



NEWSLETTER

23RD OCTOBER 2020

Thank You!

It's hard to believe that we have already completed our first half term this academic year. It has been one quite unlike any other! We would like to thank the whole staff team for their hard work and dedication in making this half term a smooth transition back into school life for our children. They have worked tirelessly, under very different conditions, to ensure that our children continue to be supported in their emotional well-being and in catching up on the learning missed during the lockdown period.

We would also like to thank you as parents for your co-operation in adjusting to our new routines, new ways of communicating and support with the Test and Trace system, in order to keep our whole school community safe.

We hope that you all have a well-deserved break this half term and we look forward to welcoming the children back, refreshed and ready to learn once again, on the 2nd November.

Staffing Update

This week we are saying goodbye to Miss Ward, who has been a valued member of our learning support team. Miss Ward also designed the beautiful animal artwork for our new classes and the reading 'barrow. Her artistic talent and passion for the subject has led her to secure a new job in an art department at a further education college. We wish her every success in her new role. Miss Ellie Massingham will be joining us after half term as Miss Ward's replacement.

The Government recently confirmed that schools will continue to receive the PE and Sports Grant this academic year. We are very pleased to inform you that we will be using this year's grant to employ our own, 'in-house' sports coach. After attracting a very strong field of applicants, we have appointed Mr Luke Heffron, who will start with us after half-term. Mr Heffron will take a lead in supporting our lunchtime activities, work alongside teachers in the teaching of physical education and also run a number of after-school sports clubs. We also hope that Mr Heffron will be able to offer activities on our inset days and during the school holidays.

We have also recently recruited an additional bus driver, Mr Stephen Wright, who will drive our second minibus to and from Knowle every day. We are extremely fortunate to now have two dedicated drivers who will be able to support us in driving the buses during the school day, when we are once again able to take the children out on trips and to sporting events.

School Christian Values



This week Mr Cutter was invited by the Diocese of Portsmouth and Winchester to present to a group of new Church school headteachers on how our school's Christian ethos and vision impacts positively on our pupils and adults.

Mr Cutter was pleased to be able to share our recent journey in how we've strengthened our Christian character, values and ethos. This includes the changes to our logo, re-writing our vision and curriculum, and improvements to our collective worship and reflection areas in school. The feedback from the presentation was extremely positive and the other headteachers said how inspired they were by what was shared with them.

Harvest Festival



This week we held our virtual harvest festival and were pleased to be joined for this by Reverend Jane and Reverend Juliet.

Every class was able to contribute in some way, including singing (in small groups), sharing stories (with actions!), poetry and prayers. As current guidance means that we are not able to sing aloud as a whole class or school, the children all learnt to sign to the harvest song, Cauliflowers Fluffy, which they all performed together at the end. It was a fantastic sight to behold!

Thank you for your generosity in providing food donations. These will be passed to the local charity, Acts of Kindness, who have supported many of our families since March and continue to do so. We know valuable their work is.

Reminders

- Parents evening appointments can be booked using this link <https://wickhamceprimary.schoolcloud.co.uk/>
- Year 7 applications deadline is 31st October please ensure you apply online in time.
- Please keep your child's dinner money account is kept in credit.

Key Dates

Year 7 Applications Deadline	31 st October
Half Term	26 th – 30th October
Parents' Evenings	2nd and 5th November (apart from Squirrels Class)