

Dear Parents and Carers,

8<sup>th</sup> October 2021

**WOODLANDS ASSEMBLY:** This morning the Y6 pupils treated us to an assembly about their recent residential trip to Wales. They told us all about their activities, showed us photographs of them all in action and performed a 'Woodlands' song, written by Mrs Powell, to the tune of Dance Monkey. Unfortunately, many of our Y6 pupils are at home with COVID and were not able to participate in the assembly. Due to technology, however, they were able to watch the assembly remotely. My thanks go to the Y6 team for such an entertaining morning.

**VISITING SCHOOL:** Due to the rise in infection rates we would like to ask parents coming into school to wear masks and to hand sanitizer before entering. Thank you.

**COVID UPDATE:** We have had 24 positive cases in children and 3 in staff this week. Please continue to keep your child at home if they are exhibiting coronavirus symptoms: a raised temperature, a cough or loss of taste and/or smell. Thank you.

**FOUNDATION STAGE NEWS:** The focus in Reception classes this week has been Diwali. The children have loved listening to different versions of the Rama and Sita story and using the small world stick puppets to retell the story. In the role play area the children have been dressing up in Traditional Indian costume and in PE we have been dancing to Bhangra music. There were lots of 'Go for it, Gorilla.' We have also made, and decorated Diya lamps using clay and created Rangoli patterns using chalk in the Reception Garden.

This week in Nursery our topic has been "My Food". We have been chatting about our favourite fruit at snack time, and bananas seem to be very popular in our class. We have had our food shop this week and the Ducklings have enjoyed using the till. On the first day it was open, the children were so keen to buy food, that the queues were nearly as long as in the petrol stations! K Rainer FSU leader

**NURSERY STORY SESSION:** Parents of children attending our nursery setting full time or during the afternoons are warmly invited to join us in school to enjoy some stories with their children at 2.30pm on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2021. Morning part timers will have more sessions in the future, so everyone will get plenty of opportunities to come in and read together. Parents need to come to the front of the school just before 2.30pm to sign in. The whole group will be escorted to the classroom where they will be reading with their child. We would ask all parents wishing to join us to arrive promptly to minimise disruption. We are looking forward to seeing many of you on Monday.

**MACMILLAN CAKE SALE:** Thank you to all of you who either donated goodies or bought a cake (or both) at today's fundraiser. I will let you know in next week's newsletter how much we raised for this worthwhile cause.



**HARVEST FESTIVAL:** Disappointingly, it is not possible for us to hold our traditional whole school Harvest Festival in St Edburg's church on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> October as planned, due to Covid restrictions. This is always a joyous occasion when the school and parents come together to celebrate. This year we will be holding our Harvest Festival in the school hall. This will be led, as it would be in church, by our Y5 pupils. The children will perform their assembly to the Y5 parents only and it will be live streamed to the other classes. We will be collecting food for the Bicester Food Bank, and we would be grateful if you could donate any long-lasting food by Friday such as: tins, pastas, rice, cereals, biscuits or sauces. Thank you for your support in advance. The assembly will start at 9am.

**RECEPTION HARVEST FESTIVAL:** The Reception children will be holding their Harvest Festival on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> October at 9am in the school hall. Due to Covid restrictions we are limiting the audience to two people per child. We will be collecting food for the Bicester Food Bank so please send in dried, packaged or tinned foods (no fresh produce please) with your child on Tuesday morning if they are in FSU.

**INTERNATIONAL WEEK:** I am delighted to announce that International Week will be returning for the week beginning 18<sup>th</sup> October. The whole school theme this year will be 'Africa'. The International Week planning committee have worked hard to source and put together an exciting array of African activities:

- Peter Chand, the international storyteller is returning to engage the children with age old tales from Africa.
- The popular Google handsets will transport the children to the African plains.
- Andy's Musical Roadshow will have the children creating African beats on a variety of instruments.
- The children will learn how to play the marimba.
- An African dancer will teach them an authentic African dance.
- They will visit a Moroccan Café and sample the delights of mint tea, tagine and dates

In addition to learning about Africa with these activities, each year group will be studying a country. The teachers are busy planning an interesting programme of activities to immerse the children in the culture of their chosen country. Our wonderful dance teacher, Andrea Law, will teach each class a dance native to the country that they are studying. The week will culminate with the World Food market on the Friday morning where the children will get to taste foods from around the world. We ask that children dress in the colours of the flag of country they have been studying. The countries are:

- Nursery - The Netherlands
- Reception – Spain
- Year 1 – Australia
- Year2 – Russia
- Year3 – Germany
- Year4 – Austria
- Year5 – Canada
- Y6 – Kenya

Countries represented in our World Food Market:

ZIMBABWE	GERMANY	KENYA
MEXICO	AUSTRIA	BELGIUM
AUSTRALIA	WALES	JAMAICA
SPAIN	SCOTLAND	SOUTH AFRICA
SRI LANKA	SYRIA	INDIA
RUSSIA	CANADA	TURKEY

Off-timetable weeks such as these enrich the curriculum for the children and give them opportunities that they will never forget. Unfortunately, it is not possible for the school to finance this event without support, and we are asking for contributions of £12 per child or £20 per family to help to cover the costs. Payment can be made via ParentPay, and I thank you in advance for your support of what promises to be an interesting and exciting week for the children.

**MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK:** Monday 11th October is the beginning of children's mental health week. As a school, we will be discussing this important topic during assembly times, PSHE lessons and during mindfulness sessions. On Monday 11th, we will be having a 'wear yellow day'. We will be inviting the children to wear anything yellow that they have to school to kick off this important week in the calendar. The children can wear as many or as little yellow items as they have available, those items that are not yellow must be normal school uniform. This is to raise awareness only and there will be no charge for this.

**OVERDUE LIBRARY BOOKS:** We currently have a large quantity of school library books overdue for return. Please could we ask everyone to check at home and return any books that may be sitting on their book shelves.

**PARENTS EVENING:** As you will have seen on our dates for the Autumn Term, on Monday 18th and Tuesday 19th October 2021, we will be holding Parents Evenings for children in all year groups. This term the appointments will be face to face appointments held in school with your child's teacher. You will be able to book your own appointment through your ParentMail account. The booking system will go live at 7pm on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2021, and you will be sent details via ParentMail at this time. To ensure that there are enough slots for every child, initially there will be one appointment available per child. If you require an appointment per parent, please contact the school office and we will be able to arrange this for you, it may however be that the second appointment may have to take place on another date. We would encourage you all to book your slots promptly. Bookings will close 7 days before the Parents Evening sessions.

**BOOK FAIR:** Yesterday was the first day of our Book Fair in the ICT Suite after school. This will be running every evening up to and including Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2021. Please come along and look at the selection of books on offer. The school receives a voucher to buy books depending on the amount spent which will enable us to buy a range of new books to enhance our curriculum. This year as well as accepting cash payments we will also be using an online payment method, please refer to the flyer that was sent last week. Please be aware that the entry and exit point to the ICT Suite is located at the front of the school and will be signposted, please do not enter through the hall where other activities are taking place.

**PTA DISCO:** The PTA Disco is due to take place on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2021, for children in years 1-6. Please remember that the deadline for booking your child's ticket is 3.30pm on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

Have a lovely weekend



Mrs L Daulton  
Headteacher