



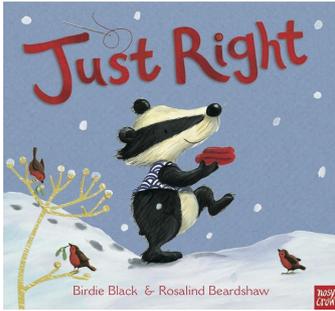
November 2025

FISHBOURNE CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL



Only one you

Dear Families,



We came back after half term to a Design Technology whole school learning experience inspired by the idea of designing and making a gift for someone this Christmas. It has been lovely to talk to children about the recipients of their gifts—from their neighbours to great grandparents. Each child thought deeply about their recipient and their gifts were designed with love and care, using their relationships to personalise their

gifts! We have enjoyed seeing photos and products that have been made at home, inspired by their learning at school too—this is always an encouraging indicator that the children are feeling inspired when they continue their learning beyond the classroom.

Our little fish have learned lots of new skills during this learning experience with a particular focus on baking, mechanisms and sewing. Throughout the experience their focus was on 'evaluation' and this enabled them to improve and refine their skills. Each learning experience began with children spending time evaluating real products to help inform their own design decisions. The outcomes were really impressive to see across school - it was lovely to celebrate the individuality, creativity and skills that were developed during the experience.



If you know a lucky recipient of one of these beautiful gifts, do let us know what they thought and how they responded to their gift! Photos of little fish with their recipient would be warmly welcomed too!

On Friday 5th December at 845am, we have our next Cuppa and Chat which you are warmly welcome to attend. This is an informal opportunity to talk together about school life. The theme for this session is CREW and there will be an opportunity to hear a little more about what happens during CREW sessions and how this is benefiting your children. There will also be an open forum time for you to bring any of your own feedback to the session.

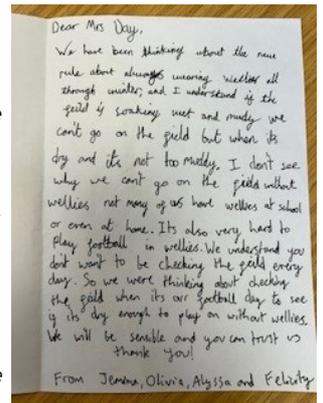


In our CREW sessions, we are teaching children how to 'make a stand' as we believe this is an essential life skill and an important way of empowering our children to make the world a better place to be and be part of finding solutions to problems we face in life! We have drawn up a set of guidelines to support Crew members to make a stand in a positive and appropriate way:

- *A stand should have a positive intention and be for the 'greater good'
- *A stand should be directed collectively to a CREW and only discussed as part of CREW time
- *Avoid a 'pile on' when making a stand, wait until there is an opportunity to contribute solutions
- *Once a stand is made, time will be given for CREW members to reflect and think about possible solutions

A brilliant example of this is from our Hippo class, some of whom recently made a stand about something that they find difficult in school:

To Mrs Day,
We have been thinking about the new rule about always wearing wellies on the field through winter, and we understand if the field is soaking wet and muddy that we can't go on the field. But when it is dry and it's not too muddy, we don't see why we can't go on the field without wellies. Many of us don't have wellies at school or even at home. It is also very hard to play football in wellies. We understand you don't want to be checking the field every day so we were thinking about checking the field when it is our football day to see if it is dry enough to play without wellies. We will be sensible and you can trust us. Thank you!



As a result of this letter, we have introduced four Welly Boot Monitors who have responsibility for conducting a daily check of the field and making a decision about whether it is a welly day or not. They have a sign that is displayed on the gazebo to communicate to the rest of the school what the expectations for the day are. This is a lovely way in which our little fish are becoming solution focused and encouraged to make a stand positively for the greater good!



Huge thanks to those of you who came to our recent learning review meetings! We were really thrilled with the turn out and grateful to you for your feedback about your experiences of school life! We have collated your feedback below with some reflections about some of your Even Better If's!



What's working well...	Even better if...	Reflections
<p>Staff: The amazing staff create a lovely atmosphere of inclusivity, joy and happy children. Really supportive staff team who make my child feel safe, challenged and HAPPY at school. Amazing teachers and staff You're all awesome – thank you All the friendly teachers who are } always happy to answer any questions. Very helpful feedback and a wonderful environment Really supportive staff who really know the children well. Great teachers! Good communication The teachers are amazing. The support of the teachers. Amazing teachers.</p> <p>CREW: We love CREW, it reflects a very caring school. CREW is providing a great start to the day and allowing children to share thoughts and ideas in a safe space. We love CREW, especially the focus on sharing appreciations. Loving the CREW time.</p> <p>Learning: Wonderful, thoughtful learning experiences using a variety of activities to learn. Lovely to see children are having interventions to support with their own learning journey – this is helping the children with their confidence. Fabulous trips to support learning The Lighthouse is working really well. the classroom is a productive place. Learning experiences and high expectations</p> <p>Children: A lot of kind friends at Fishbourne Primary Reading buddies have a great impact Having a reading buddy!</p>	<p>Communication An annual plan of dates to support working parents: e..g photo days, learning reviews, discos available at the start of the year. We could see more pictures of what they are doing at school, not just in reception.</p> <p>Curriculum More art More music</p> <p>Clubs Any chance of more after school clubs rather than the early ones? Cricket Extra clubs Different clubs More clubs that are available for free like in other schools.</p> <p>Homework We would value the homework being marked by the teacher, not the children and the children's effort in homework being valued. We would appreciate some creative tasks for homework</p>	<p>Communication *This is a super idea and we will aim to have this in place for next academic year with dates that we have control over at the beginning of the year! *Do check out our Instagram page where we post lots of photos of the children's learning and other events taking place in school. Learning Journals also contain lots of photos and we do aim to send these home at the end of each learning experience so that you can share the children's learning and progress.</p> <p>Curriculum *Art is taught both as a non-core area and as a way of bringing other areas of the curriculum to life. We have recently had a whole school Design Technology learning experience which will mean that art will feature more significantly in the spring term. *Music is taught for Y1,4,5,6 by Mr Servant at Fishbourne. Other year groups teach their own music. All children take part in a weekly singing assembly and we have a choir for children in KS2. We also have incredible productions that take place annually for children in KS1 and Y5/6 which involve lots of singing!</p> <p>Clubs *The only way we can provide 'free' clubs is by asking teachers to do them. Following the pandemic, we made a strategic decision that teacher time was most valuably spent planning, assessing, and preparing for learning. We maintain that our children benefit more from this arrangement. *We are always open to exploring more clubs but we do have challenges around space, especially for more additional sports clubs in case of wet weather and a need for the hall.</p> <p>Homework *Homework is really challenging to get right for families. We have surveyed parents before to get feedback about homework and it's a little like Marmite! The focus on homework at Fishbourne is to build automaticity and fluency. Our policy is available on the school website. *We recognise that it is important to acknowledge effort in homework but also know that written feedback about homework rarely has impact on learning. In our homework policy we state: 'All homework will be acknowledged and rewarded by the class teacher but will not be given in-depth written feedback in the same way that learning at school is.'</p>

Dates for the remainder of term:

- Thu 4th Dec: Stay and Play for Seahorses class
- Fri 5th Dec: Cuppa and Chat
- Mon 8th Dec: CYE for Christmas Assembly
- Tue 9th and Wed 10th December at 2.15pm:
Nativity Play for children in Seahorses, Pufferfish and Sharks classes
- Thu 11th Dec: KS1 to Three Little Pigs
- Fri 12th Dec: Christmas Jumper Day and Elfridges
- Tue 16th Dec: Community Tea Party
- Wed 17th Dec: Christmas Service (little fish only)
- Thu 18th Dec: Y3/4 to The Boy Named Christmas
- Fri 19th Dec: Admissions Consultation period ends
2.30pm: Carols Around the Tree and last day of term



GLUE STICK APPEAL!

We are desperate to stock up on glue sticks in preparation for the start of the spring term! Please remember us on your Christmas Wish Lists. We would appreciate any donations to our central stock and especially to your own child's pencil case. Thank you so much.

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

