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08 January 2018

### **January Newsletter- 2018 is upon us!**

Dear Parents/Carers,

May I take this opportunity, on behalf of all the staff at our school, to wish you all a very happy new year. Having started working at FCCE in 2009, I cannot believe it has already been nine years! I am certain 2018 will be our best year yet and I can't wait to see what it has in store for all our fabulous pupils.

#### **Staff News**

Mr Hotchin would like me to thank everyone for their kind cards, words and gestures as he left to become Deputy Head at Watermore at the end of last term. He was overwhelmed by your generosity and will miss you all greatly. Although Mr Ridd (Mr Hotchin's replacement) can't start until the beginning of term 4, he has already spent time in school getting to know us all. Mrs Pegg is due to teach Class 7 this term but she has unfortunately been struck down with illness over the Christmas period. She can't wait to get back with us but until she is fit to return Mrs Summers will be teaching the class. She already knows the children really well and she is able to provide excellent continuity to the class.

We're also delighted to say Miss Southall will be making a return to our school after her successful treatment. She will be working a couple of mornings a week as she continues to recover to full health and will be working with different groups of children throughout the school (as well as lots of very excited children in Class 9!). We will keep you posted on when Miss Southall will be ready to return to teaching Class 9 throughout the term.

Some of you may have already met Mrs. Gale. She is our new School Business Manager and will be working in the office from Monday-Thursday each week. Please say 'Hello' if you see her and welcome her to our friendly school.

#### **Open Evening- Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January (after school)**

As we don't have a parents' evening this term, we will be holding an 'open evening' on Thursday. This is an opportunity for you to come into your child's class and look through all their amazing learning. There will also be copies of their assessment grids on display for you to see as well as their target boards and any other important information. The class teachers will be available from 3.15pm to 4.30pm but the books will still be on display until the school closes at 6pm. Mrs. Knight (Special Needs coordinator) and I will also be available if you'd like to see either of us for a chat.

After school clubs will take place as usual with Spanish in the Resource room and Musical Theatre in the Library.

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## **Emotion Coaching Session with Mrs. Knight- Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January (6pm in the hall)**

Mrs Knight, our Special Needs coordinator, will be running a parent workshop on emotion coaching this Thursday. She has a wealth of knowledge in this field and we are very lucky to have her working with us on a daily basis. She has already delivered this training to all our staff and it has been incredibly useful in understanding how children behave as they do! I can highly recommend this evening which should run for roughly an hour. Please come along if you can.

## **Fundraising for the Jessie May Trust**

During our nativity performances, collection buckets were made available for donations to our elected charity- The Jessie May Trust. Unbelievably, we managed to raise more than £650 which will make an incredible difference to the lives of young children in Bristol. Thank you so much for all your support!

## **Attendance at FCCE**

As I mentioned on previous newsletters, I will be giving regular attendance updates in order for us to achieve the highest rates possible. The national average attendance rate currently stands at 96.3% with the local authority approximately 1% above this. As of the end of term 2, we have 42 pupils who have attendance rates below 95% (with 7 children falling below 90% which the local authority would class as 'persistent absentees'). This is obviously for a range of reasons from illness to holidays. We are very proud of how our families support us in getting our children into school at every opportunity but we also feel it is fair to let people know when their child is in danger of being classed a 'persistent absentee'.

Therefore, over the next couple of weeks I will be contacting parents whos children are, or are at risk of being, 'persistent absentees'. This may take the form of a letter or phone call so please don't feel alarmed if you receive some sort of correspondence. It is merely designed to offer our help and fully understand your child's current situation.

## **Our New School Facebook Page**

Thank you to everyone who has used our new Facebook page. It is proving to be a really useful tool in communicating with parents and I have been pleased with all the positive comments you have been leaving.

## **Lunch Break Supervisor Position Available**

Sadly, Mrs Bishop, one of our lunch break supervisors, has left our school as she has taken up a new position at The Winterbourne International Academy. We have advertised for a new LBS on the website 'Eteach' but have not been successful in recruiting her replacement. If this is a position that would interest you, the hours required are from 11.50am to 1.05pm each day. Please speak to Mrs. Addicott in the office for an application form or more information.

## **Our Second Enrichment Day- Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February**

Our next enrichment day is on our last day of term. The first day (back in November) was a huge success and I am sure the children will enjoy this one just as much. The choices PowerPoint will be shared with the school during worship this week and then it will be sent home. Please discuss the different options with your child and then place their three preferences in their reading records. Mrs Barter will endeavour to provide every child with one of their three choices. If

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you have any questions or would be able to offer any help then please don't hesitate to contact Mrs Barter or the school office.

### **Class Reading Percentages for Term 2**

As I'm sure you are aware, we expect our children to read 5x per week at home. This allows them to practise their reading skills and enables them to become confident, independent learners. Reading is one of the most important life skills you can learn at school and we are very grateful to everyone who supports their child at home. We keep the children updated with how their class is doing as at the end of the year the classes will each get a treat based on where they finish overall. The term 2 data for the percentage of children who have read 5x per week at home is as follows:

<b>Class</b>	<b>Percentage of Class reading 5 times per week at home</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>Percentage of Class reading 5 times per week at home</b>
1	90%	7	68%
2	76%	8	97%
3	90%	9	41%
4	74%	10	68%
5	76%	11	74%
6	57%		

We monitor how many times children read based on the entries in their reading records. Therefore, it is really important they are filled in on a regular basis. For the vast majority of the older children, a signature is all we need to say they have been reading as they will now be at a stage where they don't read to an adult but instead read by themselves for pleasure. If you would like any more information on how to help your child with their reading at home please do not hesitate to contact Mr Knight (literacy leader) or look on our school website under our 'literacy' section.

### **Mathletics**

We have reviewed how Mathletics is used in school recently and decided not to renew our licence. This resource costs the school over £1500 annually and over 1/3 of the school haven't accessed it this academic year. We will be looking into using other maths programs this term.

### **Nits have returned!**

Please could you check your child's hair over the next couple of weeks as we have had a few reported sightings!

### **Tradesmen/women Needed!**

We are currently undertaking a school audit to see what jobs need to be done around the school. There are several involving painting and building work. If you are in these trades, or know someone who is, and would be interested in helping us/quoting up jobs please let the office know and someone will be in contact with you.

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## **Dates for your diary**

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January- Friendship week in School

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January- FRIENDS meeting 7pm at The Globe

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January- Open Evening 3.15pm-6pm to look at your child's books and assessment grids

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January- Emotion Coaching Workshop for Parents (6pm in the hall) run by Mrs Knight (all staff have had the training and it has already helped me understand my two boys better!)

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January- Class 1 and 2 Literacy workshop (2.15pm) for parents (similar to the maths one)

Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> January- Lisa Barter (speech and language therapist) running a 'drop in' for any parents to book an appointment with her (am).

Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> January- Football game vs St. Michael's (away)

Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January- Class 6 worship to parents (9.05am)

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February- Vicky Borell (behaviour specialist) is running a parent 'drop in' service. Please feel free to sign up for an appointment with Mrs Knight or Mrs. Addicott in the office.

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February- Our second School Enrichment day

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February- Last day of Term 3.

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February- First day of Term 4

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February- Maths Parents' Evening for children in Key Stage 2 (details)

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February- Parents' Evening (details to follow)

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February- Parents' Evening (details to follow)

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February- FRIENDS 'Ladies Night' fundraising event – details to follow

## **Congratulations**

We have had so many examples of brilliant learning already in the first week of 2018! Here are just a few examples:

- Superb maths learning by Rafe and Lucy in Class 5;
- A fantastic piece of artwork demonstrating light and shadow by Lewis in Class 11;
- Wonderful maths problem-solving by Fabian in Class 3;
- Fabulous phonics learning by Daniel in Class 2;
- Amazingly creative story-telling by Sean in Class 9;
- Tremendous writing by Tom in Class 2;
- Awesome writing by Corey and Eva in Class 1;
- Quality independent writing by Lucy and Flynn in Class 7;
- Great sketching by Louis in Class 7;
- Magnificent artwork by Isaac in Class 8 and
- A beautiful painting of a penguin by Vinnie in Class 1.

Your children are truly magnificent... we're incredibly proud of every single one of them!

Thank you for your continued support,

Pete Barnard

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