



FOX WOOD SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



December
2017

Important Dates

Thursday 21 December

Pupils finish for Christmas

Friday 22 December

School Closes

Wednesday 3 January 2018

School re-opens

Thursday 11 January

Parents Evening 3.30 to 7.00 pm

Week Commencing Monday 15 January

NAS Review

Friday 16 February

School closes for Half term

Monday 26 February–2 March

Arts Week

Goodbye

We say goodbye to Cathy Jackson, Cathy has taught in both school and College for 7 years. We wish her luck in her new venture.

Welcome

Welcome to Debbie, who has joined our team of Mid Day Assistants.

We also say welcome to Sara, who is a new Teaching Assistant in College

Congratulations

Congratulations to Lyndsey Phillips who has been appointed our lead for English and PSHCE, and now has the TLR for these areas (Teaching and learning responsibility)

She has already been very busy with our school council and citizenship days. We look forward to all she has planned!

Congratulations to all pupils, staff, parents and Friends of Woolston Park who completed the Santa Dash. We raised £170.80 which will be shared between lower and upper school.

Our Website address: www.foxwoodschooll.org.uk

Message from Lucinda

Christmas can mean many things to many people, and I appreciate that for many of our pupils and families it can be a time of anxiety and increased demands. However I hope that amongst all the hustle and bustle, the routine changes and the potential for sensory overload there will also be opportunities for you to enjoy time together, share some of the wonder and joy of the season and reflect upon all of the things that you and your children have achieved over the past year.

As you look ahead to 2018 and another year full of new possibilities, hopes and achievements I would like to ask you to assist us by making a New Year's Resolution that will enable your child to make the most of their school and learning experience. Two really important ones for us are:

- 1) Make sure that your child is in school for 9am every day – far too many children are missing our 'Ready to Learn' session that is designed to set them up for a successful day. Pupils are expected to arrive at school on time, and failure to do this must be recorded and reported.
- 2) Encourage your child to be a little bit more independent with some aspect of their life, this could be communicating with you using Eye Gaze/Switches/Visuals/Voice, doing a 'job' around the house, assisting with or independently dressing themselves – whatever it is, we would love to hear of any successes!

On behalf of myself, the Governors and staff of Fox Wood I would like to wish you all a very Peaceful and Happy Christmas, and we look forward to continuing to work with you in 2018 to fulfil our ambition of:

Encouraging independence and personal development through communication, engagement, laughter and learning.

Thank you

Thank you to Leyla's dad who arranged a darts evening and donated £50 to School Fund

Thank you to Katie Banks grandparents who have made a donation towards the upkeep of the wishing well at the front of school in Katie's memory.

Thank you to everyone for supporting our Christmas Fayre, the pupils worked really hard on their Enterprises. We raised £600 and with will be divided between all classes, they will receive £50 each for class resources.

This has been a busy half term for **Class 10's boccia team** who have been in 2 different tournaments and performed fantastically in both.

Boccia is a Paralympic team game where the aim is to get your balls closest to the jack ball from a seated position in a chair or a wheelchair. Class 10 went to the Warrington competition and competed against lots of different local schools. They worked well as a team and took it in turns to have a go as team captain and decide who would be best to have the next throw or roll of the ball. Lewis was a fantastic team captain and thought about which player was best for which shot. They won most of their games and scored lots of points. The best score in 1 round was 12-1 to Fox Wood. After many games Fox Wood's team won the secondary school competition and moved onto the next round of the competition in Crewe against different schools from Cheshire. Class 10 won a lovely trophy which is now proudly displayed on the wall in reception.

The competition in Crewe was exciting as Class 10 got to meet lots pupils from different schools. The games were harder and lasted longer however Class 10 got better as the day went on. The first game was very close and Fox Wood just lost out. The second game was also close but by the third game Class 10 had settled in to a great routine and they won 9-2. The day was great fun and Class 10 eventually came away with 3rd place medals which they were very proud of and entry into the next round which will be against teams from all over the North West. Training has already begun for the next competition and hopefully it will be for gold!



Christmas trip to space

Class 1 and 2 had a lovely Christmas trip to space in Preston. Thank you so much to Gary and Elaine for driving both classes there. All the pupils had a brilliant time, Vinny really enjoyed the swing, he loved it that much he fell asleep! Lucas explored the musical instruments; Matthew climbed the stairs and went down the big slide on his own. Berat liked jumping in the ball pool, Oliver went down the big slide very fast! Sam climbed the stairs with confidence and laughed as he went down the slide. Jack climbed the musical stairs to listen to the different sounds, Alfie enjoyed the sensory tubes, Benjamin explored the sensory wall, Andrew climbed through the tunnel shouting "Boo" as he came out the other side, Skyla giggled as she sunk to hide in the ball pool surprising her friends, Victor cooled down by the giant fan pressing the switch to operate it! When it was nearly time to go Josh made himself a bed on the waterbed and said "night night" and Maxi relaxed in the cosy tunnel! It was finished by all staff and pupils enjoying a yummy McDonalds listening to Christmas songs. We cannot wait to see what adventure we go on next half term for our Africa topic!



Focused Support

Here at Fox Wood, learners in receipt of Pupil Premium and learners designated as 'Gifted and Talented' in different areas attend Focused Support sessions in English, maths and computing. These sessions may take place outside of the classroom or as part of a class group where specialist staff support learners to work towards targets agreed with class teachers.



My name is Lianne Buchanan and I have been teaching for 16 years and at Fox Wood for the past three years. I have recently been appointed Assistant Head Teacher with responsibility for the curriculum, teaching, learning and assessment. This half term I have been monitoring our new curriculum – our first themes have been a great success! ‘Feeling Good’ was a super first theme for our Early Years pupils who shared the things that they like best. ‘Stepping Back in Time’ was great fun as secondary pupils explored music from the 60’s, 80’s and 00’s – complete with a sensory musical festival in pop up tents! Our assessment results show that pupils are making good progress across the curriculum. Some pupils have been accessing our new additional Focused Support sessions in English, Maths and computing and these have proved very successful. Thank you to the parents who came along to our curriculum coffee morning.

Halloween Party

On Tuesday 31st October pupils from classes 7-12 were invited to our after school Halloween party. The children looked great in their spooky fancy dress costumes and thoroughly enjoyed the activities. We had lots of fun bobbing for apples and pinning the nose on the pumpkin. Thank you to the staff who helped to plan and run the event, it was well worth the effort!

Maths TLR

Thank you to all the parents who attended the Numicon Workshop—we hope you enjoyed it and learned something about the system that is supporting out pupils learning. We will be offering a sensory maths workshop in the spring term and sending home activity ideas of how to help your child at home time after Christmas.

Thanks to everyone who has sent back the maths questionnaires and please still send them in if you haven’t already. Our pupils continue to enjoy maths and achieve, well across school and college

Safeguarding

I met with our safeguarding governor last week for our half termly safeguarding meeting. We discussed many items including CPOMS which is an online recording system we will be introducing for recording safeguarding issues/incidents. Many other schools in the area are already using this and have found it very useful. The safeguarding team will have on line training in this in January and the staff will receive this in February.

Lianne has attended EVOLVE training and we and Green lane staff will attend joint training in this in January. This is the on line record of our educational visits so we need to complete this at least 2 weeks in advance for swimming, a visit to the shops, museum visit etc.

In December our new staff who joined us in September also completed their on line PREVENT training, this is about how to recognise extremism and radicalisation, and what to do if we suspect it is taking place

Our next meeting will be in February

CLASS 5 EXPERIENCE LIVE THEATRE!

Class 5 travelled on a cold and frosty morning to Runcorn to the Brindley Theatre to watch their pantomime of ‘Sleeping Beauty’. We arrived a few minutes late because the bridge opened on our way there! We had great seats and were mesmerised for the next couple of hours by the excellent show they put on. It was very professional – just like watching a performance in Manchester or the West End. The acting and singing were amazing and there was lots of comedy and fun to be had also. We all thoroughly enjoyed it – there were plenty of jokes for the adults as well as the children. If you haven’t booked for a pantomime yet we would highly recommend this one!

Christmas Fayre – Friday 1st December

Our Christmas Fayre at Fox Wood was a huge success! Classes 1 -12 spent the week preparing a product for enterprise and sold the finished result at the Fayre. Our pupils enjoyed visiting Santa at our very own winter wonderland (thanks to Geta and all her hard work.) There was plenty to see and do and the event was very well attended by parents and friends of the school. Thank you to all classes for your hard work.



We have recently received some information from the Steve Morgan Foundation. Founded in 2001 by Steve Morgan CBE, to support projects that help children and families, people with physical or learning disabilities, the elderly, or those that are socially disadvantaged in North Wales, Merseyside, Cheshire and North Shropshire.

Some of the specialist equipment that they are able to fund:

- Mobility aids, wheelchairs, buggies, hoists, trikes, etc.
- Specialised beds and sleep systems, postural chairs, seating and car seats
- Sensory equipment
- Communication aids, specialised software, specialist alarms
- Medical equipment, support wear

How to Apply?

Call us on 01829 782808 to discuss your needs and request an application form.

"Penketh Gymnastics Club are looking at running some disabilities classes. They are based on Guardian Street near Warrington Hospital. They have asked us to find out if that's something our parents would be interested in. They are just trying to find out if there is a demand for a specialised class and when it would be convenient. If you'd like to register an interest or ask for further information, please email Sarah on info@penkethgymnastics.co.uk." 07910800497 or 01925871405.

NEWSLETTER QUESTION

Thank you so much to all of you who replied to the question about how you would like to receive the school newsletter in future

This is the last one we will be sending to those of you who requested it by email

In future, for those parents, we will be sending you a link, so you can access it on your phone or laptop

For those who continue to want it on paper, you will receive it as you always have

Thank you for your responses

Remember to look at the school website in order to see up to date information throughout the term

One of our parents has sent in some information about "Neuro rehab therapy"

They are holding a 2 day workshop over on the Wirral about a home based programme to support your child's development

They look at exercises, nutrition and therapies

If you would like more information you can contact them directly on 07712 68522

ENGLISH/PSHE TLR

I have held this post since November of this year and during this time I have arranged an 'Odd Socks' event for Anti Bullying Day and KS3 and 4 Citizenship Days. Students in Classes 10, 11 and 12 held a cake sale which raised £130 so we could be twinned with a loo in Ruessei Prey Village in Cambodia.

We are in the process of being accredited with the School Well Being Award – there are lots of exciting things in the pipeline to look at pupil and staff well-being within school. I have sent all parents who provided their email address a link to a questionnaire to be filled in. Many thanks for the ones that have been filled in – please take a moment to fill one if you have been sent the link.

For English, I have looked and moderated reading records - thank you for continuing to support our reading programme at home. We will be joining in with World Book Day on 1st March 2018. I have attended a sensory phonics course, which has been shared with other staff and a reading course.

Lyndsey Phillips

Dietary Support Plans

Plans are devised for pupils who display significant restrictions, anxieties or behaviours before, during or after eating. The plans set specific termly targets to address these needs, and what support is going to be given to the pupils to achieve them. The targets are monitored and assessed closely to ensure we are aiming towards making small steps of progress.

NAS review

The school will be reviewed by the National Autistic Society on 16th and 17th January 2018. This is a process that will look at our ASD specific practice and give us the opportunity to gain re-accreditation. The review will involve 2 experienced ASD practitioners observing practice around all aspects of the school day. After the Christmas break some parents will receive a questionnaire about ASD specific practice within school and we would be grateful if you could return that in the self-addressed envelope provided.

PUPIL OF THE HALF TERM

Primary— Tyler for reading the script out in our Primary Christmas Production and for his progress in focused support

Secondary— . Kelan for focussing on his work this half term

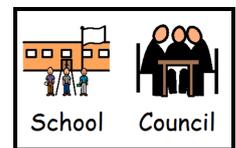
Staff CPD—Staff have attended the following courses

Senco, Special School Heads, National PMLD Conference, Assisted Communication, Educational Visits

Co-ordinator

School Council

During the school council meeting we looked at the 'Act of Kindness' display and we felt that it was working well and looking good. We discussed the KS3 and 4 citizenship days and decided to support wear blue for a loo/ loo twinning. All minutes are forwarded to SLT for consideration during their SLT meetings. It has been decided that we will now split the school council in two – with lower school and upper school having separate meetings. All minutes and agenda are available on the school website.



Other Notices - Dinner Money—Just a reminder that Dinner Money has increased to £2.30 per day, (£11.50 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.

FACEBOOK /TWITTER

We now have a school Facebook page and Twitter feed.

Please look us up.
Search for

Fantastic Fox Wood