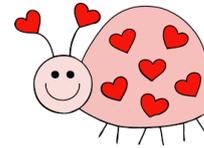




FOX WOOD SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



February
2018

Important Dates

Friday 16 February

School closes for Half term

Monday 26 February

School re-opens

Monday 26 February—2 March

Arts Week

Friday 30 March & Monday 2 April

*School closed for Good Friday and
Easter Monday*

Tuesday 3 April

School re-opens

Thursday 5 April

School closes for Easter Holidays

Friday 6 April

Inset Day for Staff

Monday 23 April

School re-opens after Easter Holidays

Welcome

Kim who has returned after maternity leave. She is now working in class 8

Welcome to Sophie who started with us in January as a teaching assistant in class 6

Thank you

Thank you to all our volunteers who come into school to help out with different activities—we couldn't manage without you.

We would be grateful if you do not enter the school reception before 8.55 am as the school office can be busy with phone calls and the day to day running of the school. They would be able to give you a warm welcome when you do come in, and at 8.55 am they will be able to focus on doing this.

Our Website address: www.foxwoodschoo.org.uk

Message from Lucinda

This has been another busy half term filled with lots of hard work and commitment, and I hope that many of you will have been able to keep up to date with our adventures and achievements via Facebook or Twitter (if you haven't found us yet please search for 'Fantastic Fox Wood'.)

You will hopefully recall that in the last newsletter I asked you to work with school particularly with regard to improving punctuality. This has sadly not proved very successful (I appreciate that there are some children who are never late, which is fantastic, however our daily logs show that as a school we have a culture of being unpunctual and this is something I need to address). The school day begins for all pupils with our 'Ready to Learn' sessions and these are a vital opportunity for our pupils to achieve a calm alert state so that they are ready to make the most out of the day and to maximise their opportunities to make as much progress as possible. Please try to ensure that your child is in school on time. I will be monitoring this during the half term with assistance from our newly appointed Pastoral Support Officer Rachael Johnston. Rachael will be introducing herself and this new role to you next half term but her role is intended to further develop Home/School links and to provide you with another advocate for your family. Rachael is very excited to be joining Fox Wood and has already visited school to meet some of the pupils (they were fantastic ambassadors and welcomed her very enthusiastically!)

In the last newsletter I also asked you to focus on increasing independence for your child/children at home – we have had some great feedback from a few parents so please keep letting us know if there is anything that we can celebrate with you (using WOW cards, notes in the home/school books or when you speak to any of us). Developing independence is key to our curriculum and our pupils' lives and this can take so many forms – some examples of this are the way in which Matthew is accessing sensory activities in Class 1 with less staff prompts, the way in which Tommy is trying to use his voice to make requests in Class 4, and the way in which Alisha is extending her Maths studies by fully participating in Inclusion opportunities at Green Lane. We are so proud of these, and all of, our pupils and look forward to many more opportunities to celebrate success over the next half term.

It was great to see so many of you at Parents' Evening and I hope that you found it a highly informative and enjoyable experience. As you know our home/school links are extremely important to us as working together enables us to achieve so much more – and it was wonderful to hear that the National Autistic Society identified this as a key strength of Fox Wood when they completed their reaccreditation visit in January. We will soon be launching a 'Friends of Fox Wood' group which we hope that you will be able to support. This group will hopefully be able to assist us in creating yet more wonderful opportunities for our children.

Staff CPD—Staff have attended the following courses:
CPOMs training for all staff re - Safeguarding
Rochford Review SEND conference
DSL training Fire Warden training
If Pictures could speak

ENGLISH/PSHE

This half term the main focus has been well-being. We have held a well-being week which has put the focus on mental health and well-being. Students had pamper sessions and different types of exercise – such as yoga and relaxation. Some classes were treated to reiki. We are also working towards a well-being award. I have purchased some new resources to aid fine and gross motor skills and some books.

For English we now have some lovely new light writing boards and some new reading books.

Lyndsey , English and PSHE Teaching and Learning responsibility

Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural Education (SMSC)

I have recently taken on the responsibility of reviewing and developing our Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural (SMSC) provision. SMSC is woven through all aspects of school life and is an important part of our provision for the students within school and contributes a great deal to their personal development. I am using a new framework to review our current provision against – The SMSC Quality Mark. From this review I have identified areas where we could improve our provision. These are detailed in our SMSC action plan. I will provide further updates over the next few months so that you know what we have been doing. If any parents wish to discuss or ask about our SMSC provision, please don't hesitate to contact me at school.

Andrew Poskitt, Class 5 Teacher

NAS review at Fox Wood School

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the review process. The review took place over two days in January and we had two team members look at all aspects of school provision for our pupils with ASD. I am pleased to tell you that the feedback we received was very positive and a great reflection of the good practice that goes on within school. We await the full report and outcome from the panel and will keep you posted.

Louise

Safeguarding

As you know, all of the Senior Leadership Team are the Safeguarding Team.

This information is in school and on the website.

I am the Designated Safeguarding lead (DSL) and Lianne Buchanan is the Deputy Safeguarding Lead.

All of the staff are now using a programme called CPOMS to record any safeguarding issues that we may have in school. This is a move away from paper based recording and should ensure an even more cohesive approach to safeguarding.

I attended the termly DSL meeting on 8 February and received more information about the Early Help process
Val

Class 5 Music this half-term

Class 5 have been fortunate this half term to receive a music lesson each week from one of our specialist music tutors, Bea. The session usually starts with a good morning song and Bea brings out her ukulele which the children love to play as we all sing along. This term the children have been using a hoop. The children all hold onto the hoop and then walk around in a circle in time to the music. We have been working on 'high' and 'low' this term and as Bea plays the piano on the high notes, the children have to work together and lift the hoop high as they move round. When the notes are low, they have to lower the hoop. Recently, the children all chose an instrument and had to play along either fast or slow, depending on how quickly Bea was playing the piano. We were also able to video the children playing individually on the iPad so that they were then able to watch themselves. The children have thoroughly enjoyed their music sessions this term and have been really engaged by the different activities.

Early years

This half term our Early Years pupils have had a wonderful time with our 'African Adventure' topic. They have done lots of exciting things and each class has visited Knowsley Safari Park to see the animals closely. We really enjoyed watching the 'birds of Prey' show and also the Sea Lion show.

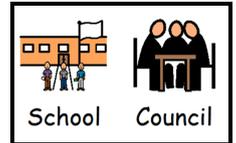
We have now switched over to an electronic system for our 'learning journals' called Tapestry. Most of our parents of our early years children have already logged in to see the wonderful learning opportunities that go on in our classes. Thank you very much to those of you who put pictures and videos on so that we can share learning at home too. If you haven't yet logged on, I encourage you to do so as it really is a wonderful way of sharing information. If you have any problem, please do get it touch.

I have recently begun a course 'Speech and Language Support for Children and Young People with Severe Learning Difficulties' This is an exciting opportunity which will allow us to further develop the great 'communication' work we already do with our pupils. Once I have qualified I will be holding a parents workshop in 'methods of communication' so look out for further information.

Laura

School Council

Before Christmas it was decided to split the school councils into a Lower School Council and an Upper School Council. Because of this it was necessary to deputise some of the roles within the school council.



Roles are now as follows:

Chair Person – Matthew, Deputy Chair person Tyler

Treasurer – Evan, Deputy Treasurer Sam

Secretary – Toby, Deputy Secretary Tommy

We welcome the students to their new roles and wish them every success with this for the rest of the year.

Both councils discussed their playgrounds and requested more equipment and games at play at playtime. This has been put forward to SLT and a budget has now been identified. We look forward to having some lovely new equipment on the playgrounds in the near future.

Please refer to the Fox Wood website for detailed minutes.

Thanks Lyndsey Phillips

After school club

This half term classes 10 and 11 were invited to attend a youth/games club after school, led by teaching assistants from those classes. A great time was had by all, sharing various activities including playing Connect 4, Buckaroo and Twister. Thank you to the pupils involved for taking part and to the staff concerned for their help and enthusiasm!

Bev Marsden

Week commencing 22nd January Fox Wood celebrated well-being week! Staff and pupils enjoyed some quality time making themselves feel good. They took time out to appreciate all the hard work they complete and thought about what makes them happy. Pupils were given opportunities for their work to be celebrated and were congratulated for their acts of kindness and they received some special treats throughout the week such as using the foot spas and having hand massages! .

Staff welcomed volunteers from the John Holt centre who arranged different activities to have a positive impact on wellbeing and these were available for all staff to enjoy. A big thank you to Geta and Clare for going above and beyond putting on different sessions to make our staff feel fantastic. It was a wonderful week enjoyed by everyone and we look forward to making this an annual event! Thank you to staff for all your support and donations which made the week a huge success.

The well-being team.

E-Safety Day 2018

Class 10 held an E-Safety morning in the school hall on E-safety day. They invited friends from other classes to join them. Each class member is a Fox Wood Ambassador for E-safety.

We watched E - Safety video clips and discussed in our groups. Each group then wrote some e-safety rules and created a poster. Class 10 are very proud to be E-Safety ambassadors and plan to run an E-Safety café once every half term inviting different classes to attend. All classes updated their safety rules on the day.



On Tuesday January 16th our long awaited installation took place in our new Sensory Processing area.

Southpaw fitted a range of specialist therapy equipment which will help our students explore their sensory systems and promote their sensory processing abilities.

The equipment will provide benefits in the areas of: vestibular processing, proprioception, tactile stimulation, gross motor skills, balance, core stability, bilateral co-ordination and motor planning, to name but a few.

We are going to allow the children to choose a name for the area so, watch this space!



PUPIL OF THE HALF TERM

Primary— Zoe for fantastic independent and group work

Secondary—Sam for excellent tolerance of physio and standing frame this half term

Midshires Mobility Group are a company who supply manual and powered wheelchairs, scooters, buggies etc and have been in this business for over 30 years.

For the past 10 years they have worked in unison with charities who help provide funding for eligible children in need of a powered wheelchair, this can be as much as £3000.

At the moment they are looking for young people who will need a new powered wheelchair within the next 12 months, the young person must meet the following criteria to qualify for this funding: must be under 18 years of age— can be over 18 if still in education, are able to attend a presentation in Cheshire, date and time to be confirmed, and are in need of a powered wheelchair, it does have to be powered and not a manual.

Midshires Mobility Group, Trent Business Park, Power Station Road Rugeley, Staffs, WS15 2WB [Tel: 01889 582332](tel:01889582332)
www.midshiresgroup.co.uk

Arts week

The first week back after February half term will be Arts week and the theme this year will be Chinese New Year. Many activities have been planned throughout the week including acting out the new year story involving the 12 animals, listening to Chinese music, making a number of the animals, having the Chinese New Year as a sensory story, practicing tai chi, making willow pattern, making a dragon, tasting / experiencing Chinese Food etc. The week will be very busy and on the Friday we will have two assemblies so each class can share the activities they have been involved in and what they have made. The week has been organised by the Arts team.

Happy New Year

Maths Subject Lead

All pupils at Fox Wood have been working hard in their Maths learning this half term within their class base and focused support time.

Alisha from class 12 has made us all proud by joining a Green Lane group of students working on their "AQA Entry Level Maths" qualification... and doing well not only settling, but achieving well in tests and class work. Well done Alisha!

We have many pupils performing well at Maths! Recently, additional Numicon resources and work books have been ordered to provide further challenge for our pupils who are working at P8/ National Curriculum level 1 and above. We hope the pupils will enjoy working with these and enjoy the new tasks and challenges, including homework!

There will be a parent workshop on offer in the Spring 2 half term, on the subject of "Sensory Maths," which will be delivered by Janet Wilson. There will be a range of things on show, including equipment, activity ideas for home and photographic evidence of how pupils benefit from a sensory approach to their Maths learning here at school. Look out for the invite at the beginning of the new half term!

Janet

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.