



Sunningwell Primary School

Newsletter – September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

We are so pleased to have all the children back at school and that they have settled so well into school. We welcome many new children into our school.

Dates for this term

Sadly, it will not be possible to have our usual MacMillan Coffee Morning this year. We would, however, like to support this charity again so we will hold a non-school uniform day on Friday Sept 24th. Please be generous in donating at least £1 per child.

Harvest festival. We will be celebrating this in the week commencing 11th October and would welcome the donations of food (pasta, soups, rice, tinned food etc) for the Abingdon Food Bank (<https://abingdon.foodbank.org.uk/>) during that week.

Term Dates are available on the school website.

Staff Update

We are delighted that Dr Pearson has joined us as the teacher in Class 3. Miss Hine, the teacher in Class 4, will be with us for a year whilst Mrs Dell is working away from the classroom and on maternity leave from October.

Mrs Knowland in Class 2 will be working away from the classroom and then on maternity leave in December. We are pleased that Mrs Ruth Barnett will be returning to the class full time to cover Mrs Knowland's maternity leave.

Home Circumstances

Some of our children experience changes of circumstance when a parent or carer has to work away from home or, in the case of the military, are deployed overseas or on training. Changes within the household such as a family bereavement, pregnancy or a change of address can all have an impact on a child's behaviour. Please let your child's class teacher, or the school office, know if you feel that any circumstances may affect their learning and well-being in school.

Driving on the Lane

As many of you are aware, the lane is private and we have no rights to use the lane for parking or access other than school staff.

Can we please ask all parents/carers to keep your speed down on the lane and if people are waiting in the lane for the turning circle to be free, please don't overtake them and jump the queue!

Fundraising – PTA

Whilst we are limited in events we can hold at the moment, we do need people who would be happy to organise some fundraising.

We receive many suggestions about fund-raising; however, we need people who are happy to take on such activities and events. For example, we are hoping to hold our Christmas Hamper Raffle it could be the biggest yet – but we need your help.

Parents Evenings

We have had many questions about Parents Evenings this year and they will be carried out online. They will take place shortly after October half term when the teachers will have had chance to get to know new pupils and give feedback on progress. More details will follow this term.

Christmas Activities

It looks highly likely that we will not be able to hold our Christmas Nativity in person this year. However, we will have another 'online' Nativity so watch this space.

News from the Classrooms

Class 1

It has been lovely getting to know the children in Class 1 over the past few days. They have settled in really well and have already started to build friendships. We are also looking forward to beginning our buddy reading sessions with the Year 5 and Year 6 students.

This term in Reception we will be focusing on getting to know each other and finding out what makes us special and unique. We will discuss emotions and learn to recognise and define how we feel. We will talk about ourselves and our families and we would like to take this opportunity and ask you to send in a photo of your family for a class project. We would also like you to share photos and stories with your children about some of your experiences growing up. There is no need to record these in any way, we just wish to encourage these conversations.

We will also be exploring our immediate environment in order to find out what creatures, great or small, use the school field and the Spinney as their habitat. We will investigate the bug hotels and the pond and discuss our findings.

As of next week, the children will start bringing home books from the school library, so that you can share those stories together. Every Friday, they will also bring home their Book for Challenges with a challenge for them to complete at home.

In Literacy we will focus on stories about families and animals, our first story being Owl Babies.

In Maths we will get to know the school routines, understand key times of the day and take different opportunities for counting, making numbers meaningful to the children (age, number of letters in each name, number of children in our class, number of family members, number of pets at home).

At Sunningwell C of E Primary School we value parents' comments and observations about their children. Each child in Class 1 has his/her own individual learning journal where we record their development and progress. To help us gain an understanding of your child's learning journey, we would like you to record your child's 'wow' moments that happen outside school time. It may be that they did something that they may have found previously difficult, for example wrote their name, made a cake, put on a play for you, learnt some impressive historical facts or played really well with their sibling or cousin ... it could be anything!

We also welcome photographs, writing or any evidence to support the contents of the 'wow' comments (please see the 'wow' moment templates in your child's book bag).

Thank you for your support and cooperation.

Mrs Mirza

Class 2

Welcome to Class 2!

We hope that you have had a restful summer and ready for the new challenges that Class 2 brings. We are looking forward to working with your children this year.

Our topic for this term is 'My family and other animals'. We are looking forward to learning about different types of animals and what animals and humans need to survive.

In Literacy we are looking at 'The Snail and the Whale' by Julia Donaldson. We will be writing persuasive letters, travel journals and writing in role.

For Maths this term we will be focusing on place value of numbers.

Mrs Barnett and Mrs Knowland

Class 3

What a great new start, everyone!

I was delighted to meet my Class 3 children and was impressed with how well they have settled into their new classroom.

In our first week, the children created our Class 3 'motto':

Try, Hard-working, Readiness, Enthusiasm, Energy.

These words will be encouraging us in our learning and school life. This week, we started reading 'Wolves' by Emily Gravett, which is full of entertaining, stylish and impressive illustrations and content. This term, we are going to look at how stories are told through the relationship between the illustrations and text, eventually creating our own illustrated books.

Finally, this term's topic for maths is 'Place Value', and we are all ready to become great mathematicians!

Dr Eunmi Pearson

Class 4

Hello to those of you I haven't yet had a chance to meet. It is lovely to join Sunningwell and I am looking forward to our year in Class 4.

Our topic this term is 'Animals Including Humans'. This will include learning about how animals are adapted to their environments and about the human digestion and circulatory systems.

In Literacy this term we will be reading 'Floodland' by Marcus Sedgwick.

We will have PE on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays.
Maths homework will be set on Fridays and will be due in for the following Friday.
Spellings will also be set on Fridays, with the test on the following Friday.
Literacy and topic homework may also be set and will be written down in children's planners.

Children must make sure they bring their planners to school every day, as all homework, and other reminders for home, will be written in their planners.

House points will be awarded on Monday mornings for reading (the reading expectations for Class 4 are explained inside the front cover of the planners).

Please do ask me if you have any questions about homework in Class 4.

Miss Hine.