



FOX WOOD SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



October
2017

Important Dates

Friday 20 October

School closes for half term

Monday 30 October

School re-opens

Monday 27 Nov to Friday 1 Dec

Enterprise Week for Whole School

Friday 1 December afternoon

Christmas Fair

Monday 18 December

Panto in school for pupils

Wednesday 20 December

Christmas Dinner

Thursday 21 December

School closes for pupils

Our Website address: www.foxwoodschoo.org.uk

Message from Lucinda

The first half term of this new academic year has been packed full of exciting changes and wonderful learning opportunities for all of our pupils. I am delighted to be able to highlight a few of these to you — our new curriculum has undoubtedly already had a significant impact and has enabled us to provide more engaging and stimulating learning experiences. Our focus on equipping our pupils for the world beyond our classrooms has seen some fantastic community based learning being organised too, including visits to Walker Art Gallery in Liverpool and Safety Central, Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service's interactive life skills education centre at Lymm. It has been wonderful to see how well new, and established, pupils have settled into their classes and to watch them continue to grow in independence and make personal milestones (which have made us incredibly proud!) Both our Sensory Integration Area project and the bungalow conversion to a Café are now underway and these will give us further opportunities to develop important skills and, most importantly, pupils self-esteem and ability to make and communicate positive choices. As part of this we launched our 'Ready to Learn' initiative in September with the goal of helping our pupils to better identify their emotions and know what they can do for themselves, or request from others, to give them greater control over their lives and well being wherever this is possible. We already have a number of pupils benefitting from our sensory circuit activities and sensology sessions and we look forward to further developing this over the next half term.

Goodbye

We are sad to say good bye to Adrian. Adrian has been a TA at Fox Wood for 10 years, working in both school and our 6th Form College. We wish him well in his new venture, and thank him for all his hard work.

Welcome

Welcome to new Reception pupils; Berat, Vincent, Alfie, Matthew, Oliver, Sam, Jack, Lucas, Skyla, Joshua, Melody, Eva and Kaytlyn and Patrick in Year 7 and 10. We also welcome two new Teachers, Penny in Class 8 and Louise who is based in College., and welcome to new Teaching Assistants; Vicky, Leah, Dawn, Hayley, Rachel and Chris.

Welcome to Claire who is part of the Continenence team, you will get the opportunity to meet her at Parents Evening in January.

Save the Day

On Friday 1 December at 1.30 we will be having our Christmas Fayre. All classes will be working for the whole week on Enterprise activities and these will be for sale on the day. It will be a great opportunity for you to buy items for Christmas. Classes are planning what they can make and items already planned include reindeer dust, decorations, gift tags, sweets, Christmas tree canvases, body scrubs, fairy doors, "fox" items, chocolate. On the day there will be even more for you to choose from. Friends & relatives are more than welcome and we look forward to a great week!

Congratulations

Congratulations to Lianne, who is now our Assistant Head. She had been the Acting Assistant Head since Aidan left in July and is responsible for the Curriculum and assessment. Many of you will have met her in the reading and writing workshops, and more recently in the curriculum information session she led on Thursday 12 October. She also has written in the newsletter regularly as she has led literacy throughout the school.

Congratulations to Jane, teacher of class 10, Jane started her newly qualified teacher (NQT) year with us after October half term last year. She has had regular meetings with myself throughout the year and has had a lesson observation every half term, as is the norm for NQTs. She has worked very hard adapting the curriculum for her pupils and will be taking the lead on work related learning this year Well done to Jane for completing her NQT year and we wish her all the best in her future career.

At Fox Wood School we have welcomed many new pupils this new academic year; most of whom are in one of our three Early Years classes. We have worked very hard over this first half term on counting, joining in with rhymes, colour, pattern and shape work, recognising numbers, matching and sorting and much more! Class 3 have been using the resonance boards and participating in dance and Maths massage and working on contrasts and patterns. Melody made up a fantastic action pattern on the board, which she remembers and adds to every week! All three classes have introduced at least some pupils to the Numicon system (All parents please check with class teachers if our re-scheduled Numicon parent workshop coming up in the Autumn 2 half term would be applicable to your child as I would love to see as many of you there as possible!)

Many pupils across school have had the opportunity to work with Joanne, our Maths intervention TA and have completed some exciting work on a 1:1 or small group basis. The pupils are enjoying this and asking when their next session will be! Well done to each and every Fox Wood pupil for trying their best and keep up the good work!

Janet



Class 10 have been excited to start their Work Related Learning curriculum which has been a resounding success. This term pupils will continue to have opportunities to experience different careers of staff in school during work shadowing and work experience. Out of class skills will be supported in the classroom and pupils will complete work experience diaries to reflect on



skills they have used and what they have enjoyed, and would like to do again. Class staff have noticed a great improvement in the independence and self-confidence of pupils during their work related learning sessions. We would like to say a big thank you to our Site Manager, Gary, for allowing our pupils to support him with his jobs and safety checks around school. Gary, who is also on the Health and Safety committee, has been teaching our pupils about personal safety when carrying out tasks and the importance of completing a job properly. Patrick and Lewis enjoyed helping Gary, and Lewis was able to explain to his class what safety equipment they used and why it was important. Patrick followed instructions from Gary and listened very carefully. Pupils have responded positively to being given responsibility and taking pride in their work. Class 10 have also been supporting different



pupils and classes during these activities. Alisha has been helping Class 12 during their PHSCE and self-help lessons, and staff have been impressed by her following instructions and interacting with other pupils. Matthew has supported Class 3 with rebound therapy and has been able to follow simple instructions to collect appropriate equipment. It has been lovely to see the positive interactions of class 10 with other pupils and staff around school. Keep it up, class 10!



ENGLISH Our focus for English this year is on speaking and listening. We plan to raise the profile of communication across the whole school through speaking and listening activities such as selling our products during our enterprise week, speaking to visitors to the school, inclusion opportunities and school council. We are a specialist communication school and as such, we have a range of resources to support different communication methods. If we can be of any assistance, please let us know via the home-school diary.

New Head Pupil and Deputy Head Pupil - In May, along with the rest of the UK we at Fox Wood were struck with election fever and spent two Citizenship days learning about democracy, leading up to our election for Head and Deputy Pupil. Each class chose two candidates for the role and created a manifesto for their candidates to explain why each student should be voted for. Key Stage 3/4 got together and each candidate had the opportunity to introduce themselves and their campaign. All of the students were very patient and polite when listening to the candidates. On the second day each class recapped the manifestos before all students were given the opportunity to vote for their favourite candidate. It was a very exciting time whilst we waited for the votes to be counted and the winners to be announced.

Over the two days the students had lots of opportunities to vote. Class 9 voted for which music they would like to listen to and which flavour of juice they wanted at snack time. Class 9 created a tally chart to record their results and students then counted the votes and gave the results. Class 10 voted on which snack they wanted to eat from a choice of two, using switches or by pointing and Class 11 enjoyed using eye pointing and switches to vote for which colours to use during their art lessons and which ingredients to use during their cooking lessons.

At the end of the second day we joined together again to get the results of the election and we are pleased to announce that Emma (class 12) is our Head Pupil since September and Kelan (class 11) is the Deputy Head Pupil. Congratulations Emma and Kelan!

Professional Development

Some members of staff have attended the following courses/training days this half term:

4th and 5th September—all staff were involved in a variety of training including hydro safety, phonics and safeguarding, medication and new induction.

Other training undertaken—Sensory Alertness, Team Teach, Work Force Census, Behaviour, Art Award

PUPIL OF THE HALF TERM

We have had so many nominations this half term and they are all worthy of a mention:

Primary—Joe, (class 9) always comes into school happy, communicating really well using his iPad and using it to recall a familiar story. Lucas, (class 5) great progress in talking, signing and engagement.

Jazmine, (class 7) excellent mobility and wearing her glasses.

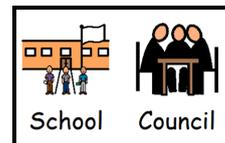
Secondary—Declan (class 12) for excellent attendance and progress this half term and Patrick (class 10) for settling well into his new school.

Safeguarding

Lucinda and myself attended a multi agency audit in October, with many other professionals, with the aim of identifying and applying good practice and areas for development. This was organised by Warrington Safeguarding Children Board and we will receive a report in due course which identifies key learning and effective working practices. The overall aim is to identify and improve current practice where needed. Val

School Council

The inaugural meeting of the school council took place the first Monday in September. Items discussed included job roles, a kindness display and the Harvest Festival. A Chair Person (Evan Class 12), Treasurer (William Class 4) and a Secretary (Toby Class 9) was voted for and appointed.



School council representatives received their badges identifying them as School Council members. We discussed and decided on a display which is situated outside the hall which we could display 'Acts of Kindness.' The School Council looked at various displays and decided on the one that they liked the best and asked classes to make handprints in rainbow colours. We then asked Joanne Dodd to put the display together and it looked beautiful. Our next meeting will be in November.

Early Years Foundation Stage have had a very busy half term! We have welcomed 12 new starters- Matthew, Oliver, Lucas, Berat, Sam, Alfie, Jack, Vinny, Skyla, Joshua, Melody and Eva. All of them have settled in really well and have had lots of fun making new friends. This half term we will be looking at the topic feeling good. We have explored the book Rainbow fish: we talked about how it is kind to share with our friends and how it can make us happy. We have also looked at the story of 'Norman the slug with the silly shell' and 'If you're happy and you know it' At the beginning of this half term, we also held a 'meet the team' event that was very well attended. It was lovely to meet all of our parents and feedback was very positive- thank you for coming. We have also been rehearsing for our Harvest performance- we hope you enjoyed it if you were able to come.

Other Notices - Dinner Money—Just a reminder that Dinner Money has increased to £2.20 per day, (£11.00 per week) This is still payable on the Friday for the following week and must be paid on a weekly basis or termly in advance.

Any monies sent into school must be in a sealed envelope with the pupil's name, the amount, and what the money is for, written clearly. School cannot take responsibility for any loose cash.

