

Princess Fred's Matters



"I can do all this through Him who gives me strength" Philippians 4:13

Friday 13th January '17

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year

We hope you had a good break and feel fully re-charged, ready for 2017. We would like to thank all parents and carers for their support over the past year. The school is in a fortunate position because we have such a supportive and caring community.

With this new year upon us, we felt it would be a perfect opportunity to reflect on some of the success that we have had over the past 15 months.

September 2015-16

- ◆ Improved safety and overall condition of all climbing frames and the school building overall.
- ◆ New fully refurbished toilets for Key Stage 1.
- ◆ Introduction of Assessment for Learning (a reflective skills based learning strategy that focuses on a high ceiling/low threshold approach and favours effective questioning and the 'no hands up' approach).
- ◆ New expectations of the Learning Environment that allow all children to use their preferred learning styles to access the curriculum.
- ◆ Improvements in the indoor and outdoor provision for the Early Years.
- ◆ A new innovative marking policy which includes self and peer marking allowing children to reflect on their own successes and areas for improvement, as well as those of their peers.
- ◆ High quality, regular handwriting sessions in Key Stage 1 with a focus on pencil grip.
- ◆ Additional writing sessions for able writers in Reception to extend the level of challenge.
- ◆ Philosophy for Children (P4C) introduced and consolidated with children in class, and shared with parents.
- ◆ The Reciprocal Teaching of Reading (© B.Simpson, Cath Evans, Leah Garrad Coles) introduced and embedded across the school contributing to the outstanding results in reading. This system is an innovative and powerful classroom strategy that engages students and promotes enhanced comprehension and interactive learning.
- ◆ We became a Reading School with greater focus on the enjoyment and passion in reading (through the introduction of reading challenges, book clubs for children and £500 was spent on high quality reading resources in classrooms and the school library).
- ◆ The enhanced focus on the attainment of children with SEND is proving successful and we now have a dedicated member of staff in place working alongside an SEND consultant, Dr Jane Oliver.

- ◆ Phonics results, Year 2 and Year 6 results above the national and Brent average, especially in reading.

September 2016 onwards

- ◆ A new chef was appointed in order to enhance the high quality, nutritional school meals that are provided. The children have access to a varied and healthy menu with specific provision for children with allergies.
- ◆ We now have two deputies working alongside the Headteacher, and as a team, making a positive impact on the school.
- ◆ New English Curriculum map linking the Grammar and spelling ensuring the children are covering a range of genres and books to enable them to speak and write in a wide range of styles.
- ◆ A new recording system for termly assessment has been introduced which allows The Headship Team to improve the tracking of progress.
- ◆ 2 Simple in EYFS.
- ◆ We became a solar school thanks to the leadership and dedication of Rachael Newberry, our co-chair of governors.
- ◆ A new 'Buddy System' was launched with a Buddy Assembly in the first half term. Year 6 children have shown great maturity in their attitude towards their Reception buddies. This Buddy system allows Year 6 to take on additional responsibility and enables Reception children to feel cared for by the older children.
- ◆ In the Early Years (Nursery and Reception), we have introduced an online reporting system through the 2 Simple programme, which allows teachers to share with parents, the observations and achievements of pupils in class, electronically.
- ◆ A teacher has been appointed for 2 days a week with specific responsibility for 'Learning Outside the Classroom'. This appointment is designed to maximise the use of the outdoor embankment space and enable children across all age groups to get into closer contact with nature.

Bug Blitz (Head Lice /Nits)

In order to make the school a nit-free zone, we need a coordinated and combined approach as a community. We would like to ask all families to check for nits this weekend and treat children. If we all check (and treat where necessary), then we should all return to school on Monday bug free. Head lice spread easily and as a response to all the parents who have communicated their exasperation with constantly having to deal with this problem, we will make the following plea to parents with effect from Monday 16th January 2017:

All girls and boys with long should have their hair tied back in a ponytail or plait using, blue, yellow, white or black hair ties as per the current uniform policy. We like this to be a long term strategy in our battle to rid the school of these creatures.

This will greatly reduce the spread of lice in the future. Thank you for your cooperation.



A big welcome to two members of staff

We would like you to join us in welcoming two new members of staff who have joined our school this term. Hannah Greenaway, teacher responsible for learning outside the classroom, will be teaching two days a week while Ghazaal Majidi has joined the staff on a permanent basis as an Early Years Learning Support Assistant.

French for Reception and Year 1

We are delighted to announce that children in Reception and Year 1 will start having a fun-packed and fast-paced session in French once a week starting next week.

Important dates to note

Please see some important dates fast approaching. These are all on the school calendar which can be found on the school website.

Spring dates for your diary

Friday 20th January '17 – Year 4 Wellington Class Assembly
Friday 27th January '17 – Year 4 New Zealand Class Assembly
Friday 3rd February '17 – Key Stage 2 Extravaganza Concert
Wednesday 8th February '17 - Key Stage 2 Extravaganza Concert
Thursday 9th February '17 – School breaks up for half-term
Monday 20th February - School starts again
Friday 3rd March '17 – Year 3 Australia Class Assembly
Friday 10th March '17 – Year 3 Canberra Class Assembly
Friday 17th March '17 – Year 2 Washington Class Assembly
Friday 24th March '17 – Year 2 USA Class Assembly
Wednesday 29th March '17 – Key Stage 2 Extravaganza Concert
Thursday 30th March '17 – Key Stage 2 Extravaganza Concert
Friday 31st March '17 – Easter service at St Mark's Church
Friday 31st March '17 – School breaks up for Easter at 1:30pm

Happy Puzzle Company

On Tuesday 10th January, children from Years 2-6 took part in maths workshops led by the Happy Puzzle Company. The children engaged in mathematical challenges and were able to work collaboratively to solve problems and deepen their mathematical thinking. The children's feedback was extremely positive and the workshop leaders complemented us on the exemplary behaviour of the children.

