



Christchurch Infant School

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Headteacher: Mr D Baxter



NEWSLETTER 11

Friday 28th February 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back after the half term break. It is great to see the children already so immersed in their new topics and working very hard and energetically.

We welcome Miss Wilkins to the teaching team as Foxes Class teacher and Year One Base Leader. She has made a fantastic start and is really enjoying life here at Christchurch Infant School.

This week the children have been enjoying the 'Healthy Me Week' which has promoted a better understanding of healthy lifestyles, fitness and well-being. We have had various specialist teachers including Dan Moody who is the Christchurch Schools Sports Leader and Miss Binney from Christchurch Junior School (a specialist dance teacher) teaching dance to Early Years. In addition to this, AFC Bournemouth have delivered sessions on healthy eating and lifestyles and pupils from Twynham Secondary school helped the year two children prepare healthy snacks.

We also had a visit to year one form Crazy Creatures, with a whole host of amazing creatures, bringing excitement and amazement to our pupils.

School Improvement Priority 1:

To establish high quality first provision in order to raise attainment in reading, writing and maths in all year groups, for all children.

Before the Half-Term break Mr Green, our Chair of Governors, visited Year 1 classes. This is part of his governor monitoring role.

'All the children were well behaved and engaged in learning. They were keen to get on with tasks that had been set. All the children I spoke to were raving about Dinosaurs! I was told lots of interesting facts like a diplodocus neck was 50ft long and they lived in the Jurassic age. They really enjoyed doing the dinosaur museum and finding footprints and eggs around the class.'



Children had been streamed as a year group for phonics lessons and the right level of support seemed to be in place for each group to help support them.'

When speaking with the children they were asked **'What do you like most about coming to school?'**

'Being with friends'

'Learning new things'

'Having fun!'



Before the Half-Term break Mr Tebbett, Year 2 Link Governor, visited Year 2 classes. This too is part of his governor monitoring role.

'I observed streamed phonics intervention groups led by TAs. Students were grouped according to their reading ability. These are daily and take place while teachers prepare for the afternoon lessons. TAs deliver these sessions with skill and students are engaged and well behaved. Regular (weekly) staff meetings are held to check groupings are appropriate for the needs of the children.'

Students were enthused by the fast paced activities and were challenged by the appropriate level of work. Joint Year Leaders Miss Melanaphy and Miss Keefe were very organised and knew which students needed intervention, and which were performing well.'

We would like to thank Mr Green and Mr Tebbett for carrying out their respective monitoring visits.

School Improvement Priority 2:

To ensure a consistent approach to behaviour management by all staff that follows very clear guidelines and rewards those for exceptional hard work, perseverance and attitudes to learning.

To further improve attendance for persistent absentees, to ensure that all children have an equal diet of learning and children can gain the expected attainment and attendance does not impact negatively.

At Christchurch Infants we are very proud of our children's behaviour and the respect that they show for each other and the adults that work with them. We promote this positive behaviour through assemblies and weekly Jigsaw (Personal, Social and Health Education) sessions, which reinforce our school expectations. Adults also use universal language and visual cues as reminders to make 'good choices'.

Behaviour logs throughout the school (in each class) are monitored half termly, with the number of incidents decreasing each term, as children learn to become more aware of the effect of their behaviour on others and more socially adept at making the right choices in their play.

Alongside this, staff have attended courses such as the 'Five Point Scale' and 'Peic-D' (Promoting early Interactive Conversation – Dorset: PEIC-D is a programme to help children develop their non-verbal communication skills) to help support children's understanding of their feelings, development of interaction skills such as imitation and turn-taking. An Attachment focused group has also been set up to support adoptive parents and special guardians.

Mrs Simpson, Deputy Headteacher and Behaviour Leader

School Improvement Priority 5:

To secure high quality first teaching consistently across **EYFS** (Early Years Foundation Stage) to ensure that all children have an equal access to a diet of learning, so they can make good or better progress from their individual starting points.

Before the Half-Term break Mrs Cuervo-Thomas, our EYFS link governor, visited the Early Years classes as part of her governor monitoring role.

'My visit showed me that there is a child-led approach to learning where children can choose learning activities for themselves to encourage independence – as is to be expected, some pupils are able to work more independently than others, but adults are providing additional support where necessary and encouraging less independent pupils to try to work on a task with less adult input. In the classrooms I visited, different learning activities were taking place but all showed pupils who were engaged and teachers who were engaging.'

'All staff observed showed to have an excellent rapport with the children and children were engaged in their learning whether that was with an adult close by for support or more independently.'

When speaking with the children they were asked **'What do you like most about coming to school?'**

Their responses included:

'Playing in the discovery den – role play and dressing up acting things out is so much fun'

'Phonics, I know those red words up on the wall up there' (could read the words on the wall and all children could tell me about red and green words, Fred talk, Fred in your head and knew which band of books they were currently reading.)

'Reading different books every day'



The children also expressed a love of reading and understood that by learning phonics it helps them to read. The children enjoyed talking about learning to climb and play safely outside and knew the importance of making each other smile!

We would like to thank Mrs Cuervo-Thomas for carrying out her monitoring visit.

Other News...

Parent Governor

We would like to welcome Mrs Young as our newly appointed Parent Governor.

Child Protection

The Governors, Headteacher and staff of Christchurch Infant School, through the implementation of the Child Protection Policy (held in the School Office and on the school website), endeavour to ensure that all child protection issues, or where there are reasonable grounds to suspect an issue, will be dealt with appropriately including reporting to the duty social services officer, who will act on the concern. We are **legally bound, in our duty of care, to make referrals**. Should you need to share information or make a referral yourself the contact is:



BCP Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)

01202 735046

Email: mash@bcpcouncil.gov.uk

For more information please visit:

bcpcouncil.gov.uk

Safeguarding is everybody's responsibility. A copy of the school's Child Protection Policy is available on our school website:

<https://www.christchurchinf.dorset.sch.uk/safeguarding-and-child-protection>

The designated Safeguarding Leaders for our school are:

Mr Baxter, Mrs Simpson, Mrs Darch and Mrs Chapman.

Science Day

On Friday 13th March, we will be celebrating a Science Day conducting a range of fun and interesting investigations to inspire and motivate the children in developing their scientific knowledge and understanding. We will provide children with exciting opportunities that are hands on and incorporate science into everyday life.

Miss Sneddon, Science Leader



Fab Fridays

Congratulations to the following children for receiving Fabulous Friday Stickers:

Week ending 7.2.20

Hedgehogs	Charlie S, Evie p & Charlie p
Foxes	Bella, Jack, Harry & Freya
Squirrels	Blake, Lucas & Roxy
Rabbits	Oliver & Tilly
Kingfishers	Archie V & Charlie S
Woodpeckers	Reggie & Lilly G
Nightingales	Teddy & Seb
Kestrels	Francis & Lilia



Dates for your diary (cut out and keep)

5.3.20 Thursday	World Book Day – Dressing Up
5.3.20 Thursday	PTFA Disco
6.3.20 Friday	PTFA Quiz Night
9.3.20 Monday	Rabbits and Squirrels Classes visit The New Forest Wildlife Park
11.3.20 Wednesday	Hedgehogs and Foxes Classes visit The New Forest Wildlife Park
13.3.20 Friday	Science Day
24.3.20 Tuesday	Parent Consultations
25.3.20 Wednesday	Parent Consultations
3.4.20 Friday	Last Day of Spring Term
6.4.20 – 17.4.20 Monday - Friday	Easter Holiday
20.4.20 Monday	First Day of Summer Term
25.5.20 – 29.5.20 Monday - Friday	Half Term Break
1.6.20 Monday	INSET DAY
17.7.20 Friday	Last Day of Summer Term
20.7.20 Monday	INSET DAY

INSET Days for 2020-2021:

Thursday 3rd September 2020
Friday 4th September 2020
3 further INSET dates TBC

Kindest regards, Mr D Baxter