

# Cornerstone Celebration & Communication

January 2016

*Building our Community with Love, Forgiveness and Hope*

*Growing an Exceptional Learning Community*



## Happy New Year

We wish everyone in our school community a happy, healthy and fulfilling 2016.

## Class Updates

### Year R: Hedgehogs

#### **Celebrations**

We had a fabulous half term of partying before Christmas! We have found out about celebrations in different religions and enjoyed a special wedding with Reverend Philippa. We finished the half term with an amazing Christmas celebration; well done to all the children and thank you to all parents who helped with learning songs and provided costumes. We have made a great deal of progress in phonics and reading, so well done to the children and to all families who support with reading.



#### **What is going on in Hedgehogs during this half term?**

This half term, we are planning learning experiences based around the broad theme of 'Once upon a time'. This will include introducing the children to oral stories, initially The Gingerbread Man but also other traditional tales. We will be talking about healthy eating choices and enjoying cooking some foods we like, which may not all be healthy! We will be experimenting with food and looking at changes, both natural and man-made. In maths we will find out about halves and doubles. We will be measuring length and weighing and comparing objects. We are also continuing to work on numbers between 10 and 20; recognising and writing them. We will be trying to write labels and lists and will be planning stories we have learnt. In RE we will be listening to stories Jesus told. In PE we are alternating between dance and multi skills.

#### **Help**

It is really important that you try to remember your water bottle, as it's much easier for children to hydrate themselves independently if they have one.

If any parent or grandparent would like to come in to help at school, we would be delighted to hear from you. Many thanks to all helping mums and grandmas; you make such a difference to the children and to me.

### Year 1: Dolphins

Last half term, the children enjoyed the class celebration, especially being able to talk to parents and other children about their chosen animal. They also liked that people were interested in what they had learnt and that some people came to visit the Class Zoo more than once. The children also loved sharing poems with each other and performing them to children and parents. This then gave them the confidence to find rhyming words and write their own poems.

The children have found Maths exciting and have started to make links between different maths skills, for example counting in 5's on a clock. The children are eager to learn more maths and challenge themselves further.



#### **What will Dolphins be learning during this half term?**

This term, our project based learning is the Great Fire of London. The children have already been enthusiastic about this and want to know more because they watched the videos made by the year one children last year.

In Science we are going to be learning about materials and linking this to the Great Fire of London and how buildings have changed now.

In English we will be looking at writing some non-fiction texts and using some of new knowledge of materials to help us. In Maths, we will continue to develop the skills taught in the Autumn term.

### Year 2: Penguins

The children have enjoyed writing stories using traditional tales as a basis for their own ideas. They have also enjoyed exploring the book "The Tunnel" and think their stories in response to it were great. They have enjoyed the peaceful and quiet start to some of the mornings with their handwriting practice and would like to do more in the future.

Penguins have found learning about fractions very interesting and have enjoyed the challenge of trying more complex Maths. They have also found extra number and counting practice useful when working out Maths problems.



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Making poppies was a special 'candle moment' for the class, when they thought more deeply about what they represent. They also found the Bug Hunt amazing and exciting, and enjoyed reading about and investigating it and exploring different types of birds.

Finally they were very proud of their Christmas Performance and all the effort they put into it.

### **What will Penguins be learning during this half term?**

In Maths, they will continue to develop their understanding and application of place value, number, calculations and fractions.

In Science, they will explore how humans can take care of themselves and stay healthy. They will also investigate food chains and lifecycles of other animals.

Their project will be based on comparing Whiteley and England as a country with an area of India. As part of this, they will be evaluating a variety of woven baskets. This will result in a project celebration: A taste of India.

In Art, they will be investigating the use of colour, line and form in painting. In Computing, they will be developing their knowledge and understanding of algorithms and programming. Finally in PE, they will be working on gymnastics and Indian style dance.

### **Year 3: Dragonflies**

Dragonflies say they have had an epic half term. The highlights were our trip to Butser Ancient Farm, learning about the Bronze and Iron Ages and hosting our own pop-up museum to celebrate our fantastic learning this term. We have enjoyed our RE learning about Angels, fractions in Maths, learning how to wash a woolly mammoth and street dancing in PE.



Our best English learning was based around a mysterious book called 'Tuesday'. We have also become big fans of David Walliams and Michael Morpurgo. It has encouraged us to read more challenging books and we are loving them!

### **What will Dragonflies be learning during this half term?**

This term, we will be learning about tropical rainforests with a specific focus on the Amazon rainforest in South America. There will be plenty of opportunities to develop our geography skills, find out about animals and plants and discover more about life in a South American country.

### **New Permanent Site update**

There have been a number of meetings between the governors' Building committee and members of Hampshire's Architect team and other Hampshire colleagues. The design of the new site is well underway and we have been very pleased with the way that it has been developed in partnership with school staff and governors. Our key aim is to maximise the flexible use of space for the benefit of the children's learning and welfare.

There will be two public consultations run by our Hampshire colleagues at Cornerstone in the New Year. The first will be to gain views on the move to a permanent site, the positioning of this site and to share infrastructure information. The second consultation will be to share the plans for the school building and site before they are sent off for planning permission. We are expecting planning permission to be sought by April 2016, so both consultations will take place before that time.

The build of new Cornerstone is predicted to start in January 2017 and to be complete by Easter 2018. The plan is to transfer into the new building for a start in September 2018.

### **SIAMS Inspection**

SIAMS stands for the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools. All Church of England schools are inspected every 3-5 years. We are due to be inspected at some point during this academic year, but have not been visited so far. The inspection will focus on four key questions.

1. How well does the school, through its distinctive Christian character, meet the needs of all learners?
2. What is the impact of Collective Worship on the school community?
3. How effective is the Religious Education?
4. How effective are the leadership and management of the school as a church school?

Should you have any questions about this process, please feel free to speak to myself, another member of staff or one of the governors.

### **Collective Worship themes**

During this half term we will be exploring the themes of: Community, Forgiveness and Prayer. We will be considering how communities support us and give us joy. We will be re-exploring the theme of Forgiveness as one of our school's Values: with the importance of saying sorry and trying to improve, and the need to forgive ourselves and others. Finally we will be thinking about how we can say thank you, sorry and ask for help through prayer, whoever or whatever we personally think we are talking to.

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## **Cornerstone Rules**

A reminder that these rules were developed with the children during the summer term 2015. They give helpful guidance as to how we live out our Values at Cornerstone. The children have responded very positively to them.

### **Love**

- We are kind, friendly and helpful
- We listen carefully
- We look after our classrooms and school

### **Forgiveness**

- We say sorry and try hard to improve
- We share and take turns
- We include everyone

### **Hope**

- We are cheerful and positive
- We work hard to learn and grow
- We learn from mistakes and problems

## **Cornerstone PTA**

Many thanks to the numerous parents from each year group who give their time, energy and talents to a range of events and projects to support the school. This year, the PTA are fundraising to provide additional outside climbing equipment for all the children to enjoy. If you are able to support our PTA in any way, please speak to Clare Nichols (Chair) or Amanda France (Vice-Chair).

## **Parents' Evenings**

The Parents' Evenings will be taking place on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February and Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February for all classes. Hedgehogs and Dolphins will have an additional evening on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March.

As always we aim to provide you with a detailed update on how your child is progressing in all aspects of their development and school life. However we also try to stay on time, which means 10 minute appointments and we appreciate your support with this.

This year we will be providing you with a mid-year report which will indicate whether your child is on track to achieve the new End of Year national expectations in the different domains of Reading, Writing and Maths. It will also provide you with specific targets for your child to work on over the coming months.

I would like to thank the staff in advance for all the time and care they put into both preparing for and running these valuable evenings.

## **Home Learning**

The aims of home learning are to develop a positive and enthusiastic approach to learning amongst the children and the whole school community, as well as to support the children's academic progress and to strengthen the partnership between home and school. Regular reading, both by your child and you to your child is one of the most valuable and hopefully enjoyable activities any parent can do. However the regular practice of phonics, key words and Maths 'Learn Its' that come home are also crucial in helping children master basic knowledge and skills.

Please remember that you can view our Home Learning policy on the school's website by following this link:

[www.cornerstoneprimary.hants.sch.uk/pupils/home-learning/](http://www.cornerstoneprimary.hants.sch.uk/pupils/home-learning/)

## **Teaching, Learning and Assessment Workshop**

You are hopefully aware that a new National Curriculum became legal for all schools to teach from September 2014, with the exception of Year 2 and Year 6 where it became legal in September 2015.

There are many schools, and indeed the Local Authority Education department who have been involved in much developmental work and shared dialogue about how new systems might work better for the benefit of the children and their learning.

What has become more apparent during the last 18 months is that there have been many changes to the approach required for teaching and learning, not just organising a new system of grades to measure the children's attainment.

We would like to share with you our current position as a school with regard to the changes, and in particular how they may affect the teaching and learning in your child's classroom and the way we are assessing and tracking their progress.

This information evening will take place at school on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> February (7-9 pm).

## **Performing Arts Club**

Mrs Quick and her team have been working hard with the children. The date of the performance of "Eddie the Penguin saves the world" is Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> January. The performances will start at 2pm and 6pm, and are sure to be of high quality and enjoyable for both the cast and audience.

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### **WOW: Walk to School with Living Streets**

Many thanks to everyone for all the support and effort you have been putting into trying to walk, scoot or cycle with your children at least once a week. We know it has a beneficial impact on traffic, pollution levels and most importantly the children's healthy lifestyles. Congratulations to Dolphins class who won the November and December class competitions.

### **Open Library**

Mrs Maguire opens up the library after school on a Friday every week. This allows families to come in and share stories and books together. Hopefully it also gives you an opportunity to see the range of books we have on offer and to suggest other books to your child that they might like to borrow.

### **Writing Anthologies and EPIC board**

As part of our drive to inspire the children to produce exciting and effective pieces of writing, we have started to upload Writing Anthologies onto our website, so that they can feel more like authors having their work published. Even if a piece of your child's writing has not been added, please do find time to look at and read these pieces with them, as it will encourage them to be published in the future.

We have also renamed our writing board in the corridor as EPIC (Excellent Pieces in Cornerstone). Again the aim is to promote high quality pieces of writing, but also the two way process of written communication. Therefore if you are in school, please do read these pieces and leave a positive post-it comment that can be shared with the children. Parents' Evening would be an ideal time for this.

### **Website**

[www.cornerstoneprimary.hants.sch.uk](http://www.cornerstoneprimary.hants.sch.uk)

We update details on our school website on a regular and ongoing basis. Our website is the central place to go for all information including dates, letters and policies. We also linked our Facebook page last academic year, so if you are not on Facebook you can still see the posts through the website.

### **Parent View**

Thank you to everyone who has completed the online questionnaire about your views of our school last year; it was a fantastic percentage of our families when compared to other schools. If you have not completed the form so far, we would appreciate it if you could log on to [www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk) or follow the hyperlink on our website under "Parents".

### **Attendance**

As a school we have to set a target in line with national expectations for the children's attendance, which this year we have set at 97%.

As a whole school, the attendance for the Autumn term was 96.4%

This percentage can be broken down into individual classes. For last term the attendance for each class was as follows:

Hedgehogs: 95%

Dolphins: 97.5%

Penguins: 96.5%

Dragonflies: 96.5%

Our aim is to work in partnership with families to keep children healthy and motivated, so their attendance remains high. The Department for Education repeatedly reference evidence that proves this has a positive effect on progress and enjoyment of school.

### **Facebook and Twitter accounts**

Thank you to everyone who has been 'liking' and commenting in such a positive way to our Facebook posts and Twitter tweets this term. We hope that it is a useful way of sharing the news and achievements of the school.

Please can we remind you that these forums are for celebrating achievements and sharing positives of the school. Many parents will enjoy sharing posts with their children. If you have any concerns or complaints, we would appreciate you coming into school to discuss these with us in person. Many thanks.

### **Staff Updates**

We are saying a sad farewell to Mrs David and Mrs Foxwell who have both been hard-working and valued members of our Midday Supervisory team.

We welcome Mrs Jackie Raper as our new Y3 LSA. Mrs Raper will be working with Dragonflies during the mornings, and has a number of years' experience as a teacher.

Finally Mrs Lamey will be teaching Hedgehogs on Thursdays as well as Fridays this term, to enable Mrs Ross to further support the strategic development and leadership of the school.

### **Staff INSET days**

Staff In Service Training days are extremely important for the professional development of the staff, particularly in a school where we are Growing an Exceptional Learning Community, and have a positive impact on the quality of teaching and learning your children will experience.

The final INSET days for this academic year are on Monday 4 January and Friday 29 January.

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## Dates for your Diary



### **January 2015**

- 4 Jan: INSET day
- 5 Jan: First day of Spring term 1 for children
- 27 Jan: Eddie the Penguin performances 2pm & 6pm
- 29 Jan: INSET day

### **February 2015**

- 4 Feb: Teaching, Learning and Assessment Workshop (7-9pm)
- 12 Feb: Last day of Spring term 1
- 22 Feb: First day of Spring term 2
- 23 Feb: Parents' Evening
- 25 Feb: Parents' Evening

### **March 2015**

- 1 Mar: Parents' Evening (YR & Y1 only)
- 23 Mar: Easter Worship (2.30 pm)
- 24 Mar: Easter Worship (9.30 am)
- 24 Mar: Last day of Spring term 2

### **April 2015**

- 11 Apr: First day of Summer term 1

Please remember you can access term dates for this and next academic year on Hantsweb at:

[www3.hants.gov.uk/education/schools/schoolholidays](http://www3.hants.gov.uk/education/schools/schoolholidays)

Many thanks for your continued partnership and support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Clarke'.

Mr Tim Clarke  
Headteacher

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