



22nd January 2018

HALF-TERM UPDATE NEWSLETTER

The Christian Value is

RESPECT

Dear Parents and Carers

Message from Headteacher

Term 3 has well and truly been a busy start to the New Year! It actually feels as if Christmas was ages ago now and we are looking forward to Spring on the horizon! It is always lovely to welcome the children back to school and hear all about the time they have spent with their family. A special time to be together, be thankful for what we have and think about the new year ahead of us.

I spent Christmas in America with my family which was very special indeed. The temperature left a lot to be desired though where most days it was -13 and we had several inches of snowfall. On landing at Heathrow it felt positively warm, if a little grey. I do hope 2018 is a happy and healthy year for all of you.

Ofsted

Fairford last had an inspection in November 2013 where it was judged 'Good' in all areas. Since then legislation was written to change the structure of Ofsted inspections. All 'Good' schools would be inspected every 3 years (although this has proved difficult to do and most 'Good' schools have an inspection from 3-5 years). Our school was inspected after 4 years and almost 2 months. As part of this inspection framework (a Section 8 inspection which is a short 1-day inspection), it was possible for schools that might have made significant improvements towards outstanding to go to a second day and have a full Section 5 inspection.

Since that change to the inspection framework it was announced in December 2017, from January 2018 there would be a further change. These are now the 4 outcomes possible for a 'Good' school:

Outcome 1 – the school continues to be a good school

Outcome 2 – the school remains good and there is sufficient evidence of improved performance to suggest that the school may be judged outstanding if it received a section 5 inspection now. The school will be informed that its next inspection will be a section 5 inspection, which will typically take place within one or two years.

Outcome 3 – the lead inspector is not satisfied that the school would receive at least its current grade if a section 5 inspection were carried out now. The school will be informed that its next inspection will be a section 5 inspection, which will typically take place within one or two years.

Outcome 4 – the lead inspector has gathered evidence that suggests the school may be inadequate on one or more of the graded judgements under section 5 inspections; there are serious concerns about safeguarding, pupils' behaviour or the quality of education; there are concerns that performance of an outstanding non-exempt school could be declining to 'requires improvement'. The short inspection will be converted to a section 5 inspection, usually within 48 hours.

I should receive the first draft of the report this week and it will then be circulated to parents and carers hopefully by the end of this week or beginning of next. I will keep you all updated.

Pre-school Merger

Thank you to everyone who responded to the pre-school merger notification. There is a meeting at the pre-school this evening for parents and carers at the pre-school. I will keep you updated over the coming weeks in regard to any actions concerning the possible merger of both settings.

Volunteers

Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped out with swimming, trips, reading, times tables, Forest School, sport and general classroom support. All of this helps our children to be involved in their learning and gives them opportunities to participate in lots of activities.

If you would like to volunteer at Fairford please speak to your child's class teacher in the first instance and she will sign post you to the School Business Manager, Kate Somers who will inform you about relevant paperwork you will need to ensure good safeguarding practice is in place.

Mrs J Fellows
Headteacher

End of Day Pick Up

We understand from time to time your child may be collected by another parent. It is imperative the school are notified of this as otherwise your child may not be released until permission has been sought. Orange forms can be completed at the school office or alternatively if you have a long standing pick up arrangement this can be notified by completing the purple form and handing into the school office.

Food Bank – Volunteers Needed

Like many charities, Cirencester Foodbank couldn't function without our amazing team of volunteers. There are lots of different roles available, ranging from a couple of hours twice a year to help at supermarket collections to a regular commitment at one of our distribution centres. We are particularly looking for support in our Fairford and Tetbury centres. If you would like to get involved please contact info@cirencester.foodbank.org.uk

Vacancies – Dolce and Farmor's School

Dolce Limited are currently looking for a general assistant/server to work in Fairford Primary School. The position will be for 5 hours per week initially, but may lead to more and may include some overtime (times to be confirmed) Monday to Friday during term time only.

Duties to include serving meals to pupils, cleaning duties and any associated tasks. The rate of pay will be £7.50 per hour, pro rata, on a term time only basis.

For more information contact Daryl at daryl.williams@doble.co.uk.

Farmor's School are looking for an Administrator (Sixth Form); Careers Co-ordinator; Morning Caretaker and Science Technician. These are part-time vacancies and more information can be obtained from the school website www.farmors.gloucs.sch.uk/Job-vacancies

Marling School and Stroud High School

Volunteers needed for Admission Appeal Panel Members. No experience is necessary as full training will be provided. We are particularly looking for parents of school pupils and but must ensure that panel; members have no personal or professional interest in the cases they hear.

For more information please contact Sarah Chilman at Marling School on 01453 762251 and/or Pauline Blacklock at Stroud High School 01453 764441.

Class Updates

Apple



We are delighted with the way that Apple Class has embraced our topic, Places We Go. They have enjoyed boarding the train (in the role play area) and visiting all sorts of exciting places! This week we read the story, Mr Gumpy's Motor Car which the children thought was very funny. They particularly enjoyed thinking about the character of Mr Gumpy. Apple Class had an amazing time when Mr Flemington (Finbar's Daddy) came to visit. He talked to the class about his job in the RAF and what it is like to be a Pilot. They looked at his uniform

and the kind of apparatus that he uses. Apple class asked lots of questions to help them with their topic on Transport – Places We Go!



Walnut



Walnut have been chanting 'Hi-ho, Hi-ho' as we have busily scribbled away at lots of work already this term, enjoying our Snow White topic immensely. We have been looking at the Wicked Queen in comparison to English Queens, Elizabeth I and Victoria, and remembering important facts about all three – ask us at home! What facts can we tell you about these powerful ladies? In maths, Walnut have been studying time and measurement and we have really excelled at these areas, particularly telling the time to the hour and half past the hour. Please test us at home each night, especially recognising when it is our 'bed time'! Science has been extremely fun this term, we have been looking at light and next we will be creating a high-visibility jacket for Dopey to wear to work in the jewel mines. Thank you very much Walnut parents for supporting us in our Walnut mission to read, read, read at

school and home, it is very much appreciated.

Cypress



Cypress class have flam into Term 3 more determined than ever, with fantastic ideas and an enthusiastic attitude towards learning! We have really enjoyed delving deep into our new and exciting novel 'The Hodgeheg!' So far, Cypress have become experts on how to look after a hedgehog by using their research skills and picking out the most important information. Alongside this, we have carefully pieced together instructions, detailing how to wash a hedgehog, using precise language. In Science, we are beginning to look closer into animals and their habitats, by exploring and researching living things and what is essential for them to survive. Also, Cypress have proved themselves to be mini artists, by researching and taking on the style of Van Gogh and producing fabulous creations! Keep up the amazing work!

Oak

In Oak Class, we have begun our journey of discovery around the United Kingdom this term. Each week we are 'visiting' a different country and learning more about its physical and human geography. It was great to see many children had engaged with our class Padlet by sharing places they have visited around the UK and identifying counties they have travelled through; this has really helped the children to locate places around the UK.

This term, we continue to focus on the use of adjectives and adverbs to make our writing more interesting for the reader. We have discussed how authors create pictures in our minds and how we need to develop this skill so people want to read our stories as well. We have spent a considerable amount of time over the past two weeks getting to know our pet dragons. We started by describing them in our writing, drawing them, painting them and adding features from their setting. We have written poems about their eggs and are going on to create 'Dragon Passports' and 'Wanted' posters; all of which will require extensive use of adjectives so everyone can recognise our dragons!



Our Family Maths Scrapbook activities have linked to our maths learning in class as we have been learning to tell the time to the nearest minute. We are now exploring 2D and 3D shapes before moving onto multiplication and division for the 2, 3, 4, 5, 8 and 10 times tables.



Our creative talents have been expressed through sketching and painting dragon eyes on pebbles and creating 3D pictures of our dragons in their natural environment. All are on display ready for parents' evenings!

The children have also had their first cooking sessions of Year 3. All credit to Meliny for coming up with a recipe to link with our Dragon topic and I hope you managed to taste the wonderful 'Dragon Pearls' – they were delicious!!



It seems incredible how much we have already covered in our first three weeks back after Christmas and it is great to see how absorbed the children are with our new topics. I look forward to seeing many of you at Parents' Evenings next week to share all the exciting learning that has been taking place in Oak Class so far this year!

Beech

It is quite uplifting to be starting our new topic about the Rainforest in January because we can imagine how warm and humid it is whilst it's so cold outside and we've got lots of greenery in our classroom to brighten it up. We have been learning where the rainforests are and the difference between weather and climate. In art the children have researched a rainforest creature of their choice and are working in mixed media which is a new technique to master.



Our literacy work so far has also involved animals and we have been busy doing 'Talk for Writing' to learn all about one of Mrs Sherer's favourite mammals the capybara. Although they look like enormous guinea pigs they are in fact the largest in the rodent family. The children have really impressed me with how many facts they can now impart.



Beech Class will be writing their own reports on the sloth and some children have already contributed information to help our research at <https://padlet.com/csherer1/Beechslloth>. Take a look and contribute if you find out anything interesting.

We are working hard in maths to learn to use coordinates, useful for map reading and have also been learning about reflective symmetry and transformations. Our focus will be on multiplication and division soon so keep on practising your times tables to 12x12. Remember to also keep on practising telling the time and converting from analogue to digital 12 and 24 hour; an important life skill.

Last week it was so tropical in our classroom that we were compelled to make ice cream without a freezer. It was a case of needing a good shaking technique. I think everyone was surprised as to how easy and quick it was to do. So, what with swimming, rainforests and ice cream, who would guess that it's the winter term? Hope to see you to discuss your child's learning next week. Mrs Sherer

Birch

We have had a jam-packed 3 weeks back at school!

We have been concentrating on 'writing to inform' through learning a 'Talk for Writing' piece on the Capybara. Birch class learnt the 5 paragraphs off by heart in 3 days - setting a new record! We are now learning how to use the language, sentence and presentational features of this text type in our own report writing.

It was a demanding start to the term in maths when the children learnt how to convert from the 12hour digital clock to the 24hour clock. They also learnt how to convert days and weeks and months and years. Any practise of telling the time and converting will be beneficial to all members of the class. More recently, we have been reflecting different shapes, finding lines of symmetry in regular shapes and plotting coordinates.

Science has been exciting and we enjoyed making ice cream without a freezer and acting out the water cycle. Once we have finished this topic, we will be moving on to the digestive system. Our topic this term is 'The Rainforest' and we are reading 'The Explorer' by Katherine Rundell as our class novel. We already know where the equator and the tropics are located and can name countries where rainforests are found.

Maple



The dull nights of winter are starting to pass; spring's lighter evenings are now starting to appear.

This term Maple Class will be focusing on land use and how it changes over time. Although this is our topic focus, it will also form the basis for our literacy work. Already this term the class have started to learn about Greenfield and Brownfield sites which can be found locally. From this the children will develop their skill at writing persuasive letters to the council and then move onto writing balanced arguments taking into account two opposing views.

As we move through the term Maple Class will investigate Fairford Town and develop their fieldwork skills, exploring how our town is developing today.

In numeracy this term we will be focusing on improving the children's understanding of fractions, decimals, percentages and measurement. This will include converting between common fractions, decimals and percentages and how to convert between different units of measurement; developing our understanding of what fractions represent and how they relate to decimals.

Our science topic – The Earth, Moon and Sun - has just started. During the term the children will learn about different concepts of the Solar System, just how big the Solar System actually is and the causes of the seasons among a handful of other important ideas.

If anyone is interested in helping this term please get in touch via bmorris-taylor@fairford.gloucs.sch.uk All help is greatly appreciated.

Elm Class

In Elm Class, we have been focusing on ‘Kensuke’s Kingdom’ by Sir Michael Morpurgo. As part of this, we have written entries in the ‘Ship’s Log’, and are now in the process of writing a letter home from Rio de Janeiro in Brazil. For maths, we have been looking at time, and have more recently moved onto 2D shape and angles. In Science, we have been continuing our investigation of the circulatory and respiratory systems and have also been linking to DT in our study of electricity and how it works. We will use this knowledge to help us design games later this term. In geography, we are following the Peggy Sue’s journey from ‘Kensuke’s Kingdom’ and have been learning our compass points and using them to write directions. We are now ready to move onto recognising map symbols for using and drawing maps. Finally, in RE, we are finding out what Hindus believe and how this affects their daily life.



Dates for your diary:

Note: sporting events are issued on a separate diary sheet and are updated regularly. **Please check this area as dates and events are sometimes changed.**

Monday 22 nd January 2018	Year 5 and 6 Parents Evening Only – progression targets 3pm – 6pm
Tuesday 23 rd January 2018	EYFS, Y1, 2, 3, 4 Parents’ Evening Only - progression targets (No Y5 and 6 Parents Evening)
Wednesday 24 th January 2018	Parents Evening for All Year Groups – progression targets 3pm – 6pm
Monday 12 th February 2018 – Friday 16 th February 2018	Half Term
Thursday 1 st March 2018	World Book Day – Dress Up as a book character
Friday 2 nd March 2018	Bringing Books to Life
Tuesday 6 th March 2018	Living Rainforest Trip for Year 4 (Beech and Birch)
Tuesday 6 th March 2018	Puzzlewood Trip for Year 3 (Oak Class)
Monday 12 th March – Friday 16 th March 2018	Science Week
Friday 16 th March 2017	Science NEC Trip Year 3,4,5, and 6
Monday 19 th March – Friday 23 rd March 2018	Sports Relief Week
Friday 23 rd March 2018 – Wednesday 28 th March 2018	Scholastic Book Fair
Monday 26 th March 2018	9.30am Year 3 Easter Show
Friday 30 th March 2018 – Friday 13 th April 2018	Easter Half Term
Monday 16 th April – Friday 20 th April 2018	Maths Puzzle Week
Friday 20 th April 2018	History – Look Who’s Talking (Dress Up)
Monday 7 th May 2018	Bank Holiday Monday – School Closed
Monday 14 th May 2018 – Friday 18 th May 2018	KS2 SATs Week
Friday 18 th May 2018	Outdoor Classroom Day PTA Bags 2 School to be brought in for collection at 9am
Tuesday 22 nd May 2018	Sports Day
Friday 25 th May 2018	Sports Day (Reserve Date)
Monday 28 th May – Friday 1 st June 2018	Half Term – School Closed
Monday 4 th June 2018 – Friday 8 th June 2018	Year 6 Residential Trip
Monday 11 th June 2017	Class Photos (TBC)
Tuesday 12 th June 2018	Year 5 Show
Wednesday 20 th June 2018	Prayer Space – whole school
Wednesday 4 th July 2018	Year 6 Transition Day to Farmor’s
Thursday 5 th July 2018	Year 6 Transition Day to Farmor’s
Friday 13 th July 2018	INSET Day – School Closed (RIAT)
Monday 16 th July 2018	Reports to Parents

Tuesday 17 th July 2018	3pm – 4.30pm – Open Classroom 6pm – Year 6 Play to Parents
Wednesday 18 th July 2018	6pm – Year 6 Play to Parents
Thursday 19 th July 2018	Year 6 Leavers’ Party Approx 5pm-9pm School Field
Wednesday 25 th July 2018	Year 6 Leavers’ Service at St Mary’s Church Approx 10am (all parents and carers invited to attend)
Wednesday 25 th July 2018	End of Academic Year – School Closes at 2pm. Treetops finishes at 5pm.
ACADEMIC YEAR 2018 – 2019	
Monday 3 rd September 2018	INSET Day
Tuesday 4 th September 2018	School Open to Children
Thursday 18 th October 2018	INSET Day
Friday 19 th October 2018	INSET Day
Monday 22 nd October – Friday 26 th October 2018	Half Term
Monday 24 th December 2018 – Friday 4 th January 2019	Christmas Half Term
Monday 18 th February 2019 – 22 nd February 2019	Half Term
Monday 8 th April 2019 – Monday 22 nd April 2019	Half Term
Monday 6 th May 2019	Bank Holiday
Monday 27 th – Friday 31 st May 2019	Half Term
Monday 22 nd July 2019	INSET Day
Tuesday 23 rd July 2019	INSET Day
Wednesday 24 th July 2019 – 31 st August 2019	School Closed for Summer Holiday

Please note the above dates are published through Gloucestershire County Council.