



Newsletter October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Last week we held our Harvest service via TEAMS – each class presented something to each other and we had a guest of honour – Reverend Angela. This was the first time that we had a whole school assembly since March so it was good for the youngest children to know that there are other children in the school somewhere!

Covid news: We have reviewed our processes regarding mitigating against Covid and we are going to change some arrangements. As you will appreciate Covid numbers are increasing and although we have been fortunate so far, we need to remain vigilant.

1. We will change start and finish times for KS1, in part, to move towards normal opening hours but also to reduce the number of parents and families waiting on the playground at the end of the day.
So after half term KS1 will start at 8:55am and finish at 3:05pm.

As lovely as you all are, please can I ask you to leave the school as soon as possible and not to congregate in groups either outside the school or on the playground?

2. Constant cleaning of tables, chairs, door knobs and hands will remain necessary.
3. Remote learning will now be via SeeSaw and separate instructions will be sent. It will replace uploading tasks to the school website but will be uploaded within SeeSaw which looks more child friendly, exciting and dynamic. There will still be teacher videos with audible instructions, with the added opportunity for children to record orally for the teacher. A two way method of communication will be closer to the classroom experience. Of course the system is new to us but early feedback suggests that it is easy to use.

YMCA

I sent an email telling you about free webinars available via YMCA. Booking is open until 2nd Nov for the webinar on the 12th Nov 7pm to 9pm. [Support your child's mental health](#) We know that all YMCA training we have experienced is valuable and it could offer you small nuggets of comfort or useful strategies. Certainly worth the time if you can spare it.

Diwali

We have a dance workshop booked for 10th November, partly paid by a Foxton resident – so thank you to him. It will be a virtual activity with the instructor on screen and the children dancing in the hall. It will be a separate class bubble experience for Y1 to Y6.

Trees

Thursday 22nd October – please ensure that your children have coats. We will be walking around the village (close to the school) to find examples of silver birch, rowan, wild cherry, hawthorn, dog rose, hazel and dogwood. We are very lucky to have the support of Catherine Cairns, Rachel McIntyre and the Woodland Trust for planting 60 trees and a hedgerow on the **27th November**. The 22nd October will be an opportunity to see mature versions of the trees so the children know what we are aiming for in a few years' time.

If you are willing to support the preparation on **Thursday 5th November from 9:30am** and planting on the **27th November** (time tbc) please contact us at school. Your help would be greatly appreciated! All the children will be involved with tree planting and planting with your child may be something that you would like to do – a memorable moment to share. On the 27th it would be useful too for children to bring gloves and a garden trowel for KS1 and a small spade for KS2 – if you could lend us some that would also be helpful (please name them).



We would need to follow Covid protocols so more detail later. It would be nice to be able to offer you hot chocolate but.....

Questionnaires

Thank you for your IT and Relationship and Sex Education responses to questionnaires recently as feedback all helps to move the school forward. We will be analysing the results and publishing the new SRE policy soon.

Parent Evenings

In March we held parents evenings by telephone and they were gratefully received. We will be repeating this system after half term with each class teacher taking one after school session each day – the mobile phone use was less successful so we will use the school's mainline telephone which means that the phone will be engaged from 3:45 to 5:30pm each day for the first 2 weeks of the new term. We will make every effort to phone you so please make yourself available at the allotted time, if you can.

Governors

We are still keen to take in Parent Governors from our school but so far have no one interested! The rules state that we can look elsewhere as long as the 'parent' is a parent of Primary School Age – not necessarily at Foxton. I doubt really that is really what you want, or is it?

I invite you to join a friendly group of people who are dedicated in doing their best for your children. You don't need to be an expert in a particular field, we welcome most skills and we all have some. I cannot promise that the governor's role is exciting but it is an important part of how schools in the UK are structured. There would be evening meetings, there would be policies to review and tasks to do in between meetings. Leadership tasks, including recruitment and managing performance are shared with the HT and day to day running of the school is delegated to the HT. As a parent governor you offer the voice of a single parent not as one canvassing opinion and you act on behalf of the whole school making decisions with the whole governing body.

The school website has more information but you can always talk to us!

Friends

Thank you to the innovative approach from the Friends' committee for fundraising. Friends are trying hard to offer different ways of fundraising due to Covid limitations. I hope that the Quiz was successful, a great idea! As we move towards Christmas please remember to use Easy Fundraising to add funds to the Friends bank account. Remember too that all money raised directly adds to the experiences your child has in school.

It's really simple, all you have to do is:

1. Join.

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/friendsoffoxtonschool/?invite=X7PM86&referral-campaign=c2s> and sign up for free.

2. Shop.

Every time you shop online, go to easyfundraising first, pick the retailer you want and start shopping.

3. Raise.

After you've checked out, that retailer will make a donation to us for no extra cost whatsoever!

There are no catches or hidden charges and Foxton Primary School will be really grateful for your donations.

From

Mrs Davies and all at Foxton