

FARTHINGHOE COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER 4 : 12th October 2020



Dear Parents, Carers, Governors and Friends,

I would like to take this opportunity to advise you of a change to our school governing body. After 15 years of being a governor, Graham Thorley decided that he would like to step down from the post of Chair of Governors. Graham has been a highly effective and professional Chair of Governors at Farthinghoe School. During his time with us, he has led and supported the team of governors and ensured the continued success and development of our school, its staff and pupils. He has been instrumental in many areas over the years ensuring the school continues to be highly regarded within the local community and over-subscribed with pupils. Graham first joined the school as a governor even before his eldest son Will and second son Al, started attending at our school. Will is now taking his A levels and Al his GCSEs. During the time that Graham has been governor he has been a part of three Ofsted inspections and was instrumental in guiding the conversion of the school to an academy, becoming part of the Warriner Multi Academy Trust.

The role of Chair of governors is very important as they act as a mentor, a critical friend, an ambassador and even as compare when the raffle is being drawn at the Christmas fete! Graham has always been such a champion of the school, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank him on behalf of the whole school for all his hard work and support over the years.

At our last governor meeting on Wednesday, Richard Billington was 'unanimously' elected as our new Chair of Governors. He has two children, who are part of our school community, and has been a governor for two years and he has been the lead governor for safeguarding and has provided support in the school's handling of the closure and subsequent reopening. He has many skills which he can bring to role, notably his business acumen as well as an insightful way of approaching problems, which will be important as we come out of the current pandemic. I am looking forward to working with Richard on our new school development plan, this year and I hope many years to follow.

Forest School

Forest School will begin for children in EYFS and keystage 1 from Tuesday 20th October. If you have not yet done so, please can you return the Muddy Feet permission form to school as soon as possible.

Remote Learning Plan

Please find attached our school remote learning plan, in the eventuality of another school closure. The plan details timings and points of reference for live lessons and planning. The current feeling nationally is that schools will not be closed as we were earlier in the year. It is more likely that a single bubble could be sent home to self-isolate for 14 days, if there were to be a COVID-19 case within this group of children. To ensure the success of the remote learning plan, your child will need access to technology; therefore it is very important that you let us know if you want to borrow a device. Following the parent-teacher meetings, we feel we have enough devices to loan to children, should they need it.

- Year 5 and 6 - Chromebooks - each child already has one of these allocated, these will automatically be sent home with them
- Year 3 and 4 - Laptops
- Year 1 and 2 - Laptops
- EYFS - iPads

Please email Mrs Thompson to confirm if your child will need access to a device.

How to contact us

Telephone: 01295 710406

Email: head@farthinghoe.northants-ecl.gov.uk or bursar@farthinghoe.northants-ecl.gov.uk

Website: www.farthinghoeprimaryschool.co.uk

Pumpkin Patch

We have received a wonderful bounty of pumpkins from the Warriner Farm. These will be available to purchase after school on **Wednesday 14th October**. There is a recommended donation price of £2.50. Funds will go to the Farm and school resources.

School Tours

Whilst we are unable to host an Open Morning event this year, for those families interested in joining our school next September, we are able to offer socially distanced tours out of school hours. Please do let your friends and family know and email or call the school office to book in.

Secondary School applications

This is a gentle reminder that the closing date for secondary school applications is Saturday 31st October at 5pm. As secondary schools have been unable to open their doors for tours, please note Chenderit, Magdalen and The Warriner - have virtual tours on their website.

Coats and Clothing

Keeping warm! Now that the temperature has started to drop, please could you ensure that your child wears sufficient warm clothing as we are keeping the classrooms well ventilated with windows and external doors open wherever possible. They may bring a fleece and maybe wear a vest or t-shirt under their school uniform.

Home School Agreement and Medical form

We still have a small number of parents that have not returned their signed forms. It is imperative that they are returned as soon as possible. Please note, some pages need to be completed on the reverse too.

Donations

A huge thank to those parents that have so very kindly donated health and safety supplies, following our earlier plea. Our School Ties team have also covered the cost of new automatic soap dispensers and each classroom is to be fitted with a lady bird hand sanitiser machine. Thank you again for all your support.

Flu Vaccination consent

An email was sent out to all parents on Friday (9th) detailing the process for providing consent for your child to have the nasal flu vaccination administered on Friday 11th December. Consent must be given via the online form, so please complete as soon as possible.

Celebration Sweets

We often find that when children celebrate their Birthday, they like to bring in sweets to share with the other children. The school community is keen for such traditions to continue but with the current situation we have devised the following plan: sweets can be bought in on the Friday of a child's birthday week. The sweets are to be individually wrapped and staff will pop them in the childrens' book bags - therefore allowing parents the choice of whether or not their child is allowed them.

Trick or Treat

Please find attached guidelines from South Northants Neighbourhood Team, for Trick or Treating this year.

Power Maths

As a school, we have invested a substantial amount of money on new maths resources - Power Maths. Please find the attached letter from Ms Turner, detailing this exciting new curriculum development. Please take time to read the letter and talk to your child about it.

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wednesday 14th October - EYFS Parent-Teacher meetings with Ms Turner

Wednesday 14th October - Pumpkin Patch sale after school

Tuesday 20th October - Muddy Feet Forest School for keystage 1

Thursday 22nd October - End of Half Term

Friday 23rd October - INSET DAY

Monday 2nd November - Back to School

Tuesday 17th November - Muddy Feet Forest School for keystage 1

Friday 11th December - Flu vaccination for all children in Reception through to Year 6 - parental consent online form to be completed no later than Friday 4th December

Tuesday 15th December - Muddy Feet Forest School for keystage 1

Friday 18th December - **END OF TERM**

With warmest wishes and kind regards, Mrs Wendy Whitehouse

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