



Stratford – Sub – Castle Church of England VC Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs Kay Bridson B.A (Hons) PGCE



Life in all its fullness

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Wednesday 6th November 2019

I would like to start the term by thanking everyone who attended the Harvest Festival and the Cheese and Wine Evening combining the Governors' Report to Parents and the FOSS AGM. It is so helpful to have such good support in all aspects of school life.

If you wish to read the Chair of Governors Report on 2018/2019 it can be found on the school website.

I hope you had a good break. We have a very busy term ahead of us with lots to do and plenty of exciting things to look forward to.

Termly Topics: My Bedroom

Well done one and all! Some of the Termly Topics were very impressive. Certificates were given out before the holiday but I would like to give an extra mention to: **Becky Ashton, Macey Down, Sonny De Bens, Neo Griffin, Rose Vigor, Rufus White and Sophie Wood**, for their creativity when interpreting the theme. They have all been chosen for a special 'Creativity Award' to recognise their interesting and inspiring responses to 'My Bedroom' Please do take a look at a selection of the Termly Topics in the hall when they go on display.

The Termly Topics are set for two main reasons. Firstly to cater for the spilt amongst families who prefer weekends free and those who want to do home learning at the weekend and keep the week nights free! We want you to be able to complete the written home learning when it is convenient to you. Secondly we are responding to research conducted by organisations such as the Sutton Trust which indicates that homework (unless designed carefully) has very little impact on pupil progress or creativity.

The focus of the weekly home learning is to read regularly and to actually learn facts (spellings and number facts) which need to be recalled quickly. Practising reading is also a very important thing to do as regularly as possible!

The Termly Topic for this term is anything based on the theme of 'Underground'. This could be volcanoes, caves, diamonds, moles, roots or railways! Be as creative with the theme as you like. The deadline for handing in topics is **FRIDAY 13TH DECEMBER 2019**. This is compulsory for Y4, Y5 and Y6 and optional for all other year groups. Pupils in the younger year groups will need to ask their teacher for a book, to complete the Termly Topic work in, as they will not automatically be given one.

Poppy Appeal

The school has a collection tin for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. Poppies are available to children and parents on the playground before school during the school day and after school. We do ask that children make at least a 20p donation. The school will mark Remembrance with a moment of silence and reflection at 11am on Monday 11th November.



Remembrance / British Values Day

On Monday 11th November the school is holding a 'whole school topic day'. The morning will be spent learning about Remembrance Day and during the afternoon we will focus on 'British values'. As a school we have a duty "to promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs." We do this every day in the way we live our lives in school. However, we thought it would be good to spend a bit of time thinking about these themes in a more explicit way. The school's '**British Values Statement**' can be found on the school web-site.

Reading Room Car Park

The church very kindly let us use the Reading Room car park. However, on Fridays they have a booking and need the car parking spaces near the building. **Please kindly use the half of the car park, furthest away from the Reading Room on Friday mornings.** When using the car park please park in a way that maximizes the use of available space.

Please make this work so that we are allowed to continue to use this facility. Every other day in the week it is fine it is **just Friday Mornings.**

Children in Need: Friday 15th November 2019

Mrs Davidson has very kindly arranged /persuaded Mrs Hobbs to make us a Pudsey Bear Cake despite the fact that all her grandchildren left the school two years ago! This amazing creation will be raffled before school, after Smiley Face Assembly, during lunch and play time. (We will also be selling tickets on the Thursday to get off to a sneaky start!)

Tickets cost 10p and all proceeds will be sent to the charity. To allow as many raffle tickets to be sold as possible the draw will take place near the end of the school day on Friday.

Trussell Trust: Christmas Shoe-box Appeal

Last term, Richard from the Trussell Trust came into school to talk to the children about the Christmas Shoe-box Appeal. You should have received a leaflet to provide you with more information. In previous years we have managed to contribute over 60 boxes and as a school and it would be great if we could do the same again this year. Please bring completed boxes to outside my office by 9am on Thursday 14th November. **Please read the instructions on the leaflet carefully. Many thanks.**

Just to remind you...

PARENTS' EVENINGS ARE TAKING PLACE ON:

THURSDAY 14th NOVEMBER (3:30PM – 5:30PM)

& FRIDAY 15th NOVEMBER 2019 (3:30PM – 7:00PM)

If you can't remember when you booked your appointment please touch base with us before it gets too late!!



SNOW PROCEDURES

If the weather turns snowy we will send a text out, put information on the school web-site and also post a message with Spire FM. **We only send a message to say we are closed not to say we are open!** I endeavour to make a decision as early as possible, because we have so many staff members who have long distances to travel. Please do bear in mind, that we will do our utmost to keep the school open during the winter but a school without teachers is not much good and we also need to be able to feed most of the school! The other major factor is that we do not have a

caretaker, so the snow clearing has to be done by myself and willing volunteers. This also relies on me being able to get to school!



A MESSAGE FROM OUR LOCAL SCOUTS...

SCOUT CHRISTMAS POST - Last day of posting is Thursday 5th December 2019

Please support your local Scout Groups, save yourself the cost of a stamp and post your local cards with us, we deliver cards in and around the Salisbury area (for a full list of villages please check the poster by the school gate). **Stamps are 30p each and are available from the school office.** The money raised goes to the groups who sell and deliver the cards. There is a post box in the entrance outside the school office

Some important news...

Congratulations are in order for Mrs Cook and her husband! Mrs Cook is due to have a baby in March 2020. This is an exciting time for Mrs Cook and her family and I am sure you will join me in congratulating them.

This happy news obviously has implications for Fox Class. The school is currently recruiting a teacher to cover the maternity leave and we will let you know when we have firm plans in place. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact either myself or Mrs Watkins if you have any queries.

Kindest regards,

Kay Bridson

PLEASE DO NOT PARK ON THE ZIG-ZAG LINES OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL. PLEASE HELP TO KEEP ALL OUR CHILDREN SAFE.