this very important part of our journey through advent well and truly back! A huge thank you to the staff team who, yet again, pulled it out of the bag and made it happen... supporting and nurturing the children to give the very best of themselves. It was lovely to see them enjoying every moment.

Each year our wonderful FOFS team give us £50 to spend on craft materials for each class to make a Christmas decoration to bring home. This year was no exception and on Monday the children had a wonderfully Christmassy time, crafting, decorating, painting and weaving beautiful decorations to bring home. We were also thankful to our FOFS team for providing us with 'Elfridges' Secret Present Room and the children enjoyed doing their Christmas shopping, wrapping their gifts and labelling them to bring home to share. We are so grateful to the work of our FOFS team who meet half termly and plan wonderful opportunities for our children.



Our Community Tea Party is a much loved annual event at Fishbourne Primary and this is when our youngest fish invite, organise and host a tea party for members of the local community. They invite neighbours, Fishbourne Companions, our Volunteer Army and many more guests. This year was particularly special as we welcomed a dozen or so representatives from Sanctuary Chichester including trustees, staff and beneficiaries. Our children in Key Stage 1 sang their hearts out and children in Year 6 sat and chatted with our guests, all under the Flight of Doves.





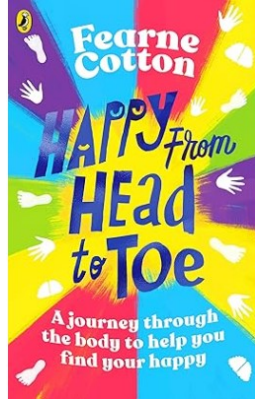
# Bishop Luffa

LEARNING PARTNERSHIP

As you will know from previous correspondence, we have now been granted our academy order and so last week we met with representatives from the Department for Education,

Chichester Diocese, West Sussex and the BLLP to start the process of academisation. We hope that if all goes smoothly our conversion will be on the 1st of June 2024. We will, of course, keep families up to date with the process and let you know any updates. We have already started meeting on a fortnightly basis with the team at the BLLP and will be meeting the primary heads on a fortnightly basis too. We are very excited to be part of the partnership at this formative stage and look forward to working alongside the teams at Bishop Luffa, Rumboldswyke and Lavant in the months and years to come.

The week after February Half Term we will be having our second whole school learning experience of the year - **Happy from Head to Toe**. It is a PSHCE learning experience in which we will be exploring physical and mental wellbeing. By the end of the week, we will each be pledging ways in which we can look after our own wellbeing and find our happy. During the week, we have lots of wonderful opportunities planned and ways for the children to learn the art and importance of self-care. In order to do this, we will be giving the children opportunities to try out different ways of taking care of their wellbeing. If you have a particular skill or gift you could share with our children (and have a DBS certificate), please do get in touch and let us know—this might include: sewing, a sport, crafting, singing, baking, a hobby... any number of things that could support our children to learn the impact that self-care has on us. We will be running workshops with mixed age groups on:  
Tue 21st Feb: 10.00-11.30am  
Wed 22nd Feb: 9.00-10.30am  
Thu 23rd Feb: 9.00-10.30 am  
If you would like to know more about how you can get involved, please do make contact with us via the school office. We will have a meeting for any parents who feel they could support this early in the new year!



Barnacle continues to settle well into school life. He is in school each day for half a day: some of this time he works directly with children alongside Mrs Gregory and some of the time he is available for children to pop along and say hello. We are really pleased with how settled he is and the impact he is having on the children. We look forward to seeing his role continuing to develop during the spring term!



We would like to wish each of our Fishy families a very happy Christmas, filled with peace. Thank you for your good wishes and lovely messages. We feel very privileged to be able to work alongside our children and families in partnership to do the very best we can for each of the little fish in our care. We have lots of exciting plans for 2024 and look forward to sharing these with you in the new year. In the meantime, enjoy Christmas, enjoy each other and we look forward to seeing you in the new year.

Every best wish,  
Naomi Day and team



### Dates coming up!

- Wed 3rd January - First day of the spring term for children
- Fri 12th January—First session of Parenting Programme for Sharks Class
- Fri 19th January—Young Voices
- Mon 19th Feb—INSET
- Tue 20th—Fri 23rd Feb - Happy from Head to Toe whole school learning experience
- Wed 21st Feb—NSPCC Speak out Stay Safe

**INSET DAYS**  
Tuesday 2nd January  
Monday 19th February  
Monday 3rd June  
Monday 24th June



**Our subscription to Doodle Learning comes to an end in February 2024 and we will not be renewing it. PLEASE do make the most of this online learning platform for the remainder of the time we have access to it. Those children who do engage with it do make accelerated progress as it gives the children the opportunity to develop their knowledge and skills, increasing fluency and automaticity.**



### Another plug for this brilliant, highly-recommended book...

Our school 'Behaviour for Learning and Life' policy is heavily influenced by the work of Paul Dix and his book 'When the adults change, everything changes'. In September, his latest book was published which takes many of the strategies we use at school and applies them to home settings. We have several copies of this book in our Wellbeing Library and highly recommend it as a starting point to reflect on patterns of behaviour at home: 'Your behaviour is the only behaviour over which you have absolute control. To change your children's behaviour, you first need to change your own. The culture of any home is determined by the parents. If you can remain unflappably calm in the face of every supermarket tantrum and sarcastic eye-roll, order will soon follow. Here, Paul Dix - Britain's leading children's behaviour expert - reveals how to build a culture of calm consistency into your home, starting today. He explains how you really can maintain a sense of Zen-like serenity in the face of even the most chaotic behaviour, from school-gate screaming matches to mealtime childmageddon. And he offers a set of simple strategies for coolly getting the behaviour you want - without a barked instruction, deranged punishment or cold, hard cash-bribe in sight. His tried-and-tested method will change what your child does by first changing what you do!

At Fishbourne CE Primary School we nurture our learners to

