



Newsletter September 2018

Over the summer we have been busy with improvements to KS2 playground, outdoor painting, carpet cleaning and tree trimming. Mrs Brooks has got further ideas to improve the gardening area around the sheds and I am grateful to all those who have offered to help on the 7th October. Let us hope that the weather will be fine on the day.

Our new term has started well: Class trips are planned, meetings with parents have begun and a Harvest Festival is planned for 17th October at 10:45am. Governors have started their work this term with a review of key policies.

Our 'Share a Class' session this week was well attended so thank you for support. If it was interesting and/or helpful please offer positive feedback to class teachers – we all like to know when something is well received and therefore more likely to feel inclined to offer the same opportunity again!

Lunchtime

CCS gave schools notice to their catering service, so local schools have worked together to seek out an alternative provider. In August the new catering contractor was selected and is due to start on 8th October. In preparation we have been trialling new arrangements for school lunchtimes. Last term, children were sitting at mixed aged tables with the whole school seated at the same time. As you can imagine with 106 children all talking at the same time, it was very noisy! By the time the children got out to play, time was reduced and feelings were fraught!

Currently lunchtime is 12-1:15pm for KS1 and 12:15 -1:15pm for KS2 which hasn't really changed. Classes 1 and 2 come into the hall at around 12 noon and leave around 12:30 when KS2 arrive. KS2 have a split outside playtime – 2 slots of 15 minutes with the emphasis on the children being ready for their second slot. It means that children are not waiting around sitting at tables for too long and half an hour is long enough for most children to eat their lunch. There is reduced queuing mid lunch, as dessert is taken to the children at their tables. The first queue for KS2 as they enter the hall is currently as quick as it can be (no more than 5mins) and hopefully the changeover will become quicker still.

The indoor time is quieter and calmer and the children tell us that it is more enjoyable, although one or two say that they would like to sit with their KS1/2 siblings. Outside playtime is working well.

Opportunities to mix across the school will be strengthened in different ways: reading partners continue as well as visits to pre-school. In addition, Year 5 and Year 6 with Midday Supervisors have been recently trained as play leaders so will be sharing some playtime together as the older children will lead groups of younger children in structured games.

Values

Last year staff led Buddy Groups (mixed year groups) in debate about school values. Children practised their oracy skills by discussing the meaning and application of different values each week and then later voted on their priorities. The clear favourites to reflect our school were Respect and Responsibility, with Trust, Compassion and Justice as close runners.

The plan is to use Respect, Responsibility and Resilience as key values for the school with other themes interwoven into the key areas. The **essence** of The 4 Cs (Courtesy, Consideration, Caring and Co-Operation) remain because Courtesy, Consideration and Caring are embedded within Respect. Resilience reflects learning journeys within a school, where children need to be a little courageous to try something new and determined to keep trying in order to improve. As the school's vision is 'To Learn, Grow and Succeed Together', it is clear that we continue to value Co-operation in all that we do. We have taken a fresh approach, one in which the voice of the child is at the heart of the decision the making.

C3 and C4 have worked on a summary to go on the school website:

At Foxtton we respect each other and accept each other's differences. We are responsible for the choices we make and for each other's safety and well-being. Our resilience means that we are happy to try new things and try again as we are learning.

After/Before school clubs

We started the term with new clubs on offer due to different providers now being available: Mr Herd and Mr Pemberton and Premier Sport. The initial range of offers was optimistic given the size of the school and insufficient pupils signed up, so some clubs were cancelled. A new club Premier Sport has on offer is Archery on a Friday morning before school – there are still some spaces available. Premier Sport are also delivering Funtrition to KS2 where the content is a balance of healthy living – nutrition, sleep and mental health. Mr Herd and Mr Pemberton are working with Barrington and Petersfield as well as Foxtton to deliver some of KS1 and KS2 PE curriculum. Between the three schools we are hoping for cross school tournaments as we go through the year.

More details about clubs and other school activities can be found on the school website:

<http://www.foxttonprimary.co.uk>

Art Exhibition

This year's art exhibition will take place from Friday 16th to Sunday 18th November, run by the Friends of Foxtton School. We will be displaying works by talented local artists in a variety of media. All exhibits are available to purchase, and there is something to suit all tastes and pockets! The children will also be creating their own work at school to be displayed in the exhibition. This event is organised by the Friends and all proceeds support the school; last year we raised over £3,000.

The exhibition opens on Friday 16th November with a preview evening, from 7.30 to 9.30pm. We would like to invite all parents to come and join us for this. There will be drinks and canapes, entrance is free and it should be a really lovely evening. We can only invite adults on the Friday night, but the exhibition is open all weekend, on Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th, from 11am to 4pm. Entrance is £2, and children are free. Refreshments will be available.

We are always looking for more volunteers to help with the organization of this event. There are lots of different ways to get involved and we would love to have your help! If you're interested in finding out more, then please get in touch with me (lizmorgan21@hotmail.com) or find me in the playground.

We look forward to seeing you there! - Liz Morgan, Friends of Foxtton School

Best wishes

From Carole Davies