



## FISHBOURNE CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

Only one you

Dear Parents,

A very warm welcome back to a brand new academic year and the start of the autumn term. It has been truly wonderful to welcome the children back into school and enjoy the benefits of the easing of some of the Covid measures. It has been a joy to see the children playing together, football matches between children of different year groups, assemblies, sharing lunch together and hearing the children moving freely around the school. We have enjoyed seeing families on the pathways and on the playground at the end of the school day too! There is hope on the horizon and we are enjoying planning lots of exciting opportunities for the children.

Thank you very much indeed for ensuring the children have returned to school in September in smart school uniforms. Over the last two weeks in assembly time we have been talking about what it means to be READY for school and it was really super to see how smartly dressed they were and ready for school!



A HUGE welcome to our new Cheetah class. It is customary for our newest little fish to have their first taste of democracy when they begin school by voting for their class name—this is always an exciting time and the rest of the school wait excitedly to find out the new class name! At Fishbourne, the class name travels with the children all the way through school and reminds us that each class is made up of thirty unique children who in turn form a unique cohort! Our Cheetahs have settled beautifully and burst into school each morning with

beaming smiles and a very positive attitude to school life. We have really enjoyed watching them settle into their Fishy family and seen how quickly they have found their feet. Each of our Cheetah class have now made and painted their fish to join the shoal in the entrance hall as a reminder that there is ONLY ONE YOU, created by God. Do pop in to school and take a peek when you have a chance!

We have also welcomed this week our Army of Volunteers who are supporting children's reading across school and are now starting work in our classrooms. It was a privilege to meet with them last week and complete the final part of their training. Our volunteers have completed three online training sessions including safeguarding, the role of a volunteer and hearing readers before meeting together last week for the first time in the school hall. We have 24 volunteers made up of parents, grandparents, community members and a number of retired teachers. We feel enormously blessed and thankful for their enthusiasm and time and look forward very much to welcoming them into our Fishbourne family. It has been lovely to welcome our visitors into school to start their roles this week!



Last week we held our first FOFS (Friends of Fishbourne School) meeting in school for some time. The work of FOFS continued throughout the lockdowns and we were very grateful for both the art project and reading project that was coordinated during this time. It was incredible to see nearly twenty

parents at the meeting and listen to plans for the autumn term and beyond to enrich the learning of children at Fishbourne. Do look out for the FOFS newsletter coming home soon with dates for your diaries!

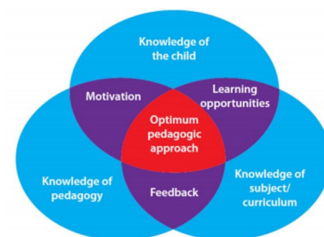
This weekend Gaby Axelsen (our Y2, Hippo class teacher) will be getting married to her fiancée Josh Wales. We are so delighted for Gaby and wish her a wonderful, sunny weekend to start married life. She has promised us photos to share with the children and include in our next newsletter! From next week onwards, we welcome Mrs Wales—many of the children have already started to use this new name and it won't be long until we all are.



At this time of year, we like to update you with our plans for developing the school. At Fishbourne Primary, 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. All areas of proposed change are explored thoroughly - researched, evidence based and reflected upon.

Each stage of our development has sought to secure an 'optimum pedagogic approach' - 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
- opportunities



We believe that in order for change to be implemented well in our school, we must move through four key phases:

### EXPLORE - PREPARE - DELIVER - SUSTAIN

This academic year we have four core priorities in the DELIVERY stage. These are:

- \*To deliver a robust mathematical pedagogy rooted in the principles of mastery consistently across the school.
- \*To deliver the non-core curriculum by designing end goals for learning experiences that give the children the opportunity to communicate and demonstrate their growing knowledge and skill in non-core areas of learning highly effectively
- \*To deliver our 'behaviour for learning and life policy' consistently throughout school, reflecting the vision and values of Fishbourne CE Primary
- \*To deliver well sequenced steps of writing development within the learning experiences, informed by AfL (assessment for learning) from the baseline.

While this development continues, the leadership team move into an 'EXPLORE' stage for future development of:

- \*reading - approaches to phonics, teaching early reading and comprehension skill progressions
- \*cognitive science - what research tells us about how children can remember more
- \*WELLBEING for all members of our school community

If you would like to read more about our plans for school development, please do look at our website: <https://www.fishbourneprimary.co.uk/page/?title=School%26%23160%3BDevelopment+Plan&pid=44>

### HOLIDAYS DURING TERM TIME

We urge families to avoid booking holidays during term time - not only will this disadvantage your own children but it will also have a negative impact on other children in your child's class. We absolutely understand that families have not been able to enjoy holidays away from home together over the last year BUT the impact of lost school time is very significant for children across the country and by adding to this pressure, we are not working together effectively as a school community to meet the needs of all our learners.



There are so many exciting plans being hatched behind the scenes for the children, the first of which is happening during the week beginning Monday 4th October when we will be welcoming THREE authors into school to inspire our children.

We are thrilled to be part of the Chichester Children's Bookfest (<https://www.childrensbookfest.com/>) and, as a result, we will be welcoming Rob Biddulph in to work with the children in Year 3 and 4. He will be talking to the children about his BRAND NEW book which was published at the beginning of September called 'Peanut Jones and the Illustrated City'. We love Rob's work and have a huge number of his books in school—many of our children enjoyed Rob's draw-a-longs during lockdowns! Alex English, author of 'Sky Pirates' will be coming in to work with our children in Year 5 and 6, talking about her series of books.

All the children in Key Stage 2 will receive a FREE copy of their book thanks to the extremely generous funding from Children's Bookfest. We will be using these books as whole class texts (in fact most classes are already devouring their books), exploring the developing characters and plot and sharing our reflections. When these books come home at the end of the class read, you will see there is a bookplate stuck in the front with more information!



At the end of the week we will then be welcoming our very own Patron of Reading, the truly wonderful Sophy Henn, for her first school visit in almost two years. The last time we saw Sophy was when we took a group of children from Y5 and 6 up to London for the Laugh Out Loud Book Awards in March 2019. Sophy has kept in touch throughout this time, sending the children short films, parcels and even joining us live a couple of times for Golden Learner assemblies! We LOVE working with

Sophy and have gained so much from this link, watching her working on new projects (we will never forget her sharing with us her brand new idea for Pizzaz when she was still exploring the concept and watching the idea grow and grow... it's now three books in to the series!). It will be wonderful to see Sophy in school and we really look forward to her visits returning each term! Sophy's visit will particularly focus on our children in Reception, Y1 and Y2 although we know everyone will be thrilled to see her!



Hello, I'm Jenny Blamire and I'm currently in my second term as a foundation governor. That means I'm one of two governors appointed by Fishbourne Parish Church to represent them on your governing body. It's a great privilege to be involved with the school and especially to contribute to the Christian ethos and help build strong links with St Peter and St Mary's Church in the village. I attend the special school assemblies at Christmas and Easter, Harvest and Remembrance Day. Twice a term, when Covid allows, I bring a group from the parish, called the Storytellers and we act out a Bible story for the children in assembly time. I have seen our school's "Only One You" vision, uniquely created by God, through its development and unfolding to the children. It informs every aspect of school life and the decisions we make as governors.

During the last half of the Summer Term the governors in addition to our normal meetings took part in an away day, led by one of West Sussex's education advisors, Mrs Sue Webb. She knows the school well and helped us to focus on the journey the school has been on in the last few years and where we hope to be.

Finally, I would like to invite you to a family service at St Peter and St Mary's church. The first one is on Sunday 26th September at 4:30pm. It will be short, about 45 minutes, and very suitable for children.

#### CUPPA AND CHAT!

It's been a while since we have been able to welcome you into school for a Cuppa and Chat - an informal opportunity to pop in and enjoy a cup of tea while talking about our school and reflecting on ways we can develop. The theme of C&C next week is behaviour and sharing with you our new Behaviour for Learning and Life policy. This is taking place on Wednesday 29th September at 2.30pm and you are warmly welcome to come and join us!



#### Dates for 2021

**As with all areas of our lives at the moment, there is a great deal of uncertainty regarding planning events. The dates below are guidelines and may be subject to change!**



Inset Days 2021/2022

Thursday 2nd September and Friday 3rd September

Monday 28th February

2 more INSET days will be set for the spring/summer terms.

Week beginning 20th Sep: Volunteer Army start at Fishbourne Primary

Wed 29th Sep: Open Morning for prospective parents

Wed 29th Sep: Cuppa and Chat in staffroom at 2.30pm

Wed 6th Oct: Rob Biddulph and Alex English visiting children in KS2

Thu 7th Oct: Harvest Festival

Thu 7th Oct: Full Governing Body Meeting (6pm)

Fri 8th Oct: Sophy Henn visiting Fishbourne

Wed 13th Oct: School photos

Thu 14th Oct: Open Afternoon for prospective parents

Mon 18th Oct—Fri 22nd Oct: Y6 to CYE

Mon 18th—Fri 22nd Oct: Art Whole School Learning Experience KS1

Half term: Mon 25th—Fri 29th October

Mon 1st - Fri 5th Nov: Art Whole School Learning Experience KS2

Mon 8th Nov: Open Morning for prospective parents

Thu 11th Nov: FOFS meeting 7.30pm

Thu 18th Nov: Flu Vaccine for pupils in school

Thu 9th Dec: Full Governing Body Meeting (6pm)

#### ADDITIONAL SCHOOL CLOSURE DAY: 22nd July

**This is the date that has been identified by the local authority to mark the Queen's Jubilee, meaning that the last day of the summer term will be 21st July.**



Please do find us and start to follow... @FishbournePrim1  
You could also follow our Patron of Reading Sophy Henn... @sophyhenn  
On Instagram we are: fishbourneprimary

#### Little fish who have made the world a better place...



This box is saved for celebrating our children who set out to make the world a better place to be outside school.

Please do let us know so we can share the news!

#### Defibrillator Update

We are delighted to let you know that during the summer holidays the boys who set out to fundraise for the purchase of a community defibrillator hit their fundraising target of £3000 - what an incredible achievement!

We hope this will be fitted to the exterior of the school shortly and look forward to sharing with you photos. Huge congratulations to the children!

**AT FISHBOURNE CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL, WE NURTURE OUR LEARNERS TO BECOME...**

