



# Frogmore Junior School

## Weekly Bulletin

**Issue: 7 Date: 20/10/2017**

Dear Parents

I have really enjoyed this half term. I've seen the school come to life in a way that I feel immensely proud of. I've seen the children walk tall and celebrate the excellent things that are happening in their classrooms and beyond. I've heard about many successes and achievements – both in and out of school.

This week we have been able to celebrate Roman history, tales of the plague, time travel and the values underpinning a rights respecting school. We also looked in detail at e-safety, with our Year 6 pupils preparing a special information assembly for parents that will take place after the half-term break (and after the Windmill Hill residential).

Please note the diary dates that we send out with this newsletter. We are trying our best to give you as much notice as possible by sharing dates here and on our website. We may also issue text reminders to try and help all our families – we understand how busy family life can be. Three important dates to share: 1) On Friday 24th November from 5.30-6.20pm the whole school will be attending the lighting of the Frogmore Christmas Tree at St Barnabas Church. 2) On Friday 6th December we will be holding our Christmas Fair starting at 3.15pm, straight after school. 3) On Wednesday 20th December we will be holding a whole school Christmas disco. It will run from 5.45 – 7.05pm in order to help parents with infant siblings to attend their Christmas play: the Frogmore Infant School Christmas play is taking place on the same evening from 6-7.00pm.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the events.

To finish the half term it is worth mentioning a few 'myths' that have reached me: I thought that it is worth writing them down so that I can share my response and help us to then all share the same understanding.

### **'The Five Myths of Frogmore'**

#### **Myth no. 1:**

**'The head is a 'superhead' who will turn the school around and then be off in a year...'**

As flattering as it may be, I can reassure you that I'm committed to Frogmore Junior School – our school, our community and our families. It is a long-term commitment and I am looking forward to seeing the school grow and develop over the many years that I will be here.

#### **Myth no. 2:**

**'He's banned homework.'**

I've cancelled homework club on the basis that I need teachers to run after-school clubs that use their strengths, talents and abilities. Some teachers may also be running tuition or booster support for targeted groups of children. Homework is definitely there to be completed and there is a greater emphasis on topic-based projects that support a deeper understanding of the key concepts we are working on in school. The work completed this first half-term has been excellent.

#### **Myth no. 3:**

**'The school is making a profit out of the money collected for school trips and after-school clubs'**

A bright, engaging curriculum that uses visits and visitors to the school – consumable resources, equipment and residential trips all come at a financial cost. With the limited budget available for schools we manage to cover everything that is essential – the difference here is that, in my view, our children should be equally as entitled to the same trips, resources and equipment as those attending other schools – outstanding schools - across the country. We don't make a profit. In fact, teachers (and head teachers) often use their own pockets to cover the cost of those extras that really bring the curriculum to life. If we work in partnership we can make sure that all our children receive an outstanding, broad and balanced curriculum that is rich in experiences for everyone. Budgets for building work are separate from the school budget. We are in the same position as many other schools – trying to do our best with the limited funds that are available to us.

#### **Myth no. 4:**

**'The school doesn't build on the good work that was done in the Infants'**

At some time in the past this may have been the case. Now, parents will have more and more opportunities to come into school and see for themselves the great work that our children are producing. Across the whole curriculum I have seen evidence of further development in skills and a much more comprehensive understanding of subject knowledge and the developmental steps that are needed to help our children go on to achieve at the highest levels. Please do make use of our curriculum meetings and celebration events – I am sure that you will feel equally as

pleased with the outcomes that our children are now producing. We are a Junior School – some things are different because they have to be for this stage of learning and cognitive development. But different doesn't necessarily mean that it fails build on the excellent foundations that have been already laid.

### Myth no. 5

**'But Frogmore will never be a good school. Look at what it used to be like...'**

As an Arsenal fan I'm painfully aware of the legacy of underperformance and, perhaps the over-optimism of past success. I have a good headteacher friend who is a Manchester City supporter. Even when 'City' were bought by rich owners...even when they signed their first 'stars'...I still used Manchester City's history as a stick to jokingly beat him with. However, I had to change my view. I might still joke with him. I might still be secretly enjoying any slip-up, but I know that things there changed.

So there are some similarities between that transition, like at a major football club, and our own school journey. We've worked really, really hard to get the school to the where it is now – the whole team. Please know that FJS has changed. As this change continues, and as we start to see the signs of embedded high expectations, high achievement and enjoyment/success for all our pupils, you should feel really proud of the part that you have played in making it happen. Hopefully you will have modelled trust, patience and understanding. So far, you have given me the chance to put things right if you feel that they are wrong. You've challenged – but you've also been supportive in a way that has really made a difference. I have an open door policy: which means that if you have any concerns or worries then please let me know so I can do something about them.

So as we finish the end of this first half term I'd like to offer my thanks to everyone in the school community. I hope that the myths might start to disappear...I also hope that you have an enjoyable half-term break and manage to spend time together as families.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mr McCarthy

#### Christmas Cards

If you would like to order your child's Christmas Cards the deadline to register is **Friday 27th October**.

The original artwork must then be brought back to school after half-term.

#### Flu Vaccination

Please can Year 3 & 4 parents return the consent forms for the flu vaccination by **Friday 20th October**.

# DIARY OF DATES

## October

- 20 Cake Sale - Juniper Class
- 23 Half Term
- 30 Y6 Windmill Hill Residential Trip

## November

- 3 Y6 return from Windmill Hill Residential Trip
- 1 Y5/6 Cross Country
- 8 Parents' Evening 3.30-5.30pm
- 9 Y3 & Y4 Flu Immunisation
- 9 Parents' Evening 4.00-7.00pm
- 10 Non-uniform Day
- 17 Pantomime
- 24 Cake Sale - Willow Class
- 24 Lighting of Frogmore Christmas Tree 5.30pm

## December

- 1 Non-uniform Day
- 8 Christmas Fair 3.15pm
- 15 Cake Sale - Rowan Class
- 20 Christmas Disco, whole school 5.45-7.05pm
- 21 Last day of term

## January

- 4 INSET Day
- 5 INSET Day
- 8 INSET Day
- 9 **School starts for children at 8.30am**

### Head Boy and Head Girl

Congratulations to the following Year 6 children for being chosen this year:

**Luke Piper** - Head Boy

**Louise Maroney** - Head Girl

**Seb Fewell** - Deputy Head Boy

**Poppy Woods** - Deputy Head Girl

### Information sent home this week

*(and on the Letters page on school website)*

- Pupil Led Review Letter
- Christmas Card Project
- Acceptable Use Agreement for ICT
- Spelling Challenge

### Extra-Curricular Activities for w/c 30th October 2017

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
	Chelsea FC 3.15-4.15pm		Judo Club 3.30-4.15pm	Gymnastics Club 08.00-08.45am

**NO OTHER CLUBS THIS WEEK**

