



# November 2019 Newsletter

*Helping your child develop a love for life and learning*

## A MESSAGE FROM MRS O'BRIEN

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you had a wonderful half term break and you are ready for the lead up to Christmas! There are many wonderful events planned for both the children and yourselves, including the Christmas Fair, Christmas Carol Services, Christmas plays and nativities.

Since my last newsletter, we have run a governor election and I was delighted that four parents put themselves forward for election. Thank you to all those families who actively engaged in the election process. The voting has now closed and I can confirm that Neil Monro has been elected as Parent Governor. Neil has a background in Financial and Professional Services. Furthermore, governors have recently co-opted Pauline Alexander onto the Full Governing Body. Pauline comes with a wealth of experience; she was an experienced head teacher of an outstanding school in Woking then became the executive leader over a group of schools. Pauline now uses her experience in supporting school leadership across several schools in a governor role.

One of the main duties of governors is to monitor the impact of our School Development Plan. As you know, the focus of our plan is to secure outstanding outcomes for our children and I thought it would be a good opportunity to provide you with an update on our progress so far this term. Over the last two months, we have:

- Introduced chrome notebooks into every classroom along with a variety of new online education packages. Teachers are designing lessons that teach specific computing skills as well as using the new notebooks to enhance the curriculum such as using: Bug Club within guided reading sessions; online games within maths; reference materials within history and much more.
- Received training during our recent INSET day on the most effective strategies for teaching reading and using our new guided reading books (funded by our PTA) we are now applying these new techniques.
- Reviewed our curriculum provision to ensure that lessons reflect our curriculum drivers:
  - Building resilience
  - Inspiring curiosity
  - Promoting a balance between independence and teamwork
  - Instilling empathy

In line with our school priorities, I am delighted to inform you that planning for the building works for our special needs centre has been approved and building works will begin by the end of November. You will have noticed that during half term, our vegetable plots have been removed (and will be replaced within our Forest School), ready for our contractors compound to arrive. I have met with the appointed contractors who have vast experience with working in schools and I am confident that we will be able to deliver the new building with minimal impact on our school community. Our contractors will be giving regular updates via our weekly newsflashes and as always, I ask our parent community to continue to communicate with me regarding any concerns so that swift action can be taken.

We hope that your children are enjoying their learning so far this term and that you were able to see the outcomes of their learning so far at our recent parent consultations. Please remember our Open Door policy; you do not need to wait for our next parent consultations to see the children's learning, you are welcome to pop in after school to see their books at any time.

I hope that when looking at your children's books that you can see that every day at school counts. With this in mind, I am delighted to inform you that our attendance for the year so far is 96.8%. Thank you to all those families adhering to our attendance policy; let's try to maintain this.

Finally, I am extremely grateful to the community for continuing to help make the area surrounding our site safe for all the children. The community has clearly pulled together to:

- ✓ Make a promise to walk, scoot, cycle or park and stride at least once a week;
- ✓ Park considerately often driving further away from the school entrance;
- ✓ Never parking or dropping off on the zig zag lines at the front of the school;
- ✓ Never parking across residents' driveways.

Many thanks & best wishes,

*Kareen O'Brien*

Kareen O'Brien  
Head Teacher

Value of the month – Understanding



# Updates & Dates

## SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2019** – Reception, Year 1, Year 2, Year 3 and **siblings**

**(Reception, Year 1, 2, 3 & 4)**

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2019** – Year 4, Year 5, Year 6 and **siblings (Year 5 & 6)**



## CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCES

It's that time of year again, Christmas is fast approaching. Invitations for the Christmas performances will be sent out on **Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2019** via ParentMail, where you will be able to request how many seats you would like 😊.

## BULB PLANTING OUTSIDE THE SHOPS

In drizzle and on a nippy day, Mrs Sherlock (our Forest School teacher) took four children to meet with local residents (Bob and Sheila) outside of the shops to plant daffodils in the 3 wooden raised beds that hold the trees. The bulbs were purchased by the FLG Community Association and will, hopefully, spring to life to brighten up our days next year.

The children togged out in coats, high viz vests and armed with trowels and dibbers had a wonderful time especially looking at the different size worms and comparing their colours! The children were extremely interested in planting the bulbs, finding 'twinnies and triplets' (bulbs joined together), also taking great care to make sure they were popped into the hole they had made the 'right way up'!

Thank you to the FLGCA, Bob and Sheila for their time and Allen Mead who kindly took the photographs.



## THE SUN – FREE BOOKS

The Sun has teamed up with Harper Collins to provide primary schools across England, Wales and Northern Ireland a free pack of 106 books, worth more than £600. We need to collect 3,500 tokens between 23 November – 18 January 2020. Tokens can be brought into school and once we reach 3,500 tokens, we can send off for our free books.



# Updates & Dates



## PE KIT FOR OUTDOOR LESSONS

We ask that your child has an appropriate PE kit at school for outdoor lessons (i.e. waterproof coat, joggers, jumpers and spare socks), given the muddy field. If they have a field based PE topic and are able to bring in boots, that would be helpful, along with an extra plastic bag for muddy shoes so as not to ruin their kits in the bags. Thank you ☺.

## ANNOUNCEMENT ON 31 OCTOBER 2019

Worpleston Memorial Hall (Perry Hill, Worpleston, Guildford GU3 3RF) will host a live recording of **BBC Radio 4's Any Questions?** programme on **Friday, 15 November 2019**.

The recording will take place between 8:00 and 9:00 pm, with doors opening at 6:30 pm. Entry to the recording will be strictly limited to pre-booked tickets.

Free tickets (maximum 2 per booking) to this recording will be available from 10:00 am on Tuesday, 5 November on a first-come, first-served basis.

Book tickets via email: [enquiries@worplestonmemorialhall.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@worplestonmemorialhall.org.uk)

Trustees  
Worpleston Memorial Hall  
[www.worplestonmemorialhall.org.uk](http://www.worplestonmemorialhall.org.uk)  
Queries: 07761 589768



**Visit Father Christmas**  
for free this year

### November

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> 1pm – 5pm  
Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> 11am – 4pm  
Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> 11am – 4pm

### December

Every Saturday and Sunday 11am – 4pm

Visit [TunsgateQuarter.com](http://TunsgateQuarter.com) for more details