

Fleet Wood Lane School

Headteacher
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Monday 5th December 2022

News in School

Dear Parents and Carers,

Last week was the first week of Advent and December, so we were busy putting up the Christmas trees around the school. I think they look very festive and beautiful in all of the classes and the children are very much enjoying the preparations. In addition, the Christmas post box has arrived. Children can post Christmas cards to children in their class and others around school in the post box located in the main school corridor. To aid the post girls and boys, please ensure that names and class are clearly marked on the envelopes.

It has been an unprecedented week in school for illness both staff and children have been heavily affected by the coughs, sneezes and diseases doing the rounds. I very much hope that those affected have recovered, or at least are feeling better and are on the mend for Christmas. Below you will see last week's attendance figures and year to date. Governors have asked that this data be shared in the school News Letter each week, because attendance is a key feature of school monitoring. Ofsted are seeking to find attendance figures in line with the national average of 96%. Please do all that you can to support the school to achieve this target by avoiding all unnecessary in term absence. Where possible, please try to arrange appointments outside of the school day. Many thanks.

Whole School Attendance – 89.99%.

Group	No. of Students	Maximum No. of possible attendances	Total Absences				Total Attendances		Total No. of Students who were absent on one or more session		% Unauth. Absentees
			Authorised		Unauthorised		No.	%	Auth.	Unauth.	
			No.	%	No.	%					
Year Group Reception	30	299	25	8.36	2	0.67	272	90.97	7	1	3.33
Year Group 1	26	233	11	4.72	0	0.00	222	95.28	4	0	0.00
Year Group 2	28	277	49	17.69	0	0.00	228	82.31	14	0	0.00
Year Group 3	23	207	9	4.35	0	0.00	198	95.65	5	0	0.00
Year Group 4	30	244	36	14.75	2	0.82	206	84.43	8	1	3.33
Year Group 5	22	198	6	3.03	0	0.00	192	96.97	3	0	0.00
Year Group 6	30	300	26	8.67	10	3.33	264	88.00	6	1	3.33
Totals	189	1758	162	9.22	14	0.80	1582	89.99	47	3	1.59

Year to date whole school attendance has fallen from 95.54% to 95.09%

Totals	189	21051	877	4.17	156	0.74	20018	95.09	135	37	19.58
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Rocket Phonics update

As you know, Friday 25th November was a staff inset day focussing on the development of our phonics teaching and early reading provision. As a result of the training, Mrs King (our English and Phonics Leader) will be working with staff to ensure that we implement the good practice learnt to further improve and enhance our provision for positive effect to pupil learning and progress. As part of our work, we would like to conduct an audit of our early reading resources so will be collecting in all EYFS and Key Stage 1 independent home reading books at the end of this week.

As we move forward to build upon this area of our provision, we have purchased a selection of wonderful new home reading resources which will be launched in January. We are sure that the children will enjoy the range of texts on offer.

Christingle

Pupils in Owls and Foxes joined together with parents and carers to celebrate a Christingle Service at St Mary Magdalene church on Thursday 1st December. Members of the church visited the school in the morning to make the Christingle oranges with the children and teach them about its symbolism for those who follow the Christian faith. Ahead of the service the children had been learning three Christingle songs and they did a tremendous job in the church – their voices rang out. Well done to them all.

Trying to look after the pennies!

Everyone is aware of the cost of living crisis – the effect of which is being felt by the school too. You may have noticed that we have made a slight change to the start of the day. We are asking all pupils (with the exception of Dormice and Otters) to enter the school building via the main rear entrance doors of the school. I understand that this used to be the system prior to COVID. The reason for the change is to minimise heat loss in the classrooms. On release to play and return to classrooms is also being directed via the main rear door.

Changes to Lunchtimes

Last week we implemented a slight change to our lunch arrangements. As the school has grown in numbers, enabling all the children to enjoy the opportunity to socialise with their friends whilst enjoying a hot lunch or their parent supplied pack lunches, is a challenge. Having taken receipt of new lunch tables last week, we have been able to adjust lunches to enable all children to eat their lunch in the school hall, removing the necessity for any children to eat in classrooms. This ensures that classrooms can be maintained for learning and allows our midday supervisors greater ability to supervise and support pupils.

You will appreciate that ensuring 189 pupils are able to access and enjoy lunch each day, is a logistical challenge; ensuring that every child is supported to wash their hands before eating and ensuring that they are supervised for safety, at all times, requires systems and routines.

Our new lunch arrangements see pupils from Dormice, Hedgehogs and Otters enjoying the first sitting for lunch. They are supported by class staff to wash their hands and prepare for lunch and are guided into the hall by class staff. Key Stage 2 children (Robins, Bats, Foxes and Owls) are released for playtime at 12 noon. 12.25pm is change over time - those who have not finished remain in the hall to finish their lunch.

Key Stage 2 pupils are asked to line up so that all children can be guided back into school via the main rear entrance. Allowing pupils to put their coats away, before washing their hands in their classrooms and collecting their lunch boxes. (Previous arrangements had seen children entering at a range of access points which provided supervision challenges to lunch staff, and we believe many children not washing their hands prior to eating.) Lunch staff then guide the children into the lunch hall, supervising safety as high numbers of children move around the school, before ensuring that everyone is seated.

As with any change, introducing and managing the change will present teething troubles. I appreciate that some of our children may feel that they are losing out on some of their playtime. For a small number of children, this may be the case, but ahead of trialling the changes detailed above, we noticed that some children were rushing their lunches, some were leaving their lunch, and in some instances, attempting to throw their lunch (including uneaten items from lunchboxes) into the bin so that they could rush outside. Whilst we agree that physical play is very important, we feel it is equally important that every child is supported to enjoy the healthy lunch purchased or provided for them by parents, and that we in school (acting on your behalf) ensure that we encourage your children to do this.

To address this issue, and to support the children to enjoy the social experience of eating with others (something that for many was curtailed heavily by the COVID restrictions), we are asking the children to remain seated whilst they eat their lunch and if they finish their lunch before the end of their sitting, that they take this time to enjoy speaking with their friends. During staff discussions regarding the new arrangements, it was felt that this approach was more aligned to traditional family dining arrangements, where everyone remains at the table until the meal is finished. In addition, reducing pupil movements in the lunch hall (where 3 of 4 classes are seated at one time) reduces the risk of slips and trips so increases our ability to keep the children safe.

Please be assured that the changes we have introduced are aimed at enhancing lunch times for all, in terms of opportunity for play, healthy eating and development of social experiences and interaction. As the children are supported to become familiar with the routines, we will be monitoring the new systems closely and will adapt our systems where this will further enhance lunchtimes.

Staffing Updates

As you know, Mr Ardito and Mrs Knox will leave the school at the end of December. I have liaised with Governors regarding staffing structures and advertisements for two replacement teachers and an additional two day a week Senco/Pupil Premium lead have been published.

Unfortunately, the notice periods for teachers are set by contractual arrangements, so teachers already in post at another school who apply for the roles will be unable to start in school until the start until after the Easter holidays. With this in mind, I have considered staffing and options to best support the children in the interim period.

Mrs King is currently job sharing the role of Deputy Head Teacher with Mrs Knox. She will assume the role of Deputy Head Teacher full time from the 1st January 2023. Whilst she will continue to teach Year 5 every morning, to allow her the necessary release time to fulfil the responsibilities of her Deputy Head Teacher role Miss Nicholson will be leading teaching and learning in Year 5 every afternoon. This arrangement affords the greatest level of continuity for the pupils, allowing Mrs King to continue to lead teaching and learning in English and Maths, with Miss Nicholson taking the lead on the delivery of foundation subjects. Mrs Birchall will continue to provide her excellent levels of support as Year 5 class teaching assistant.

Mrs Hill, familiar to you all in her front of house part time role in the school office is also employed as a relief teacher in the school. With many years teaching experience, she has agreed to lead teaching and learning in Year 2, until a full-time replacement for Mr Ardito is secured. She will continue to be supported by Mrs Harris who will remain as Otter's teaching assistant.

I am currently in contact with a number of teaching agencies to secure a long-term supply teacher to lead teaching and learning in Year 3 during our period of recruitment. As mentioned, I am currently advertising for a part time, non-class based Senco. I will be assuming the role of Senco until we have filled this post.

Congratulations go to Miss Dixon (Teaching Assistant in Year 1) who has secured a more senior position in her previous school and to Mrs Reid who has also secured a more senior position at another school. They will both leave the school at the end of December to take up their new positions in January. We wish them both well in their new adventures.

Events to Look Forward To



Carol Service

Year 3 and 4 will be leading the carol service at St. Mary Magdalene Church on Thursday 15th December from 2pm. Year 5 and 6 will be lending their singing voices to the service. All Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 parents are welcome to attend the service.

EYFS and KS1 Nativities

Dormice Class will be presenting their own EYFS Nativity this year, with Otters and Hedgehogs working together to present a joint Key Stage 1 Christmas performance. EYFS and KS1 parents should make a note of the performance dates and times shown below

Tuesday 13th December 5.30pm – Evening performance of EYFS -Dormice

Wednesday 14th December 5.30pm – Evening performance of KS1 Hedgehogs and Otters

Christmas Dinner day – Wednesday 8th December 2022

Elf Day - Monday 12th December - The School Council are inviting the children to support the Alzheimer's Society by taking part in Elf Day. The children are invited to dress from head to toe as an Elf or simply come as an undercover Elf in Christmas non-uniform. Any donations that you are able to make can be made via the Just Giving link shown below or via the QR code.

https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/elfday-fleetwoodlane?utm_source=Sharethis&utm_medium=fundraising&utm_content=elfday-fleetwoodlane&utm_campaign=pfp-email&utm_term=68cdb0105202491f86f1c1f929a0684e



PTA Santa's Grotto – 12th December – Please watch out for PTA flyers

The last day of term is Friday 16th December which is also 'CHRISTMAS PARTY DAY!' so it's time to dig out the party clothes. Additional information will be issued nearer the day.

As always, if you have any queries or comments regarding the contents of this letter, or any other aspect of the school's operations, please do contact us directly. In the unfortunate situation that you feel that we have not addressed a concern you have raised, you are able to escalate your concerns through our complaints policy. This can be found on the school website. Of course, we hope that you do not have the necessity to refer to this. We wish to work with you, so will strive to meet your needs.

Your faithfully, Mrs M Parker - Head Teacher

On behalf of Fleet Responders – please see the poster below. They have a few tickets left for this Sunday’s screening of The Muppet Christmas Carol.



Fleet Cinema



Community Center

PE12 8LU

Sunday

11th December

2022

2:45/4:45PM

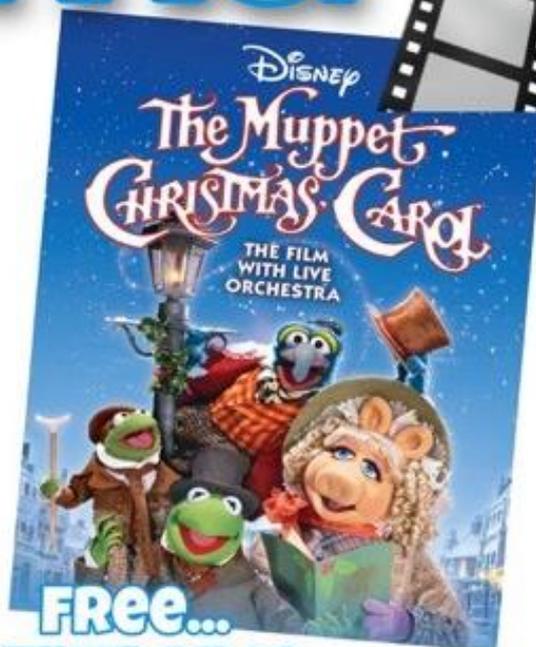
Please Pre-Book To Not
Be Disappointed

Limited Space

Children's name (s)

and age down

Must Be Accompanied
By a Parent and live in
Fleet



FREE...

*ENTRANCE

*POPCORN

*DRINKS

*NIBBLES



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