



Rectory Road, Frampton Cotterell, Bristol, BS36 2BT
Tel: 01454 867205 Fax/answerphone: 01454 867206

Headteacher: Mr P Barnard
e-mail: office@fcceprimary.co.uk
www.fcceprimary.co.uk

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October Newsletter- Conker Season!

Dear Parents/Carers,

This is one of my favourite times in the school calendar! Although Mr Barnard Snr. is less enthusiastic as he is currently working his way through threading 320 conkers so we can enjoy crowning our 2018 FCCE Conker champion! Please feel free to bring in any conkers you find on the ground and once we have enough we'll see if Harry can defend his title!

Thank you!

Our first 'Open Morning' on Saturday 22nd September was a roaring success. I'd like to thank Mrs Hornig for organizing such a brilliant event. Our children were outstanding ambassadors for our school and we have had lots of glowing feedback from prospective parents. I was incredibly proud of all the children and staff who attended and it was another example of what makes FCCE such a special place.

New Reception Children- What a start!!!

I have been amazed with the start our new Reception children have made to joining our school on a full-time basis. The work which has been done at home in order to make the transition as smooth as it has been has really paid off so 'thank you' from myself and all the staff in Class 1 and 2!

Staff Change at Lunchtime

We were all really sad to say 'Goodbye' to Tracy Hutt who has been working with our Reception and Key Stage 1 children over the past few years. She has been a brilliant lunch break supervisor and she will be sorely missed. However, we have managed to find a fantastic replacement in the form of Damian Maher. He will be working every lunchtime and will be in charge of initiating play with our new Reception children.

Harvest Celebrations

St Peter's Church will host their annual harvest service on Sunday 7th October. It will be a lovely service and I hope as many families as possible are able to make it. I know there are several pupils in Year 5 and 6 who will be performing readings as well as our choirs adding their beautiful singing voices to the event.

Our School is supporting the Bristol Soup Run again this year. If you would like to donate anything (food, clothes, toothpaste, chocolate etc...) then please feel free to bring them into the school office as we will transport them to the soup run over the next two weeks.

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School Census- Thursday 4th October

Part of our school funding allocation is based upon our school census which will be taken on Thursday 4th October. Could we please ask as many parents as possible to send their children in for school dinners on that day as the school will benefit from more pupils eating a school lunch. We have swapped the menu around so the ever-popular 'fish and chips' Friday will in fact take place on Thursday instead!

Nut free school

As some of our children have extremely severe, life threatening nut allergies, our school is a nut free area. Please respect the safety of these children by ensuring that your child doesn't bring in any food containing nuts and ensure donations to events like cake sales are also nut free. Any food containing nuts will be confiscated and thrown away. Thank you for your support.

Medication in School

Can I please remind all parents to bring in any medication for their child labelled and hand it into the office. Best practise is always to have two inhalers so one can be kept in the class and the other in the office. Thanks

Parent Questionnaire on Survey Monkey

Thank you to everyone who has completed our annual parent questionnaire over the summer holiday. I'd really appreciate if anyone else who hasn't managed to share their views could take 5 minutes to take the survey. There are two links to follow:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/DWGR3PF>

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/36QBBYX>

The surveys will be live for the next few weeks and then I will publish the results on our school website over half term.

Headlice!

Unfortunately headlice are prevalent again in school. Please could you be extra vigilant when washing your children's hair and if you do come across any can you treat them and then let the school office know in case other children in their class will also need to be treated.

Jeans For Genes Day

Evie and a few of her friends co-ordinated and ran our recent 'Jeans For Genes' day. It was a sterling success and the event raised £299 for the charity. I was ever so pleased with their efforts and they showed incredible service to others less fortunate than themselves... well done girls!

Enrichment Day (Year 1-6) Friday 19th October

I am pleased to announce our first 'Enrichment' day for 2018-19 will take place on Friday 19th October. Your children will be given their activity and, once again, Mrs Barter is co-ordinating the day so if you'd like any more information

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then please don't hesitate to contact her. If you are in a position to offer your time or expertise to the event then it's not too late to tell Mrs Barter or the office. We were overwhelmed last year with the amount of parental support you showed these days and we are very grateful for any help you might be able to give on the 19th October.

Friends Events

I was staggered at our recent Friends AGM to hear they made almost £16,000 profit for the school in the last academic year! The support they provide is incredible and they are already busy planning more fun events for the children to enjoy. Some dates to put in your diaries are as follows:

Friday 12th October - The Friends are asking for donations of soft toys for their new "Adopt a Friend" stall at the Xmas Fayre. Soft toys can be left outside the main entrance on the morning.

Thursday 25th October - Children can come to school in Mufti in exchange for a Tombola donation.

Friday 30th November- Friends Christmas Market (5pm)

Dates for Nativity Performances

I'm pleased to say we have already started thinking about nativities this year! Our two Reception performances will be on Tuesday 18th December at 9.15am and Wednesday 19th December at 2pm. Our Year 1 and Year 2 nativity performances will take place on Tuesday 11th December at 1.45pm and Wednesday 12th December at 9.45am. Tickets will be available from the school office after half term (2 tickets per child per performance and then we'll let you know if there are any spares for any additional adults).

Dates for your diary

Friday 5th October- New Reception (2019) Open Morning (9.30am)

Sunday 7th October- Harvest Service at St. Peter's Church (10.30am with both choirs performing)

Monday 8th October- Father Malcolm School service (10.30am for anyone who would like to join us)

Monday 15th October- Year 6 Bikeability for those who haven't already completed it (all week)

Friday 19th October- Enrichment Day (Year 1-6)

Monday 22nd October- Maths parents' evening (for anyone who has a different maths teacher to their usual teacher)

Tuesday 23rd October- Parents' evening

Wednesday 24th October- Parents' coffee morning run by Mrs Barter and Mrs Walker to discuss our current curriculum and give parents the opportunity to contribute to building a new one (and a chance to eat cake!) 9am.

Wednesday 24th October- Parents' evening

Thursday 25th October- Mufti day (bring in a tombola prize for the Christmas Market)

Thursday 25th October- Last day of term

Friday 26th October- Inset day

Monday 5th November- Term 2 begins

Tuesday 6th November- Friends meeting (7pm at The Globe)

Thursday 8th November- Class 1 balance bike training

Friday 9th November- Class 2 balance bike training

Monday 12th November- Remembrance service at St. Peter's church (9.30am walkers needed please!)

Thursday 15th November- Reception Maths workshop in Class 1 and 2 (9am)

Thursday 15th November- Full Governors meeting

Friday 16th November- School disco

Monday 19th November- Flu vaccinations Reception-Year 5

Friday 30th November- Friends Christmas Market (5pm)

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Sunday 2nd December- Christingle service at St. Peter's Church (4pm)
Tuesday 4th December- Big Sing event at St. Saviour's Church (7pm Key Stage 2 choir)
Tuesday 11th December- Year 1 and 2 Nativity (1.45pm)
Wednesday 12th December- Year 1 and 2 Nativity (9.45am)
Friday 14th December- Christmas jumper day
Tuesday 18th December- Class 1 and 2 Nativity (9.15am)
Tuesday 18th December- Christmas Carol service at St. Peter's Church (6pm)
Wednesday 19th December- Class 1 and 2 Nativity (2pm)
Friday 21st December- Last day of term 2

Congratulations

Well done to Ruby and her team who were crowned Class 11 Bake Off Champions on Friday. The competition was a great success and I can't wait to sample some more delicious treats when the Year 6s from Class 10 compete later in the year!

I have been privileged to have seen lots of fabulous learning going on during the month of September. Special mentions need to go to:

Florrie for her amazing fair trade writing;

Ted for his fantastic handwriting;

Austin and Megan for some brilliant writing about Kenya;

Sean for his wonderful place value learning;

Anna for her gorgeous story mountain;

Blake for his great story retelling;

Archie for his incredible cursive handwriting;

Joshua for his super describing words in his story retelling;

Ben, Lukas, Jasmine and Daisy for their unbelievable life-size depiction of the human body;

Frankie's massive writing improvements since being in Class 8;

Mitchell for his fabulous animal poster created in publisher and

Toby for his excellent questioning skills.

It's hard to believe we are already hurtling towards the end of our first term. I can't wait to share all of our children's exquisite learning with you at our parents' evening as I'm sure you'll be just as proud of our pupils as I am!

Thank you for your continued support,

Pete Barnard

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