

# William Gilpin CE VA Primary School

## Newsletter 8-01-16

### Happy New Year!

Welcome back to school and the Spring Term! I sincerely hope you all had a lovely Christmas break. Thank you very much to those who kindly left gifts for the staff - we have all appreciated the treats at the end of term and coming back to a full cupboard of biscuits! Despite the dark mornings and dreary weather it was been a real pleasure to greet the children at drop zone and see them tackling the challenges of the new term so enthusiastically. We are having a positive focus on presentation and handwriting this term as we really want the children to be proud of their learning.

### Topics for this half term

Each teacher has written a brief outline of their class topic for this first half term. A full overview of the curriculum areas being covered can be found on the school website ~ follow 'About us' and 'Official Info.'

#### Class 1: Pirates Ahoy

'Our learning this half term will take place through our topic 'Pirates Ahoy'. We are already creating a Pirate role play area which the children are thoroughly enjoying. Where possible we will use pirate stories in English.'



#### Class 2: Titanic

'Class 2 are learning about the sinking of the Titanic. We will be examining the Port it started in (Southampton) and comparing it to its intended destination (New York). We will be learning about the materials used in the ships construction and where this impacted on the sinking by carrying out our own experiment with materials. Finally we will be looking at the different classes of passenger on board the ship and devising our own graphs to ascertain who had the biggest chance of survival!'

#### Class 3: Chocolate

'This half term the topic in Class 3 will be chocolate, mmm! We will be learning about where cocoa comes from, the history of chocolate production and fair trade. We will also be learning about food and nutrition in Science, and food preparation in Design and Technology. Unfortunately for the children there will be times when they will have to eat some chocolate but I will do my best to make this as bearable as possible. Please let me know if you would like to help with our chocolate topic, thanks!'

#### Class 4: Where in the World?



'Our topic this half term will be 'where in the world?' The children will be reading Michael Morpurgo's 'Kensuke's Kingdom'. We will be looking at the globe (making our own) and exploring the different environments, linking to earthquakes and volcanoes. There will be opportunities to voice over nature documentaries, learn how to survive at sea and to continue to raise the standard of our sketching and paintings.'

**Reminder** - Can we remind you that children often do indoor PE with bare feet. With this in mind, could you please ensure we are made aware of any foot infections, such as verrucas, and keep the infection safely covered with a plaster.

Focus Christian Value  
Forgiveness



### Important Dates:

#### January

- Mon 11th **INSET day - School Closed for pupils**
- Wed 13th Celebration Worship
- Mon 18th **INSET day - School Closed for pupils**
- Wed 20th Family Worship
- Fri 22nd Football at Our Lady & St Joseph 1 ~ 3pm
- Tues 26th Talk from Chris Lubbe 1:30pm
- Wed 27th Celebration Worship

#### February

- Wed 3rd Family Worship
- Thurs 4th Open Classrooms 3:15 - 4pm

#### March

- Thurs 24th Service at St Johns Boldre at **9:00am**  
**END OF TERM ~ 3:10pm**

Please look at the complete Diary dates sheet for a full list of events.

Diary dates can also be found on the school website.

### Question of the week...?

What will you do this term to help you achieve your long term goals?



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*'The greatest oak was once an acorn that held its ground'.*

**Forgiveness, Kindness, Belief**

## Celebration Worship

At the last Parents' Forum we discussed the arrangements for Celebration Worship and the general consensus was that parents would be in favour of us making some changes. We believe it is important to share and celebrate the children's achievements but also understand that it's important for you and your children that you are there to share those moments when possible. With this thought in mind, we have decided that parents will be notified on the preceding Friday (letter in bookbag) if their child is going to be awarded a Headteacher's Certificate during the following Wednesday's worship. We hope that this will give sufficient time for parents or other representative to make arrangements to attend. We would, therefore, no longer hold the additional Celebration of Achievement Worship on the final Thursday of each half term.

## Science that's Out of this World!

Most of you will be aware of the current British presence on the International Space Station. We have been lucky enough to be selected to take part in some experiments associated with this expedition. In March we will receive some seeds which are currently on board with the British astronaut. The children in class 4 will be responsible for monitoring the growth of these seeds and inputting the data into a national database. This will contribute to scientists knowledge of growing food in space.



## Eco Bags of Fundraising!

A reminder that your child will have brought home an Eco kids collection bag this week. They will pay us up to £500 for every tonne of unwanted good quality clothing! Please make use of this opportunity to recycle unwanted goods. The more bags you collect the more we will raise. Bags need to be returned to school the week beginning the 25th January for collection on Thursday 28th.

## Music Lessons

Mr. Barlow, who currently provides music lessons in school, has some spare capacity at present. If you are interested in your child taking lessons in clarinet, trumpet, horn or saxophone, please let us know and we will ask Mr. Barlow to contact you with more details.

## Homes for Hampshire Children

Have you ever considered fostering or adopting? Hampshire County Council Adoption and Fostering Service are holding an information event at the Milestones Museum in Basingstoke on Saturday 30th January, 10am - 2pm.

## A Positive Mindset

One of the areas that we as a staff have explored and researched over the last 18 months has been the impact and benefit of a positive, growth mindset. This is a philosophy based on the belief that ability is not pre-determined but can be changed and grown with effort. There is a really good (and readable) summary of this on the Cbeebies website—follow the link below to read more

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/grownups/help-your-child-try-new-things>

## Chris Lubbe visit

Chris Lubbe, who now lives in Fareham, was one of twenty four bodyguards who had the responsibility of protecting Nelson Mandela between 1990 and 1998. We are very lucky that he will be in school on Tuesday 26th January to talk to the children in KS2 about his experiences with a focus on our core value of forgiveness. We would also like to open this to any parents who would be interested in hearing Chris speak ~ you are most welcome to join us from 1:30pm.



## Clubs

It is time to sign up for after school sports clubs with Ben Strange - Kidz Supersports.

Multisports for Years 1-6 - Mondays from 3.15 - 4.15 p.m. starting on Monday 25th January.

Football for Years 3-6 - Fridays from 3.15-4.15 p.m. starting on Friday 15th January.

Each club costs £10.00 per child this term (subsidised by the school) - this needs to be paid as soon as possible please - cheques payable to HCC.

