



## **Newsletter November 2016** **Inspire, Believe, Achieve**

Our aim is to inspire and encourage our children to believe in their ability to succeed through learning. This vision will enable them to achieve and succeed in reaching their full potential and beyond, now and for their future.

### **Head Teacher Update**

It was lovely to share the Harvest Festival with so many parents and carers. The pupils were brilliant! We thank Reverend Barbara for leading our service and to the worship council who planned it so well. Thank you for your generous gifts these were shared with the food bank in Holbeach. We also shared a great evening in church with our Y5 pupils and the church. Thank you to all those that supported the telling of the story of Joseph. We have now set dates for our Carol service and look forward to sharing that with you on the 20<sup>th</sup> December 2016 at 09:30am. Our School Parliament is now up and running and will help to support the development of pupil voice, enabling pupils to express their opinions about the school. Thank you for all your support for the NSPCC fund raising. We raised £1,304 which is amazing. Thank you so much.

This year KS2 pupils will be going to the pantomime on the afternoon of 19<sup>th</sup> December 2016 at the South Holland Centre. Reception and KS1 will be having a party on the same day.

The Reception class and KS1 pupils will be involved in a Christmas performance and these performances will be on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December and Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2016 in the afternoons.

Our core value for this term is **HOPE**. Look out for the values newsletter coming out in the next week. Open mornings were a great success with 61 parents and carers attending. Your feedback was greatly received and we will endeavour to have another round of open mornings before the end of the academic year as you requested. Our road safety visits from Gist were a great success, staff and pupils found it really useful. The NSPCC workshops for Y5/6 were really well received and the pupils gained a great deal from them. We thank the NSPCC for their input and continued support in keeping children safe.

### **EYFS**

We are really impressed with how well our new Reception children have settled into school. They have already adapted to the school routine. The children have been making mud pies in the mud kitchen, investigating jelly by using the senses of smell, taste and touch as well as finding time to learn their first set of letter sounds.

This term we are looking forward to going to see Santa at Baytree Garden Centre on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December

### **Stay and play**

We have now begun holding our Stay and Play sessions. Feel free to come along and spend time in the classroom playing with your child on a Friday morning between 8.45 and 9.15am

### **P.E**

Last year was an amazing year for swimming at Whaplode. Year 5 and 6 well and truly beat 'Mr Lunn's Swimming Challenge' of 100% swimming 25 metres and 10 children from both classes swimming 50 metres. They were all rewarded by a trip to Hunstanton for fish and chips.

This term we will be entering two teams from Key Stage 2 into a Sport2day Tag-Rugby competition. Dates and teams for this will follow at a later date. Also, on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> of November some children from upper Key Stage 2 will be taking a Bikeability course.

### **Outdoor areas**

The outdoor soft play area and PE equipment are only to be used when pupils are accompanied by a school staff member. These resources are not available before or after school for pupils or other children. We would request your support in this endeavour as we don't want to have to fence off the area. This expenditure would be a waste of valuable resources that could be better used for pupil improvement.

### **Parking**

Could you please be considerate when dropping off and picking up pupils from school. We have had complaints from local residents again and would appreciate your co-operation in not blocking access for these residents.

### **The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal**

Poppies and wristbands are now on sale to help our nation's heroes. Pupils are welcome to bring in a donation to buy a poppy or wristband. We will hold 2 minutes silence at 11:00 on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November for Armistice Day.

### **Safeguarding**

We believe that safeguarding is an important part of the work with children and young adults so will keep this reminder in all of our newsletters. Just a reminder - safeguarding is the responsibility of all of us. If we are concerned about the safety of any child, we should let somebody know. Mrs Flack is the designated safeguarding person in school. In her absence contact Mrs Adie who has now also been trained as a designated safeguarding person.

### **Medical Conditions**

Should your child's medical conditions or allergies change, please notify the school office. A medical form would have been completed when your child began school and unless you notify the school of any changes the held information remains the same throughout their time at school. Therefore it is important that you tell us of any diagnosed medical or allergy conditions.

### **School Lunches**

A big thank you to all the parents, carers and grandparents who joined us for lunch during the last week of term. It was lovely to see so many grown ups enjoying lunch with their children. Thank you also for the very positive feedback and comments. Please view our website for the great photographs that were taken by The Spalding Guardian. Around 100 children are having a delicious hot meal each day which is fantastic and if you would like your child to try the hot lunches, please collect a menu from the office and place your order. We hope to run similar events in the future.

### **Year 6**

The school year began at a brisk pace with pupils settling quickly into their new roles and responsibilities within Year 6. This promises to be a very busy year for us all with things such as our Hilltop residential visit, SATS week and transition to secondary work all coming our way!

SATs week will take place the week commencing 8<sup>th</sup> May 2017. Parents should be aware that a significant amount of preparation work takes place in the months leading up to the tests and holidays during term time should be avoided. It is vital that all pupils attend school for the test themselves.

We are delighted to announce which children have been chosen as our Head Boy and Head Girl for this academic year, as well as for the new roles of Assistant Head Boy and Assistant Head Girl. Head Boy is Aidan Holt and Head Girl is Cerys Ransom. Our Assistant Head Boy is Joseph Rous and Assistant Head Girl is Evie Booth. We wish them every success in their roles and feel sure that they will be excellent role models for all pupils. All Year 6 pupils are proudly wearing their 'Here to help' badges and are only too pleased to assist anyone in need of a little assistance.

### **Maths**

Maths is a focus for development throughout the school this year as we look at developing mastery within our teaching and learning of mathematics. Last year we were fortunate to be part of a 'teacher research group' looking at mastery approaches and worked with a mastery specialist teacher to develop our understanding of what mastery is. This year, we are developing this work and looking at how we can develop mastery within our classroom practice and have two teachers working with a mastery specialist to develop our understanding in this area.

### **Dates for your diary**

7 <sup>th</sup> November	Swimming Pool AGM – 3.30pm
3 <sup>rd</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup> November	Book Fair
9 <sup>th</sup> November	Governors' Coffee Morning
16 <sup>th</sup> November	Bikeability
17 <sup>th</sup> November	Bikeability
12 <sup>th</sup> December	EYFS Winter Wonderland Trip
14 <sup>th</sup> December	KS1 Christmas Performance
15 <sup>th</sup> December	KS1 Christmas Performance
16 <sup>th</sup> December	Y6 UAH Christmas Dinner
16 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Fair – 3.20pm to 5pm
19 <sup>th</sup> December	KS2 trip to the Pantomime
19 <sup>th</sup> December	KS1 Xmas Party
20 <sup>th</sup> December	Carol Service
20 <sup>th</sup> December	Last day of Term
4 <sup>th</sup> January 2017	Start of Term 3