



January 2024

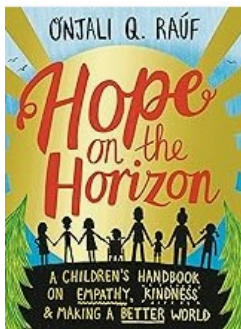
FISHBOURNE CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL



Only one you

Dear Parents,

Happy new year! It has been lovely to see all the children returning to school with exciting news about their Christmas adventures. I would like to take the opportunity on the part of our staff team to say thank you for all the lovely Christmas messages and gifts which were really appreciated.



The start of the new year is always a time for positive intentions and promises of what lies in store for the year ahead! We have lots to look forward to at school and have started the year by thinking about the ripple effect... the impact of a single act of kindness. Inspired by two brilliant books: *Hope on the Horizon* by Onjali Rauf and *Let's fill this world with kindness* by Alexandra Stewart.

We are supporting our children to understand, in the words of Onjali, that we want to make the ripples we create be the best of the best that we can possibly release. The kind of ripples that will reach out and make people we may never meet feel incredible and hopeful, even when they might be going through a tough time, and even though they might never know who is responsible for a particular ripple effect reaching them.

We are so passionate about our little fish becoming compassionate and showing empathy for others.

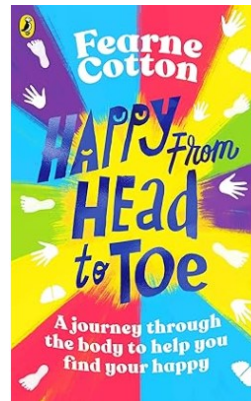
Our Christmas Flight of Doves gave our children the opportunity to do something special and to touch the lives of so many people—from the visitors to our community tea party to those being supported by Sanctuary Chichester. We are delighted to let you know that we raised £300 for Sanctuary. Thank you for your support and generous donations.

We have had such an exciting start to the spring term with our Young Voices choir going off to sing at the O2 Arena in London at the end of last week! We took nearly 90 children and a dozen adults who represented our school and helped to raise the roof! We were so proud of what amazing ambassadors our children were of our school and know that this bi-annual experience is much-loved among our entire school family. As ever, our thanks go to Mr Servant for making this happen.



If you haven't done so already, you might like to find our Instagram account to follow some of our weekday adventures! We find this is a really effective way to share with families on a regular basis some of the exciting things that are happening in school that don't always make it to the website!

You can find us here: [fishbourneprimary](https://www.instagram.com/fishbourneprimary)



We have been busy planning for our next whole school learning experience, 'Happy from Head to Toe'. This PSHCE based learning experience sets out to support the children to learn more about how to take care of their physical and emotional wellbeing. Recognising that it is not possible or usual to feel happy all the time but knowing how to improve our wellbeing is an important part of growing up and taking responsibility for the choices we make.

During the week, the children will have the opportunity to sign up for three different wellbeing workshops—ranging from yoga to drumming and baking to sewing. Each activity will be led by a different adult who

also uses this as a way of supporting their own wellbeing and the children will be encouraged to talk about how the activity is changing the way that they feel. By the end of the week we will all be writing a pledge about a way in which we commit to taking better care of ourselves.

The three wellbeing workshops will be on:

Tue 20th Feb 10-11.30

Wed 21st Feb 9-10.30

Thu 22nd 9-10.30

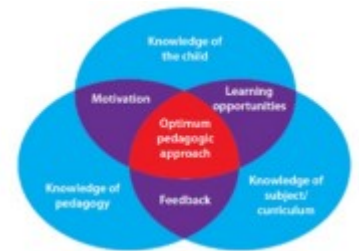
COULD YOU GET INVOLVED?

If you have a wellbeing activity that you could share with a group of up to 12 of our children on one of these dates or could volunteer* some time to support a small group being led by someone else, do get in touch and we can talk about how you can get involved! We will need to know by Friday 26th January so we can organise the groups.

* Please do remember we require all volunteers to have a DBS check in place.

Developing our school:

Each year, we like to share with our families what we are working on within our School Development Plan. You can read more about how we implement change at our school on the school website under the ABOUT US tab. 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.



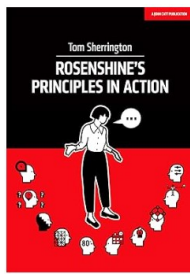
Our priorities for this academic year are:

- *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 are really pleased with the progress that we are making towards each of these priorities but wanted to make you aware in particular about our emphasis on using cognitive science to understand more about how children retain new knowledge and skill. We have been really enjoying devouring Rosenshine's Principles of learning and using the evidence to inform the way we plan learning for the children. Having time to reflect on each principle and deliberately practise an element of it in our classrooms means we are able to see the impact it has on the children's ability to recall key knowledge. With just one principle remaining, we will then turn our thoughts to carrying out inquiry questions in our classrooms where we are able to reflect deeply on the impact of a given strategy on children's learning. The principles we are learning about which will in turn reflect on your children's experiences are:

- the way in which we sequence learning
- techniques for modelling
- the use of questioning
- reviewing knowledge on a daily, weekly and monthly basis
- opportunities for practising

Each of these principles results in children retaining new learning more effectively.



Dates coming up!

- Thu 8th Feb 8.45am—Cuppa and Chat
- Fri 9th Feb—FOFS pancakes and hot chocolate
- 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 (further information to follow)
- Thu 29th Feb - Boy at the back of the class theatre visit for children in KS2 (further information to follow)
- Week beginning 25th March—mid year reports coming home
- Wed 27th March—Easter Service
- Thu 28th March—Sophy Henn visit

INSET DAYS

- Monday 19th February
- Monday 3rd June
- Monday 24th June



Working in partnership!

We are always keen to work in partnership with our families and always happy to receive feedback—both positive and ways to develop. We have been made aware that there are occasions when class WhatsApp

groups are not always being used as a force for good and we really encourage you not to enter damaging, negative discussions about school in this forum. Please use these groups as a positive, empowering place to support the work we do serving the families at Fishbourne Primary. We always welcome you to come and chat—pick up the phone, catch one of us on the pathway, ping an email... or come along to our next Cuppa and Chat which is scheduled for Thursday 8th February at 8.45am.

Similarly, if there has been a problem at school with another child, please do not make contact with another family via social media. We are here to support mediation between children and families if there is a need and will always be happy to help. Approaching one another often results in emotionally charged discussions that leave everyone feeling negative and children caught up in the middle of it long after they have moved on!

Forest School for Key Stage 1

You will have seen the new Forest School area to the left of the school field being developed over the winter, led by Jo and Abi. We are nearing completion of this area now and this means that after February half term, our children in Sharks class will be the first class to enjoy Forest School Friday's here on the school site. We will write to Shark class with information about what they need to bring to school on these days.

- Jo is appealing for the following items if anyone is able to donate them...
- Metal or plastic big bowls (like cooking bowls, no glass)
 - old pots and pans (no glass)
 - cooking utensils
 - old scales
 - plastic chopping boards
 - metal kettles
 - firewood, can be cut off parts from workshops.
 - small wheel barrows
 - garden forks,
 - kids spades
 - bean bags
 - Gardening, bug books
- Any donations would be greatly appreciated!



We are absolutely delighted to have finally received confirmation from West Sussex that our brand new outdoor learning play environment for early years and Key Stage 1 is in the delivery phase! We are anticipating that the groundworks will begin in early February. During this time, there will be some disruption to accessing the school building for children in Shark, Chameleon and Cheetah classes and we will be in touch with those classes to let you know what to expect when the works begin! We have been working on this project for the last three years and overcome a tremendous number of hurdles so it is wonderful that this project is finally underway and should be ready to be enjoyed for the summer term! We are working with a wonderful company called 'Green Play' on this who have completed lots of work for the Forestry Commission and have a real heart for children's play! We can't wait!



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.

School Car Park

Please can we request that parents do not use the school car park when dropping children off at school unless you are dropping children for CC's before 8am. Anyone arriving after 8am should not use the car park so that we can keep the children safe.

