



Witchampton CofE First School News

WIMBORNE
Academy Trust

October 2018 Newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been a fantastic start to the year with so many exciting activities happening both in and out of school. Foxes have been thoroughly enjoying their topic on Romans and it was great to see the final outcome in their Roman assembly this morning. It was wonderful to see so many adults coming to celebrate Badgers Marvellous Me topic at the Badgers' portrait gallery event. Hedgehogs have settled into school life superbly and are already very much part of our Witchampton family. Thank you to all the Hedgehog parents who were able to attend a curriculum stay and play session.

The Year 4 children have certainly been living up to their responsibilities as the eldest pupils in the school. They have all been very keen to take on new roles and we now have play leaders and house captains to add to the many important roles our year 4 children have in school. The play leaders this year are Chloe, Finley, Isabelle and Amelia and our House Captains are Samuel and Tom (red house), Elfie and Isabella (yellow house), Ruby and Olivia (blue house) and Chloe and Ashton (green house). Well done to everyone!

Thank you to all parent/carers for the more considerate parking and for considering their speed when driving through the village. It is much appreciated that parent/carers are generally not parking opposite the school or on the hatchings which makes it far safer for the children coming into school and going home.

Our attendance target at Witchampton is 97% or more. Currently we have achieved 97.52 % so thank you to everyone for taking the attendance of your children seriously. Congratulations to Reception who are in the leaderboard for attendance with 99.5%. Daily attendance really does make a difference.

I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know everyone this half of term and I am extremely proud of our 'Small School with a Big Heart'. If you would like to speak to me about any matter, please contact the school office to make an appointment. My door is always open.

We look forward to seeing you all on the **30th October** after a well earned half term rest!

Mrs Jo Hancock
Head of School

School Council and Eco Champs

The school council have been busy choosing our charities for the year. After asking the opinions from the other children in their classes they finally decided to choose the Christmas Box Appeal, Toilet Twinning and the Wimborne Food Bank.

We have already starting to support the Wimborne Food Bank with the food donations you all contributed at our Harvest Festival. The Food Bank were overwhelmed with your generosity and sent us a lovely note of thanks. Yesterday the children found out all about how to make a christmas box for a child in danger. It would be great to provide as many Christmas boxes as possible.



Witchampton C of E First School
Charities chosen by School Council to support for 2018-19

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Bring joy to a life this Christmas...

Everyone loves to receive a gift. By supporting FSCI's Christmas Box Appeal, we can transform Christmas for someone who would otherwise have nothing. Thank you for helping us spread a little cheer this Christmas to the poor people in danger in Bulgaria and Serbia.



Saving lives... one toilet at time.

2.3 billion people don't have somewhere safe to go to the toilet. Toilet Twinning helps thousands of people get clean water, a proper toilet and the information they need to be healthy.



Wimborne Food Bank helps local people who are struggling to afford food at a difficult time of their lives.

Our donations help to give them a 3-day food parcel for their families.

Our School Vision

Last Friday we celebrated the launch of our new school vision by having a Vision Day. We started the day in the hall altogether. Sharing our new vision with the children and explaining that it had come from them, parents and staff. We explained that we had looked at all the amazing ideas that they came up with last year about a visual representation and that we had decided that we like the idea of a Hot Air Balloon. During the day the children worked in their Colour Houses exploring the different activities. One activity helped them to explore the school vision in more detail, looking at some of the more complicated words that it contained and talking about its meaning for us. Another activity saw the children engaged in craft in the hall; helping to create our Hot Air Balloon display. They drew their own faces to sit in the basket and they all put their fingerprints on the balloon. Once they had finished that, they were asked to use clay or lego to represent our vision in their own way. In order that the children could take a copy of the vision home with them, they made smaller Hot Air Balloons out of paper plates, with the vision on the basket. They all had great ideas as to where they were going to display them at home. The last activity was also a very important one. We wanted the children to choose a bible verse that summed up our vision to use as our school strap-line. The staff had narrowed it down to 3 options and the children exercised our British value of democracy in a secret ballot. The verse that was chosen was " Live a life of



love. Love other people just as Jesus loved us."

The day was finished off with a visit from parents from across the school. The children were eager to share their experiences from the day and the parents were able to add their family names to our Hot Air Balloon display.

It was a great day and there was a real buzz around the school. Children thoroughly enjoyed exploring what our school means to them and what we want for our school in the future.

Here is our new school vision -

Small school, Big heart - making a difference

Our school provides the Christian foundation for children to grow and flourish, whilst inspiring ambition. Everyone is a valued member of the school family which empowers them to achieve their very best. Our nurturing environment ensures each child becomes a confident and curious life-long learner. Our Christian values enable us to inspire others, build courage and show respect - all through love

A Message from Reverend Suzie

"Autumn is well on its way now and we are reminded how beautiful all our seasons are as the leaves change colour. For some though the turn in the weather with slippery walking conditions brings a dread of a winter to come. As we perhaps begin to get snugly let's continue on our harvest attitude of giving and perhaps call in on a elderly neighbour offering a shared meal or bringing a homemade meal for them (a simple act of kindness that means so much). (As the bible tell us God loves a cheerful giver!!)"

Wanted!

We are still looking for helpers in school. If you or someone you know (eg: grandparent, uncle, aunt, friend) has a spare hour or two a week to help in school we would be very grateful. A variety of help is required including listening to readers, helping in the library, cutting and sticking, art activities and gardening. If you think you can help please let Mrs Middlebrook in the office know.

Important Reminders:

Coats!

As we head into winter and the weather starts to deteriorate, please can you ensure that children wear/bring their coats to school. It may seem lovely weather when you leave your home, but quite often by break time, it's a very different situation.

P.E. Kit We are noticing a few children are not wearing the correct PE kit so here is a reminder. Please also remember to name everything!

- Crew neck white t-shirt
- Navy shorts or navy skorts.
- White socks (Tights must not be worn for PE)
- Dark colour jogging bottoms or tracksuit for the winter



- Plimsolls for indoor P.E. and dance (gymnastics is done in bare feet for safety)
- Trainers for outdoor games (Safer on wet surfaces)

P.E. and Games – all P.E. kit to be kept in a named P.E. bag on their peg in the cloakroom to be available for everyday use.

Families who are entitled to free school meals can get a school uniform grant. Information can be obtained from Dorset County Council or from the school office.

Attendance Really Matters

Promoting good attendance and punctuality is a key priority of the school this year as we believe that it is essential for all children to attend school on time and regularly. Much of the work children miss when they are off school is never made up, leaving these children at a considerable disadvantage for the remainder of their school career.

In line with the Trust we will be contacting parents by letter if a child's attendance falls below the national figure of 96.1% (2016) or if a child is persistently late. We recognise and appreciate there are many reasons why a child may have poor attendance and we value the working partnership we have with parents. Consequently, we will continue to work with you to resolve any attendance issues.

Attendance at school is very important if children are to learn and experience a deep understanding of key concepts. That is why we celebrate the year group with the highest attendance in the Newsletter – figures for this half term will be published in the next Newsletter.

A reminder that if a child arrives after 9.20am, they will be marked as late. If a child arrives after 9.30am, they will be marked as absent (unauthorised).

We expect pupils to maintain a minimum attendance figure of 96.1% across the academic year. Our school aim is to maintain a minimum attendance figure of 97% or over.

Important Contacts

These are the contacts for these important areas:

Designated Safeguard Lead – Mrs Hancock
 Deputy Safeguarding Lead - Mrs Jenkinson and Mrs Saberton
 Inclusion Leader – Mrs Pond

