



## NEWSLETTER

8.12.2020

Dear parents/carers,

Christmas songs fill the air, dances fill the hall and children learning lines fill the classrooms – what a brilliant time of the year. The focus of afternoons are Christmas plays at present as the children are learning their parts for their performances. Thank you for the wonderful support you are giving the children and staff to create the sparkle of Christmas at school.



### CHRISTMAS TREE

Every year Trevor Davis and Ms Jo Jackson, former parents, kindly make a donation to school so we can purchase a real tree for everyone to enjoy—a lovely gesture. Our heartfelt thanks go to Trevor and Jo for remembering us again this year.

We have a wonderful six foot tree this year. Decorating it was fun for a few of our Year 6 children – it was a tricky job as it was a very prickly tree! The children did a splendid job and the Christmas tree stands proudly in the school hall for everyone to enjoy now.

### HOMEWORK

Thank you to all of you for now using Google Classroom to receive and return homework to school. It has been really helpful for teachers to use Google Classroom and not just have training on how to use it. If you are still struggling to return homework via Google Classroom then please let your class teacher know as soon as possible so we can offer you help – we do understand it can be tricky to start. We want every family to be ready for remote learning if/when a class is asked to self-isolate. Sincere thanks to Mr Charlwood, Miss Griffiths, Mrs Kemp and Mr Curtis for supporting parents having difficulty with the set up by phone/e-mail - we are really grateful to you. Many thanks.

### CATCH-UP FUNDING & TUTORING

We are pleased to have received catch-up funding from Government to support children. We have assessed and identified the needs of our children. Targeted support will be focussed on phonic catch-up for Y2 and Y1 and mental maths for

KS2. Some of the catch-up fund will support the purchase of i-Pads so they can be used for interventions in spelling, phonics, mental maths to improve core skills this year and beyond.

We quickly utilised the funding to start Y2 phonic intervention with the class teacher and TA from the start of the term. Progress was monitored weekly and the impact was positive. We have undertaken the Phonic Screening with the Y2 children (as it was cancelled in Summer Term 2020 and DfE asked for it to be completed by the Y2 cohort by the end of this term). We are delighted to have a 95% pass rate (national average is typically 85%). Well done to everyone involved and especially the children for working hard and enjoying the opportunity.

The school is also accessing the subsidised tutoring offer by Government to support specific children in Reading, Writing or Maths. If your child has been identified you will have a letter about this so we can share more information with you.

### **CLASS 4 MUSIC**

As you know we rewrote the curriculum last year in all subjects so that it best met the needs of our children within our school structure. For all subjects we set out the skills, understanding and knowledge to be taught – you can find the details of this on the website on the curriculum information. As part of this we looked at the resources we use to support teaching too.

In music we purchased access to Charanga – a music specialist learning platform with a vast library of resources & songs. The children in C4 have undertaken their first music unit this term using Charanga resources to support their learning. The focus of their learning was playing and performing using pitch and dynamics. Mrs Rome said it was the best unit she had ever taught in music and certainly the children looked like they were loving it on Tuesday afternoons. I heard an array of soft rock being used for the children to appraise. Bon Jovi's 'Living on a Prayer' was used as the end piece where children played on recorders or glockenspiels. The children said:

*I enjoyed singing and playing the 'Living on a Prayer' song. – Bethan*

*I enjoyed the beat of the song. - Red*

*I liked the feel of the music. – Seren*

*It included playing instruments and I loved it. - Adam*

*I enjoyed learning the notes to play on the recorder. - Rosa*

It is positive that the changes we have made in music have had such a positive impact already.

Thank you to the wonderful PA who purchased KS2 recorder sets for the children last financial year too – it's great to have them to use.



### **BAGS2SCHOOL COLLECTION**

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Bags2School collection this week. Clearly everyone has

been tidying during lockdown as we had a bumper crop of bags! The clothes we collected will be sold and will benefit those who rely on second hand clothes as their sole option for good quality items. It also promotes the reuse of clothes to save resources. Our special thanks are extended to Mrs Birch for organising the collection.

## **ONLINE SAFETY**

We have forged positive links with PC Weedon, the local School Beat Officer from Gloucestershire. PC Weedon has visited the school and run whole school interactive assemblies on the role of the police and Online Safety sessions with Y6 children. We are delighted that we have arranged for a local Cyber Safety trained PCSO or member of the Safer Cyber Team from Police HQ to run workshops in May 2021 too. These will be with younger children in the school and focus on how to stay safe. Materials from CEOP and NSPCC will be used. This is a great opportunity and we look forward to the visit – guidance allowing.

## **ASSESSMENTS**

DfE has made some adjustments to the assessment procedures for Y2 and Y6 this year. In Y6 teacher judgement continues for reading, writing and mathematics, with tests in reading and mathematics in May. In Y2 teacher judgement continues for reading, writing and mathematics. The short Y4 times table screening will be non-statutory this year – as a school we are likely to engage in the times table screening, if it is an option, to help us prepare for the future. The Phonic Screening for Y1 children will run as usual.

For all tests and screenings a longer administration window will be given – we do not have details of this but assume it will support children self-isolating for 2 weeks to access the tests. At present we will continue with our planned assessment windows and adjust when we have more information.

We are an early adopter of the new framework and assessment for Foundation Stage children. Mrs Parsons and Mrs Redpath have done a great job of aligning our assessment system already and children are happily learning the amended curriculum.

## **SCHOOL SNOW CLOSURE**

We are aware that snow in the new year is common in our area. As such it seemed timely to remind you of the GCC school closure website:

<http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/closures/>

This website will inform you of school closure or partial school closure. Local radio stations will also make announcements. We will endeavour to send a text out if we close due to snow too.

Ms Avastu  
Headeacher