



## Cowbit St Mary's Church of England Primary School Newsletter- Term 3

We have started the year with another busy term and have lots planned for next term too.

### Staff Changes

Miss Lynch is currently teaching Elm class and this will continue next term. After Easter, our new permanent member of staff will be joining us which will bring stability to Elm Class.

### Swimming

Children in Maple and Oak Class will continue with their swimming lessons on Mondays until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025. They will go after lunch at 12.30pm. We are asking for a contribution on £3.50 towards the cost of the bus, which we kindly ask you to pay using ParentPay. School covers the cost of entry to the swimming pool and instructors which costs over £1000 for the term. So far, we have not received sufficient contributions to cover the cost of the coach and based on current contributions it is possible that we would have to review our curriculum offer on swimming for future years if insufficient funds are gathered to contribute for the coach.

Everyone needs a swimming hat; they won't be able to swim if they don't have one. These are new rules put in place by the swimming pool. Please make sure they have a one-piece costume or trunks and a towel in a bag.

### Children's Workshops and Activities:

#### Magistrates in the Community Workshop



On Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January, Oak Class had Magistrates in the Community. Mr Daniel Sheard, our presenter, is a magistrate in both Boston and Lincoln Court. We learnt that most magistrates are volunteers. We participated in a mock court based on a real-life case. We were given roles such as magistrates, victims, offenders and solicitors. Did you know that the magistrates court has three magistrates, even though only the Presiding Justice speaks? Mr Sheard explained to us that the reason there are three magistrates is to ensure that there is always a clear verdict if it must go to a vote. After the case was heard and evidence considered, we had to give our verdict and decide on the compensation to be received. Oak Class had a visit from a local Magistrates where they learnt about the British Value of Rule of Law. They learnt about the age of prosecution and the type of work that happens in the legal system. The children then got the opportunity to take part in a Mock trial to understand how a court room works.

#### Healthy Teeth Workshop

On Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> January, Ash, Elm and Maple classes had a visit from the dentist- Bright Bites- to learn about the importance of looking after your teeth and oral hygiene. Every child was given a toothbrush at the end of the visit.



#### Junior Online Safety Officers

This week was Online Safety week. We have appointed three 'Junior Online Safety Officers'- Grace, Elliott and Edric. They are currently working on a project with the Lincolnshire Stay Safe Partnership and have put a concern box in the library. If your child has any queries or concerns about how to stay safe online or they need any advice, please encourage them to use the concern box in the library. Our Junior Online Safety Officers have training from the Lincolnshire Stay Safe Partnership and have had two meetings so far where they've been set projects to complete across the school. They're doing a great job so far having made posters around school and



Hope



Perseverance



Forgiveness



Kindness



Respect



Responsibility

delivered a short input during collective worship to pupils. They will be holding another collective worship next term for pupils around passwords and setting a 'strong password.'

Maple Class also took part in an Online Safety competition this term for the Lincolnshire Stay Safe Partnership to raise awareness around fake news.

### **Reading Ambassadors**

Our Reading Ambassadors have had their first meeting with Miss Dean. They have met to organise World Book Day which we will celebrate on **Tuesday 4th March** NOT Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> due to Oak Class having a school trip on the Thursday. Our Reading Ambassadors are: Sophia, Isla, Tulisa, Amelia, Ayla, Ava, Lacie, Freya, Tomisin and Mollie. They are busy organising a reading competition which they will share with you all shortly.

We will be having a Book Fair on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> March with Boston Bookworms. Books are very reasonably priced with all titles costing just £2.50.

### **Pupil Parliament**

Thank you to everybody who applied to be part of our Pupil Parliament. We received lots of applications and therefore will need to go to a democratic vote. This will be held for each class after half term with a temporary, confidential ballot station being set up.

### **Special Educational Needs Drop in Session**

On Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> April, Mrs Smitheringale our SENCo, will be running a SEND drop-in session for parents of children that are on the SEND register. The session will run from 2pm-4.40pm and you will need to ring for a pre-booked appointment. This session is for parents of pupils that have an EHCP or an Individual Support Plan in place.

### **Parents Evening**

Parent's Evening will be on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> March. We will send out more information with booking and a sign up sheet after half term.

### **Friends of Cowbit**

Last night, Friends of Cowbit held a Valentine's disco which was very well attended. I would like to say thank you to all of our Friends of Cowbit for continuing to fundraise for the children and for supporting the school.

We will be celebrating Mother's Day this year with an Afternoon Tea on 28<sup>th</sup> March. More information will come nearer the time and there will also be a Mother's Day shop for the children to purchase Mother's Day gifts.

### **Breakfast Club**

Breakfast Club is open every day at 7.30am. A charge of £3.50 is made which includes breakfast and entertainment. There is a variety of activities each week including arts and crafts, lego, games and TT Rockstars. Every day we will take a register for Breakfast Club and you will then see an outstanding balance in your Parent Pay account. This can then be paid by you on a regular basis. There is a discount if you attend all week as the price will be reduced to £15 for the full week. There is also a sibling discount, where if two or more children from the same family attend, the cost will be reduced to £2.50 per child.

### **Class Dojo**

Every family has been invited to Class Dojo. Please join if you haven't already. This is our message system to parents and on it you will find reminders and things happening in school. It is also a quick way for you to contact us if you ever have a question. Not everyone has joined but it is a very useful app for parents and school. It is only for our school and is private.

## Attendance

### First Day Calling

In order to comply with safeguarding procedures and follow our attendance policy, we will continue to operate a 'first day call' when children are absent. If your child is absent from school we would appreciate if you could telephone and let us know before 9.30am. If your child continues to be off, please call every day or expect a call from us.

### Home Visits

If any child is absent for a period of 3 days or longer, we will complete an unannounced welfare check where we conduct a home visit to check everybody is safe and well. If there is no answer, a calling card will be left asking you to contact school as soon as possible. We will still complete a home visit if you have called, in line with new expectations.

### Attendance Penalty Notice

The current Government guidelines now make it clear that **Headteachers are instructed that they may not grant any leave of absence unless there are exceptional circumstances**. As a result. Any holiday requests will be unauthorised unless exceptional circumstances can be evidenced. If a pupil has 10 unauthorised sessions (5 days) accumulated within a 10 week period a Penalty Notice may be issued. The Penalty Notice comes directly from Lincolnshire County Council and the offence is £160 per child, per parent but if paid within 21 days this will reduce to £80 per parent per child for the first offence. Everyone has been given a formal warning letter which is valid for 2 years. It is a legal requirement for us to make sure everyone receives a letter and is aware of the rules.

Please note this is for unauthorised absence. If your child is ill, please call in as usual and let us know. We understand that everyone gets ill, the above guidelines are for absences such as holidays or days off school that are not for medical reasons. If you need to get a dentist or doctors appointment for your child, please try and make these out of school time but if it can't please let us know, you may be asked for proof of appointment if these are happening regularly.

### Late arrivals

If children come in after registers have closed, this will go down as an unauthorised absence so please try and get here on time. 10 late marks in a 10 week period will trigger a Penalty Notice.

### School Attendance Letters

If your child falls below the expected level of attendance- 95% and above- then you will receive a letter about your child's attendance. If their attendance does not improve, you will be invited in for a School Attendance Panel meeting (SAP) to discuss ways in which we can improve your child's attendance.

### Attendance Raffle

As part of our action plan to improve school attendance, if your child has been in school every day of the week they will receive a raffle ticket to enter our termly draw. The more raffle tickets they have, the higher their chances of winning our attendance prize. We have a prize for a child in Key Stage One and a prize for a child in Key Stage Two. In the last year we have awarded 'Family Games night boxes,' Family Cinema Tickets with snacks, and Easter Activity Boxes and we hope that these have been enjoyed by the winners and their families. There are a possible 6 chances to win this term's boxes.

## **Uniform Shop**

We now have a little uniform shop set up in the office. We have a range of sizes, everything has been washed, there are marks on some things but there is plenty of wear left in them and some are newly new.

If you have any uniform to donate it would be much appreciated.. These items can also be swapped for items in the shop.

## **Forthcoming dates**

- 14<sup>th</sup> February - end of term 3.
- 24<sup>th</sup> February - start of term 4.
- 5<sup>th</sup> March - Height and weight National Measurement Program - Ash Class and Year 6.
- 5<sup>th</sup> March - Domestic Violence Workshop - Oak Class
- 6<sup>th</sup> March - Oak Class trip - East Kirkby Aviation Museum
- 13<sup>th</sup> March - Elm Class trip - Sacrewell Farm
- 18<sup>th</sup> March - Book Fair
- 20<sup>th</sup> March- Music concert to showcase our Music curriculum to parents
- 21<sup>st</sup> March- World Down Syndrome Day
- 25<sup>th</sup> March- Oak Class Grimm & Co Drama Workshop in Rotherham
- 4<sup>th</sup> April - end of term 4.
- 4<sup>th</sup> April 9.30am- Easter Service
- 24<sup>th</sup> April - Ash Class trip - Lincolnshire Wildlife Park
- 30<sup>th</sup> April - Elm Class - Virtual Author Visit
- 12<sup>th</sup> May- Year 6 SATs Week
- 28<sup>th</sup> May- End of term 5
- 2<sup>nd</sup> June- Staff Training Day- Inset Day
- 3<sup>rd</sup> June- Start of Term 6
- 5<sup>th</sup> June - Class Photos taken
- 9<sup>th</sup> June- Phonics Screening Check week
- 9<sup>th</sup> June- Oak Class- Fire Safety Workshop
- 25<sup>th</sup> June- Provisional date (weather dependent) for Sports Day
- 1<sup>st</sup> July - Elm Class trip - Hunstanton Seaside Visit