

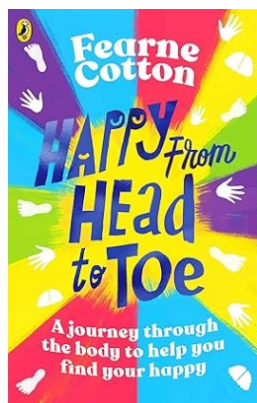


January 2024

# FISHBOURNE CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

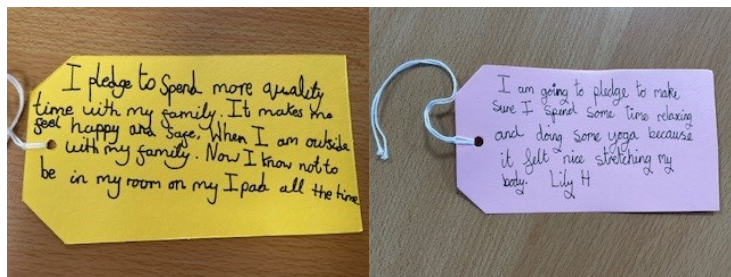


Only one you



Dear Parents,  
Our 'Happy from Head to Toe' week was a really special time in school with all the children having the opportunity to explore what it means to be happy and to reflect on questions like: Is it a good thing to always be happy? How can I take control of my own happiness? What sorts of things make me feel better if I am feeling sad? Who can I talk to if I am unhappy? There was a very special buzz in school throughout the week as the children enjoyed three different wellbeing workshops of their choosing! During whole school learning experiences, we embrace opportunities for the children to work in groups made up of children from different

year groups. Working across year groups is something everybody benefits from and the children thrive being supported by each other in this way. By the end of the week we were ready to make our own personal pledges, committing to a small change that has the potential to make a big difference to our own wellbeing. **Our pledges are displayed in the school hall and we warmly welcome you to come and share these with your children.**



The children's reflections, as ever, are humbling and profound. We were especially moved by the children who were really able to see that their own happiness is impacted by that of those around them. In our launch and closing assemblies, we explored the concept of 'UBUNTU'...



There was an anthropologist who had been studying the habits and culture of a remote African tribe. He had been working in the village for quite some time and the day before he was to return home, he put together a gift basket filled with delicious fruits from around the region and wrapped it in a ribbon. He placed the basket under a tree and then he gathered up the

children in the village. The man drew a line in the dirt, looked at the children, and said, "When I tell you to start, run to the tree and whoever gets there first will win the basket of the fruit." When he told them to run, they all took each other's hands and ran together to the tree. Then they sat together around the basket and enjoyed their treat as a group. The anthropologist was shocked. He asked why they would all go together when one of them could have won all the fruits for themselves? A young girl looked up at him and said, **"How can one of us be happy if all the other ones are sad?"** This story is, of course, a timely reminder of our school vision of 'making the world a better place to be'.



During the week, we were very privileged to be supported by a wonderful array of volunteers and helpers who led and supported wellbeing workshops, each making our school and children's worlds a much better place! We would like to thank the following amazing groups of people:



Chichester Harbour Conservancy who provided eight volunteers and ran three welly walks,  
West Sussex Schools Music Service for the drumming workshop,  
Marianne de Vries and Emma Owen-Smith from Green Door who ran yoga sessions,  
Laura Payne from Willow Tree Forest School.



Ali from the Avocado Wellbeing Project, Gemma Kelly who led the girls boxing group, Kerry Eames for the jewellery making and sea art workshops, Caroline Fillery for the textile fish making, Michele White for the card making, Julie Vine for the crafting activities, Elle Anderson Jones for the mindful colouring, Frances Kelly for singing and music workshops.



Bec Hopkins, Lisa Rutter, Vanessa Marchant Williams, Lizzie Peall, Jenny Hinton, Lynsey Unsted, Cyra Shepherd, Hannah Macdonald and Kate Parrett for your extra pairs of hands in supporting the workshops.



And of course, huge thanks also go to our very own team of Big Fish who provided the children with opportunities to experience their own tried and tested wellbeing passions - from clay modelling to baking, and from visiting the spa to playing football! This learning experience simply would not have been possible without the generous support in time and resources of so many people. We are truly thankful to everyone who got stuck in and shared their gifts, talents and time with our little fish.



Whole school learning experiences are a very much valued part of school life at Fishbourne and both the staff and children love to learn alongside each other and from each other. There has been a very special buzz around school during this time and an infectious enthusiasm for learning from all members of our school family.





We were absolutely thrilled to welcome a 'staffroom-full' of families to our recent Cuppa and Chat during which time we talked extensively about children's wellbeing and shared the hopes and fears that families have for their children during the school day. One of the areas we discussed in detail was play-times and unstructured times in school. We were interested to find out more about how children feel about these parts of the school day too and during the week we carried out a survey with our children to find out more about their experiences at school. These surveys will be processed in the coming weeks and we will then identify our next steps.



It has been WONDERFUL to see the long-awaited installation of our brand-new play area for our youngest children. The team at Green Play Project led by Simon and Shaun have worked tirelessly through some fairly challenging weather conditions to see our dreams come true! We have talked to many families as they have viewed the school as prospective parents about our vision for this area and 3.5 years later it has finally made it to the finish line! With what we think will just be one more week until the work is completed, it is really starting to take shape and we couldn't be any more thrilled with it. The original brief was for a natural, all weather play area to be installed. Inspired by the rain-playgrounds of Scandinavia, we looked for ways to incorporate the surface water that often gathers in this area to make the play as organic as possible! We were passionate about wanting the children's play to be kept at the fore-front of the designs and had a desire to keep the play as free and flexible as possible. We hope that this very special play-garden will serve the needs of our little fish for many years to come.

We were absolutely delighted to take Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 to see the matinee performance of The Boy at the Back of the Class on Thursday morning! Onjali is a very special person - author and activist - who we have had the privilege to welcome to our school twice now! Onjali's work to make the world a better place is inspirational and she is such a positive role model for us all. We asked Onjali to tell us more about her charity work, particularly O's Refugee Aid which you can read more about here: <https://www.osrefugeeaidteam.org/>



In particular, we asked Onjali to tell us more about a wonderful project she has planned to create a mobile book van. One of the biggest asks from refugee children in the camps in Calais especially, is for books in a variety of languages. But with camp conditions being rough, wet, and unstable, carrying books and keeping them clean is difficult. Onjali's solution is to create a book van, filled with beautiful books in the required languages, for refugees of all ages to enjoy. Having heard about this project, we felt we could respond as a school by mobilising our Thinking Circles to consider how they could go about raising money to support this dream to become a reality. In a school community where we are passionate about celebrating our uniqueness and the difference we can make to the world AND where we LOVE books as much as we do, this project is perfect for us to get involved.



### Dates coming up!

Fri 8th March—Mothers Day/Someone Special shopping day organised by FOFs  
Week beginning 25th March—mid year reports coming home  
Mon 25th March—Bags 2 School collection by 9am  
Wed 27th March—Easter Service  
Thu 28th March—Sophy Henn visit and World Book Day celebrations

**INSET DAYS**  
**Monday 3rd June**  
**Monday 24th June**



It doesn't seem possible that we have just passed the middle of the academic year! That means of course that we are in the midst of writing the children's mid-year reports. At Fishbourne, the children are active and accountable participants in their own learning. By reflecting on the children's progress mid-year, we have an opportunity to work

together in partnership to support the children in their learning. This process has the capacity to be very powerful for children, teachers and parents alike! The children have now completed their mid-year reflections about themselves as learners and, following a period of careful assessment, the teaching team are writing their responses to the children. We expect these mid-year reports to be with you before Easter and hope that you will find them a helpful tool in knowing where your children are as learners.



It was incredibly special to see the first of our little fish benefiting from our brand new Forest School area. The vision for this area came from Jo Pead who has been working on it over the winter with a team of amazing volunteers who have donated time and resources to make this happen! Two local businesses, Coastal Inspired Designs and Inch Carpentry, have made very significant contributions to this project and we are hugely thankful to them for helping this project get off the ground. This new area will be used by KS1 children every Friday afternoon resulting in all our older children having more forest school sessions in the Secret Garden. Our hugest thanks go to Jo and Abi Young for volunteering their time and expertise every Friday afternoon to make this happen for our children. What a lucky bunch!



### WORLD BOOK DAY CELEBRATIONS 2024

will be held on Thursday 28th March when we will be welcoming our wonderful Patron of Reading, Sophy Henn. More details to follow!

At Fishbourne CE Primary, we nurture our children to be...

