



# Frieth Primary School

## NEWSLETTER

September 2020

Welcome back to the new term! I do hope you had an enjoyable and restful summer break. I would like to extend a warm welcome to our new families and to thank you all for making me feel so welcome. It has been lovely to meet some of you at the gate in the mornings. I am gradually feeling less like a fish out of water as I get to know the school and I am enjoying getting to know your lovely children. I hope to meet more of you soon.



Unfortunately, we had to bid farewell to Mrs Horan on Thursday and we were all very sad to see her go. However, we wish her all the very best of luck in her new venture.

We are pleased to welcome Mrs Helen Upsher to the team to take on the role of Office Administrator. Mrs Upsher comes to us with a wealth of experience, including as Administrator at Sonning Common Preschool. She will be coming in for a few afternoons during the next couple of weeks, but will not be starting full time until 27<sup>th</sup> September. This means our office may be unmanned at times, although we are doing our very best to ensure there is somebody in there and I will check the email each day. Thank you to all those who have been so understanding as we get to grips with our new roles. I would also like to thank Mrs Jill Dean and Mrs Merelina Tebbot, our school governors, for stepping in to man the office on some of the occasions when we were really stuck.



### Cohort Meetings

Our cohort meetings obviously cannot take place in the usual way this year. However, each class teacher will be putting a power-point presentation onto their class page on the website soon. They will also be sending out their usual curriculum letter, which will provide information about your child's year group. Please do not hesitate to speak to the class teachers at pick up time if you have any further questions about the information provided.



### Turning Circle

I am told that there was previously a wonderful system in place for parents to drop their children off in the mornings, which worked by leaving space for cars to turn around in the car park outside the school gate. At a previous school, we termed this our "Stop, Kiss and Go." Due, I suspect, to the fact that siblings may be being dropped at different times, parents have started to congregate in the front space, making it dangerous for cars to use this. Please can we ask waiting parents to stand on the grass to the side of the car park, so that we can resume our turning circle. This is for parents who wish to 'Stop, Kiss and Go' and if you need to park, please use the available space elsewhere, being careful not to block any driveways. Many thanks.



My sincere thanks to all the busy bees who gave up so much of their time to help out in the school grounds during the holidays. The new shed looks fantastic!



We are always looking for volunteers to help out with our school grounds, particularly with painting and weeding! A group of very kind parents have set up a WhatsApp group to organise work parties. If you are able to volunteer any of your time and would like to be added to the group so you know when they are meeting, please let us have your preferred mobile number and we will pass it on to the group. Thank you!



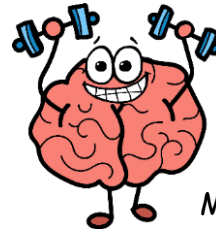
A reminder that we have several children in school who are severely allergic to various nuts and seeds. If they come into contact with them, even from others eating them, it could cause them to go into anaphylactic shock, a rare but severe allergic reaction which can be deadly. Please avoid sending in any products containing these at this time. Many thanks. The good news is, you may now bring **houmous** to school again.



You may be wondering what is going to happen about the Y6 responsibilities this year, as the Summer Queen festival could not go ahead last summer. We have taken the decision to delay these for the time being, because of the difficulties the children would have implementing their duties whilst in bubbles. We don't want to give them responsibility for something they are not able to do! Our focus for this half term remains on getting the children settled back into school and learning well. We will review the situation at half term and will let you know our plans for resuming the positions of responsibility.

## Coronavirus News

As you may have heard, some of the local schools have had confirmed cases of coronavirus and have had to close some of their year groups. We are keen to move towards one bubble in the school, as we are very aware that siblings cross bubbles in the evenings. This will be reviewed shortly, but in the meantime, please could we ask that you try to limit the contact your child has with children at other schools to that which is absolutely necessary and please be vigilant about symptoms, airing on the side of caution if your child seems unwell. Many thanks.



## Growth Mindset

All of our classes have been exploring the idea of 'Growth Mindsets' this week. Research has shown that having a growth mindset can accelerate progress and that children with a growth mindset are more resilient and will embrace challenges. The idea fits beautifully with our mission statement to '**develop potential without limitations**'. We have been teaching our children that their brain is like a muscle and can get stronger if they keep trying even when things are difficult. By embracing challenges, they can literally grow their brains! Over the coming weeks, I will share with you some of the ideas which we have explored as a staff in order to help our children develop growth mindsets. It would be wonderful if you could support us with this at home! The following very short video provides an overview of the idea:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M1CHPnZfFmU>



Friday 18<sup>th</sup> Sept: New starters event (details to follow)  
 Monday 12<sup>th</sup> Oct: Harvest event (details to follow)  
 Tues 20<sup>th</sup> Oct: Parents' Evening (details to follow)  
 Wed 21<sup>st</sup> Oct: Parents' Evening (details to follow)  
 Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> Oct: Children break up for half term  
 Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov: Children return to school  
 Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov: Year 6 11+ practice test  
 Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> Nov: Year 6 11+ test  
 Wed 11<sup>th</sup> Nov: Remembrance Event (details to follow)  
 Sat 28<sup>th</sup> Nov: PTA Christmas Fair  
 Mon 30<sup>th</sup> Nov: 11+ results out  
 Thurs 17<sup>th</sup> Dec: Children break up for Christmas holiday  
 Friday 18<sup>th</sup> Dec: INSET DAY (**moved from 23<sup>rd</sup> October**)  
 Mon 4<sup>th</sup> January: INSET DAY  
 Tues 5<sup>th</sup> January: Children return to school  
 Wed 10<sup>th</sup> Feb: Parents' Evening  
 Thurs 11<sup>th</sup> Feb: Parents' Evening  
 Fri 12<sup>th</sup> Feb: Children break up for half term  
 Mon 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb: Children return to school  
 Thurs 1<sup>st</sup> April: Children break up for Easter Holiday  
 Mon 19<sup>th</sup> April: Children back to school  
 Mon 3<sup>rd</sup> May: Bank Holiday  
 w/b 10<sup>th</sup> May: Y6 SATs Week  
 w/b 24<sup>th</sup> May: Bikeability  
 Fri 28<sup>th</sup> May: Break up for half term  
 Mon 7<sup>th</sup> June: INSET DAY  
 w/b 12<sup>th</sup> July: French trip  
 Wed 21<sup>st</sup> July: Leavers' Service  
 Wed 21<sup>st</sup> July: Break up for summer holidays