

# Cornerstone Celebration & Communication

September 2016

*Building our Community with Love, Forgiveness and Hope*

*Growing an Inspirational Learning Community*



## September welcome

It is a pleasure to welcome back children and families in Years 1-4, and to warmly welcome our new children and families to our Cornerstone community. I hope that you all had an enjoyable and refreshing summer, and managed to find time for some lovely family occasions. The staff and I are very excited about this new school year, as a chance for new learning for everyone and memorable experiences to enjoy. We hope to continue to work in the positive and collaborative way we have in the previous years with yourselves for the benefit of your children.

## Stars class update



We are really looking forward to working with your children and our home visits which we hope you find useful too. We anticipate the children settling really well as they seemed very confident during the induction programme. On the class door it says 'We are the stars watch us shine,' we know that very soon we will all know each other much better and will begin to show our personalities, skills, talents and individuality.

Please chat to us about any concerns when you drop off but be aware that we may have to talk to you about complex issues at the end of the school day. Mrs Gadd and Mrs Jones in the office may be able to help with admin issues, particularly paperwork. Don't forget the "Let Us Know" book for notes of changing routines someone else picking up etc. Our over-arching theme, initially, is 'Marvellous Me'. We are going to find out about our similarities and differences using Super Heroes as a resource to think about what our super powers are.

We will use Letters and Sounds phase 1 to focus in on listening, and speaking, before beginning phase 2 which introduces individual sounds in the following order (s a t p i n m g o c k e u r b h). We will hold a phonics workshop for parents in early October to give you more information about phonics and reading.

Library day will be Wednesday, a book will come home which is borrowed for a week and then returned and changed the following week. Reading books will initially be word free so that you and your child can practise telling the story from the pictures and talking about the characters you meet. We change books on a Monday and Friday. In maths we will talk about numbers we use and teach rhymes to help children, who are ready, to write them.

PE will take place on Tuesday and Friday and we will be getting changed for PE by the beginning of October. In maths we will talk about numbers we use and teach rhymes to help children, who are ready, to write them. Whilst learning about how 'marvellous' we are, the teaching team will be gathering information about your child in order to make assessments. Using pre-school data and your information too we will begin to create a picture which will allow us to plan for your individual child and also create a baseline from which to measure progress. This process is undertaken whilst playing with, listening to and watching the children and is not a series of tests or tasks.

## Owls class update



To start the term Owl class will be looking at new beginnings and how we feel about them and what new beginnings mean. The class will then be exploring maps of the United Kingdom but being hooked in by looking at maps from Disney theme parks. This theme of Disney will support other areas of the curriculum for example in English, writing lists, labels and captions. The children will also be learning Disney songs in music. In science we will be looking at humans and naming the parts of the body and looking at which parts are linked to particular senses.

The children will go on a UK adventure with our Bee-bots programming them to move to specific places in the UK. Closer to harvest the children will consider the concept of celebration in R.E.

We will be focusing on place value and recognising, writing and using smaller numbers to get a solid foundation before moving onto higher numbers and then addition and subtraction in the second part of this half term. Leading into Autumn 2 the children will create some animal prints in art to get us thinking about our science topic of animals in autumn 2. This will be supported through our animal dance in one of our P.E. lessons. The other focus for P.E. will be ball skills. Autumn one will be a busy but enjoyable half term.

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### Turtles class update

Turtles class are looking forward to welcoming and working with Mr Henry Penfold, their new class teacher this half-term. Mr Penfold has already spent time planning some exciting books as hooks for their English learning. In Maths they will be focusing on developing their understanding of Place Value and the four operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division) as well as some learning about fractions and measures.

Their main project is Geography based and is about "Connecting with the World". This will link to their Art work in which they will create pictures of famous landmarks from around the world in different media, and in PE by learning about orienteering (only around the school not the world!). In their computing learning they will be developing their knowledge and skills of programming using Bee-bots and in RE they will be exploring stories about people that Jesus met.



### Leopards class update

To start off the year in Leopards, we will be spending time exploring the concept of Creation and learning how different groups of people believe the world began. Following on from this we will launch our 'Stone Age to Iron Age' project. Linking to the idea of creation, we will use evidence to find out how life changed in Britain in and beyond pre-historic times. Our learning journey will begin in the Ice Age and take us through the Stone Age period from Palaeolithic caves and the Mesolithic period to the New Stone Age (Neolithic). We will eventually start to explore the Bronze and Iron Ages. In science, we will be investigating Rocks, Soils and fossils.

In our writing, we will take inspiration from 'The Great British Bake Off' and Roald Dahl's ' Revolting recipes' by learning to write our instructions for a less appetising recipe book. We will also be using the text and short film 'The Lost Thing' by Shaun Tan as our stimulus for writing. Our maths learning for the first half term will be focused on number and place value, the four operations, problem solving and reasoning, fractions, shape and measures. We will also begin to learn some simple Spanish words and phrases in Year 3. In PE, we will be playing football and netball.

### Ocelots class update



Ocelots class are looking forward to welcoming and working with Mr Sam Batley, their new class teacher this half-term. In English they will be exploring Norse myths, and the stories of "Eric the Viking" and "How to train a Dragon". In maths they will be focusing on further developing and applying their understanding of Place Value and the four operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division). Their main project will be a History focus on Anglo-Saxons, Vikings and Scots. This will include a school trip to Winchester on the 29 September and culminate in a Project Celebration called "A walk through Winchester". In Science they will be studying States of Matter and in Art developing their charcoal drawing skills. In PE they will be playing football and hockey and in RE looking at the concept of Myth in both Sikhism and Christianity.

### Staffing for 2016 – 2017

#### Year R

Mrs Clare Ross (EYFS Leader)  
Mrs Fiona Lamey (Teacher *Thursday / Friday*)  
Mrs Jeannette Hunter (LSA)  
Mrs Fiona Hull (LSA)  
Mrs Ellen Flowers (LSA)

#### Year 1

Miss Emma Leach (Teacher)  
Mrs Emma Patter (LSA)  
Mrs Helen Storey (LSA)

#### Year 2

Mr Henry Penfold (Teacher)  
Mrs Helen Adair (LSA)

#### Year 3

Miss Fran Pretty (Teacher)

#### Year 4

Mr Sam Batley (Teacher)  
Mrs Jackie Raper (LSA)  
Mrs Ellen Flowers (LSA)

#### Office team

Mrs Dawn Gadd (Admin Officer)  
Mrs Christine Jones (Admin Assistant)  
Mr Matt Pleasants (Caretaker)

#### Midday Supervisors

Mrs Cara Jackson  
Mrs Helen Doy  
Mrs Tanya Pearce  
*(Some of our LSAs are also Midday Supervisors).*

#### Headteacher

Mr Tim Clarke

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## Cornerstone Values

Our school Values are: **Love, Forgiveness and Hope**. As a school we have discussed these Values, and with our **Pupil Voice Groups** explored how we show these Values in the way we all behave towards each other. These have been finalised and agreed as our school's **Cornerstone Rules**. We promote these regularly with the children and praise them when they behave in line with the Values.

### **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

## Growing an 'Inspirational Learning Community'

Last term the staff and **Pupil Voice Groups** spent time discussing examples of how we are a community. We then explored how we are all learners in our community and how we can inspire and encourage others to learn and grow. As a school we are now defining this term as:

- **Together, igniting a love of learning**
- **Encouraging and empowering partnerships**
- **Nurturing a Growth Mindset**

This year we plan to continue to grow the ethos of our ILC in practice. This includes working in partnership with parents and families to support the children's wellbeing and learning. Together we hope that we can continue to inspire the children's natural curiosity and love of learning.

## Development priorities for this year

Mr Clarke, the staff and governors have evaluated the progress the school made last academic year and are focusing on the following priorities for development this year.

- 1: The **quality of teaching** in all classes is **consistently good** and **increasingly outstanding**. The principles and practices of the **Teaching for Learning Policy** are further embedded.
- 2: All **learners in every class** are challenged to achieve at least the **End of Year Expectations**, making **sustained progress** and developing **depth of understanding**.
- 3: Continue to develop the learning focused, progressive, creative, engaging and meaningful **whole curriculum**, supported by effective use **Assessment Journeys**.
- 4: Further develop **Subject Leader** roles and their impact.
- 5: **SIAMS** (*Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools*) **Action Plan**.
- 6: **New school** relocation

## Cornerstone PTA

We are extremely fortunate to have such a hard working, dedicated and generous group of parents. Last year they organised and ran a range of exciting fund raising events, and indeed have continued to do work behind the scenes over the summer holidays. The fact that we have the highly impressive **Trim Trail** equipment we have is a testament to their efforts and generosity.

If you have not attended a meeting before or would like to support at events please speak to Claire Nichols (Chair), or any other member of the PTA or staff.

The PTA Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be taking place on **Thursday 29 September 7pm** in **The Parsons Collar**. This meeting is partly about discussing the outcomes of last year, but it is also about starting to plan events for this year. As such everyone, particularly new parents are warmly invited to attend.

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### Home Learning

The primary school years are crucial for developing children's enthusiasm and attitude towards learning and school. They develop key skills and learn crucial knowledge. An important part of this learning journey for your child takes place through our home-school partnership and the time and support you give your child with their Home Learning.

There will be a range of tasks sent home over the course of the year to enhance your child's understanding and I would encourage you to be as involved as you can. We appreciate that everybody has busy lives and it is not always easy to find time. However every time you can support your child's learning, is time well invested.

Home Learning for all classes will be given out on Thursdays and collected in by the following Wednesday.

One of the most valuable things any parent can do is to encourage a daily reading habit and a love of reading. This can include practising key words or sounds, hearing your child read, reading to them, discussing and enjoying books together.

Miss Pretty has designed some new home reading cards for each year group which suggests a range of questions you can discuss with your child when enjoying a book together. We have also redesigned the maths 'Learn Its' with one sheet for each class for each term. Again we would encourage you to spend a few minutes a few times a week focusing on practising one of the 'Learn Its'.

Thank you for your continued support.

### Parent Survey 2016 and Parentview

Thank you to all those parents who responded to our online survey at the end of last term (we received 22 responses). I will send out a separate letter giving more detail about the opinions you gave and how as a school intend to develop our provision based on them. As with any survey there is always a range of responses but some of the key positives were:

91% said their children very much / reasonably enjoyed their year at Cornerstone.

95% said that children, staff and parents show the school's Values very well / reasonably well and regularly / fairly often.

95% said they found communication very or quite useful.

The most popular specific strengths highlighted by the responses were the community feel of the school and the friendly staff.

Thank you also to those parents who took the time to complete Ofsted's Parentview survey last year. The responses only remain 'live' on the system for a year, so again we would appreciate parents finding 10 minutes at some point this year to update their views.

You can follow this link to the website page to share your views:

<https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/login?destination=/give-your-views>

### Trim Trail

We are happy to allow children to use the equipment **before and after school** but it must be clearly understood this is at **parental / families' responsibility** rather than the school's, and they must be **closely supervised by a parent or carer** from that side of the playground at these times. We would greatly appreciate you reminding the children about the following age restrictions, so that they don't get confused by different set of rules.

Pre-school and Year R children use only the original pieces of Trim Trail equipment. Year 1 children can only go to the height indicated by the green ribbons on the Climbing Pyramid and Net Wall, and the Monkey Bars can only be used by Year 2 and older children. It is also important that no children stand on the top 'Crow's Nest' on the Climbing Pyramid. We hope the children enjoy using the equipment as often as our British weather allows and thank you for your support in ensuring the equipment is used safely.

### Performing Arts Club

Performing Arts club will be starting again in September and will be run by Mrs Quick and Miss Pretty. The first show is called "Tatty Bogle" and will be open to children in Years 1-4. Rehearsals will take place after school on Mondays, and the performance will hopefully take place in November. There will be a second show during the second half of the school year for which the children from all classes will be invited to join.

### Other clubs

The following clubs will be starting during this half-term:

Monday: Sewing club Y3-Y4 (lunchtime) Mrs Ross

Monday: Performing Arts Y1-Y4 (3.15-4.15) Mrs Quick and Miss Pretty

Tuesday: Chess and Draughts Y2-Y4 (lunchtime) Mr Clarke

Tuesday: Art Y1-Y4 (3.15-4.15) Miss Leach

Tuesday: Multi-skills Y1-Y4 (3.15-4.15)

Wednesday: Dance YR-Y4 (3.15-4.05) \*

Thursday: Football Y1-Y4 (3.15-4.30) \*

Friday: Family Fun Run Friday 1-100 (8.30-8.45)

Friday: Choi Kwang Do Y2-Y4 (3.15-4.25) \*

Friday: Netball Y2-Y4 (3.15-4.15) Mr Clarke

\*Indicates clubs incurring a charge.

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## **Family Fun Run Friday**

Following the completion of the new Trim Trail last term, the numbers of children involved dwindled hugely. We decided not to pursue Family Fun Run for the rest of the term. However we will restart it this term and it will take place every Friday before school when it is not raining, but also when the field is too wet to open the Trim Trail. As always I would encourage as many children and adults to join in this community activity.

## **Collective Worship themes**

This half term we will be exploring the themes of: Opportunities, Love and Differences in our school and class Collective Worships. In particular when considering the theme of Love, we will return to the children's ideas about why this Value is so important to us as a school and what it means to them individually.

## **Messy Church**

The dates for Messy Church this term are:

**Sunday 2 October** and **6 November**.

Messy Church takes place on the first Sunday of every month, between **4-6pm** at the **Community Centre** in Whiteley. It provides a mixture of craft and other activities, stories and songs and a shared tea. It is a lovely opportunity for families to meet and children to make new friends. Everyone is welcome to attend.

## **Website**

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 upload pictures of the children's learning and trips, and also examples of their writing on their class pages.

## **Facebook and Twitter**

Thank you to everyone who has been 'liking' and commenting in such a positive way to our Facebook posts and Twitter tweets this term.

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

## **Email and text service**

Thank you to everyone who has signed up to the email and text service we use as a school. These are our main ways of communication with families.

## **Communication after accidents**

We would like to improve the way we advise you if your child has received first aid, in school, for a minor accident. We will no longer be sending a note home with your child but will instead send you a text detailing the type of injury and treatment received. For any more serious accidents we will continue to contact you immediately by phone.

## **Office hours**

The school office opens at 8.30 am and closes at 4 pm. If you wish to contact the school outside of these hours please ring and leave a message on the answer machine. We will always endeavour to return your call as soon as possible.

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**Diary Dates: this half-term**

**September**

5 Sept: **INSET day**  
6 Sept: **INSET day**  
7 Sept: First day for Y1-Y4  
15 Sept: Rugby taster sessions (Y1-Y4)  
22 Sept: School photos (individual)  
29 Sept: Y3 Butser Ancient Farm trip  
29 Sept: Y4 Winchester trip  
29 Sept: PTA AGM & meeting (7pm)

**October**

7 Oct: Harvest Worship (2.15pm)  
21 Oct: Last day of Autumn 1

**Diary Dates: further ahead**

3 Oct: First day of Autumn 2  
  
8 Dec: YR & Y1 Christmas Worship (2.30pm)  
9 Dec: YR & Y1 Christmas Worship (9.30am)  
13 Dec: Y2-Y4 Christmas Worship (2.00pm)  
14 Dec: Y2-Y4 Christmas Worship (9.15am)  
15 Dec: Christmas parties (1-3pm)  
  
3 Jan: First day of Spring 1  
27 Jan: **INSET day**  
  
17 Feb: Last day of Spring 1  
27 Feb: First day of Spring 2

Please remember you can access all term time dates on Hantsweb, using the following link:

<http://www3.hants.gov.uk/education/schools/schoolholidays>