
NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that this newsletter finds you well. This week has been extremely busy and full of exciting learning adventures.

Harvest Food Pantry Donation

Last year thanks to all of your very kind donations, we donated a lot of food and produce to the foodbank at North End Baptist Church.

This year for our Harvest Celebration we are going to be supporting North End Baptist Church again and whilst originally they were a foodbank and were supporting a lot of families individually during the pandemic with food hampers, they have now changed to a food pantry where families now have a chance to choose what items they would like, almost like a co-op shopping experience.

Since opening as a pantry 6 months ago, North End Baptist Church have noticed a huge increase in the families accessing the pantry each week. The pantry not only tackles food poverty but it also tackles food waste. They work with local organisations and allotment holders that have a surplus of food and rather than it going to landfill, it is offered to anyone who comes to the pantry and now has over 300 families accessing it regularly.

Therefore, if you or anyone you know would like to support the school with our Harvest donation to North End Baptist Church, please send it in with your child or drop it into the school office by Thursday 21st October 2021.

If you feel you are able to support, donations of any of the following items would be perfect: Tinned Meat Meals (stew, hot dogs, ravioli, curry, meatballs, spag.bol., beans & sausages etc.), Tinned Ham & Corned Beef, Tinned Potatoes, Cook-in-Sauces, Instant Noodles / Pasta Sauces, Tinned Fruit, Tinned Spaghetti, Tinned Rice Pudding, Dried Pasta, Shampoo, Shower Gel, Deodorant, Toothpaste & Toothbrushes, Cereal, Squash & Long Life Fruit Juice, Desserts (sponge puddings, jelly etc.), Toilet Rolls.

Parents Evening

This term, parents' evenings are scheduled for Tuesday 19th and Thursday 21st October from 3:30pm until 7.00pm. Following the feedback from parents regarding last year's format, we are going to keep these as online meetings, as the vast majority of you said it was far easier to focus on a 10 minute Zoom appointment rather than have the stress of making sure that you were out of the house at a certain time, either have to drive and then find somewhere to park or walk to school and this could take anything up to 2 hours if you have more than one child.

All of the information will be sent out next week on how to book a slot for your child(ren). For those of you who do not have access to the internet, a phone call appointment will be available as per last year.

The focus of these meetings is to see how your son / daughter has settled into school and what they are working on. We will hold an open afternoon after half term for you to come into school and see your child's Theme and Maths books.

New Intake Tours

If you have a child who is due to start school in September 2022, we are holding Open Sessions on the following days and times:

Monday 11th October - 9.30am-11am
Thursday 14th October - 9.30am-11am

If you would like to book onto one of these sessions, please contact the School Office. We will be holding additional sessions after half term both during the school day, after school and evening to support working parents.

New EYFS Area

I am delighted that finally after some unfortunate delays due to COVID and supply issues which have been out of everybody's control, our new Early Years area (apart from one part which is in China) is all finished and from Monday will be up and running.

Therefore, if you are a Year R parent, please enter the area through the coloured musical arch and wait for your child's class teacher by the outside classroom doors. The teachers will be outside to meet you, the order is Bright (first door), Potter (middle door) and Donaldson (end door closest to the car park). I know it will be really tempting to play on all of the new equipment, however can you please ensure that your child stands sensibly with you whilst you wait for the doors to be opened.

In order to ease congestion and allow everyone to leave safely, we will be operating a one way system of entering via the coloured arch and leaving via the car park gates. For those of you with siblings, please either say goodbye before entering the EYFS area or take the older child first and then drop off your Year R child.

COVID 19

This seems to be very much like a broken record and I long for the day when I no longer have to write about Coronavirus, however very sadly we have seen, as have a vast majority of schools within the city, a massive increase in the number of children testing positive for COVID 19. Unfortunately schools are now reporting infection figures considerably above this time last year. In fact for us, we currently have more positive cases this week than we had in the whole of the autumn and spring terms last year and nearly as many as we had for the whole of last year.

One main factor for the increased transmission rates is due to the Government's isolation rules and restrictions that schools can and cannot do. The main difference is that last academic year, schools were required to create bubbles and following positive cases, these bubbles were then closed. Children were then required to self-isolate for X number of days and be home schooled using online learning. This year, bubbles within schools are not the norm and following positive cases of COVID 19 only children who are positive or have symptoms are required to self-isolate. Classes are not closed.

This has meant that this year, whilst we have kept lots of the restrictions that we put in place last year, and are continuing with more restrictions than we are required to do, we are still seeing higher infection rates than last year. To put this into context, if the same rules around class closures were in place now as were last year, out of 22 classes, only 9 would have been in school every day since September. This would have meant that 390 children would have or continue to be self-isolating.

As a result of the increase infection rates within the school and following advice from PCC and Public Health England, Year R, 4 & 6 are operating in bubbles as these year groups all have more than 5 either positive or potentially positive (children taking a PCR test / waiting for PCR results) cases. Therefore, staff will be wearing face coverings around the building, ensuring that we keep socially distanced where possible, avoid going into rooms which are not part of their year group / bubble whenever possible, continuing with our strict cleaning and hygiene regimes and keeping windows

and doors open to ensure there is a constant supply of fresh air and good circulation within the classrooms. Please help us to keep as safe as possible by trying to space out as much as possible on the school grounds (difficult I know with the number of parents and children we have), using the main drive as well as the main pedestrian gate and for those of you who wish to, continue to wear a face covering whilst on site.

Golden Child

I am delighted to share the names of this week's Golden Children, they are:

Year Group	Class	Golden Child
1	Banksy	Jude
	Goldsworthy	Annabelle
	Riley	Bella
2	Asher-Smith	Amber
	Farah	Amber
	Simmonds	Lincoln
3	Adele	Ashley
	Elton	Harley
	Sheeran	Iris
4	Brunel	Ava
	Callaghan	Pinky
	Dickens	Beatrice
5	Dyson	Rose
	Gilbert	Ellie-Joe
	Newton	Flynn
6	Attenborough	Holly
	Churchill	Edie
	Pankhurst	Frankie
	Shakespeare	Nathaniel

They all were chosen as someone who is always appreciative and grateful of what they have been given.

I hope that you have a restful weekend and enjoy the fresh air, ready for another exciting week at Copnor Primary School. Year 2, please make sure that you have everything you need sorted ready for your trips to Queen Elizabeth Country Park.

Matt Johnson
Headteacher