



## **Newsletter October 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**

Just a reminder that we will hold parents evenings on Tuesday 18th October and Thursday 20th October 2016 from 4pm to 7pm on both days. If you have problems with attending either of those sessions we can accommodate you at other times either before or after school. Harvest festival will be held at the church on the morning of 20th October, starting at approximately 09:30am. We hope that many of you will be able to attend this service. We wish to celebrate an excellent start to the new academic year and school has a vibrant and exciting feel to it. All the children have settled in really well and we believe the extended transition work in the summer term has been really successful. The school has grown significantly and we have 203 pupils on roll, which is the highest the school has ever been at.

#### **Open mornings**

We hope you have signed up for our open mornings on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> October 2016. The sessions start at 09:30 and 10:45 am on those mornings. We cannot cater for younger siblings.

#### **English**

We are very pleased to announce that we will be focusing on reading as part of our school improvement plan and that this will be taking place over the coming academic year. This will involve an investment in new books across the school, both for use at home and for supporting children with their learning in class. We will be inviting parents in for shared reading events and will be taking part in next year's World Book Day on 2nd March. There will also be an improvement of reading areas in classrooms and additional provision for reading outside. We are looking forward to seeing the impact that this has on our children's learning and their love of reading.

Mrs Walker

#### **Year 2**

The children have settled into Year 2 beautifully and are working hard to meet the high expectations that we have of them. As you may already be aware, pupils in Year 2 take part in end of key stage assessments (often referred to as Key Stage 1 SATs) and these will be taking place in May. This will consist of two maths papers, 2 reading papers, a spelling paper and a grammar and punctuation test. We call these 'booklets' in class and the children will have had the opportunity to practise before they sit the final assessments in May. Whilst attendance has a substantial impact on pupils' progress throughout the year, it is particularly important that children have excellent attendance after the Easter holidays and through May itself, as this will be when the final preparations and assessments take place.

Mrs Walker

#### **Consultation over Academisation**

The consultation over our school becoming an academy as part of the Lincoln Anglican Academy Trust (LAAT) is now underway. Please look on the school website for further information and if you have any thoughts or comments please give them in to the school office on the reply slip of the letter sent home on 30<sup>th</sup> September.

#### **Computing**

It is fair to say that we have outstanding IT provision at our school, and our recent recognition as an Apple Regional Training (RTC) Centre only underlines this fact. Only very recently I attended a two day conference, hosted by Apple themselves, to celebrate the achievements and practice that take place in our school and other RTC's.

As an RTC we are in a very privileged position and are able to offer a range of courses to different schools and teachers to help them develop the use of technology in their schools and classrooms as well. Our staff and children still continue to push boundaries and break new ground and our digital leaders got some outstanding feedback during a recent RTC course.

Our children have provision that is not easily matched and are really very lucky. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you as parents for your support during the recent years and the development of our IT deployment and 1:1 device rollout.

Mr Copeman

#### **Early Years and Key Stage 1 Christmas Performances and Party**

Although it may seem quite early to be thinking about Christmas, the dates for our performances and party have been set. Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will be taking part in a Christmas performance, which will take place in the afternoons of Wednesday 14th and Thursday 15th December. There will not be an evening performance this year. Our Christmas party will be taking place the following week, on Monday 19th December. Further details on these events will follow closer to the time.

#### **Attendance: Every school day matters!**

Attendance is an area of great importance in our school. We ensure it has a high profile through in-school displays and regular celebrations of good attendance. Term dates are listed on our website for the year ahead. Under Government guidelines, head teachers may not grant any leave of absence unless there are exceptional circumstances. As a result, all holiday requests will be unauthorised unless exceptional circumstances can be given.

In addition, the government have raised the level of acceptable attendance from 85% to 90%. Any child with attendance of less than 90% will be regarded as a persistent absentee and external agencies may become involved. Your child's annual attendance was shared with you at the end of last year in their school report so you are already aware of their attendance level.

### **School Parliament**

Since arriving back at school this term, we have elected a new school parliament. The children were asked to deliver a presentation to their peers about why they should be elected and from thereon we have established the parliament with two MP's coming from each year group Y1-Y6.

The successful members are:

Y1: Oliver and Ariana

Y2: Enyah and Luke

Y3: Keira and Aaron

Y4: Sam and Eden

Y5: Madison and Leeland

Y6: Reece and Olivia

The purpose of School Parliament is to allow pupil voice to be a key part of the organisation of Whaplode Church of England Primary School. Parliament members will now represent the voices of their peers and take part in formal meetings throughout the school year. There are five committees formed around key focus areas for the year. The committees for this year are as follows: Teaching and Learning, The School Environment, Community and Fundraising, Health, Sport and Recreation and Publicity and Communication. We hope over the coming terms that the parliament will be actively involved in decision making within these areas and we will keep you updated with our progress

### **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 and in her absence contact Mrs Adie who is also trained as a designated safeguarding person in school.

### **Soft play and PE equipment**

Children are not allowed to go on the soft play or PE equipment before or after school and can only go on this equipment when supervised by a school staff member. The equipment is for use by pupils of the school only.

### **Pupil Premium**

Schools are allocated extra funding to support pupils who are entitled to free school meals or from forces families. This funding helps to optimise better learning intervention and to have extra resources, including adults, for the children to work with to improve progress. If you have claimed in the past six years, or think you maybe entitled to free school meals, please contact the school office.

### **Uniform**

Please ensure that all uniform is clearly named. Please check the uniform which goes home with your child does belong to your child as we have already had a number of uniform mix ups this term.

### **Parking**

We have had complaints from residents in Millers Rest that some people are not parking thoughtfully. Could we please ensure that we all think carefully about how we park when dropping off and picking up pupils.

### **Dates for your diary**

|                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 7 <sup>th</sup> October 2016   | Year 5 Redeemed performance at the church on Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> October 2016 at 7pm.<br>Pupils will need to be at church for 5:30pm. |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> October 2016  | Open Mornings  |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> October 2016  | Reception Intake September 2017 Open Morning 9.30am to 11.45am   |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> October 2016  | Class 3 & 4 – Roman Wow Day  |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> October 2016  | Open Mornings  |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> October 2016  | Gist road safety visit classes 5 & 6   |
| 18 <sup>th</sup> October 2016  | Reception Intake September 2017 Open Morning 9.30am to 11.45am   |
| 18 <sup>th</sup> October 2016  | Gist road safety visit classes Reception, 1, 2, 3 and 4  |
| 18 <sup>th</sup> October 2016  | Parents evening  |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> October 2016  | Parents evening  |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> October 2016  | Harvest festival will be held at church at 09:30am on Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> October 2016   |
| 21 <sup>st</sup> October 2016  | End of term  |
| 31 <sup>st</sup> October 2016  | Start of new half term.  |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> November 2016  | Farmers Market   |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> November 2016 | Bikeability  |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> November 2016 | Bikeability  |