

# Newsletter – 19<sup>th</sup> October 2020

---



Dear Parents

We have almost reached the end of our first half term of this academic year. Behind the scenes, lots of things in the daily life of school continue to need to be thought through differently but with a bit of flexibility we continue to move forward. Look out for news of our Christmas plans in the next newsletter.

## **Keeping everyone safe - a message from Simon James, Service Director for Education, Buckinghamshire Council**

We would like to thank you all for working with schools across Buckinghamshire to support the return for pupils. We know that all of you are keen to ensure that schools and pupil 'bubbles' remain open and there is a reduced need for pupils to self-isolate. We currently have over a thousand children within the county who are required to stay at home, and like you we are keen to minimise the impact on pupils and families wherever possible.

You can help with this through ensuring that government guidance is applied in your own lives, and especially when you are at or near your child's school site. Please make sure that you maintain appropriate social distances (2 metres/three paces apart) whilst collecting and dropping off your children and that you maintain hand hygiene before and after touching playground gates etc.

These simple actions, as well as wearing masks if you need to go inside at any time, will help your child's school to remain open and that children do not have to isolate at home unnecessarily. This message is endorsed by Children's Services and Public Health at Buckinghamshire Council as well as primary, secondary and special school head teachers.

## **Microsoft 365**

Our Microsoft 365 learning platform is in the final stages of deployment and should be available after half term. On Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October each child will receive their individual email address and simple password. This will enable parents to log their child into [www.Office.com](http://www.Office.com). In the event of a complete bubble lockdown, this will be the online platform where work will be set by teachers, accessible from home and uploaded by families once completed. We want to embed our learning platform into our school routines for the longer term. We will therefore soon be adding spelling lists and thinking skills to this platform as well as sending them home in children's books.

## **Evidence Me**

This term we also moved to a new online learning journey in Nursery and Reception, 'Evidence Me'. An online learning journey is one of the tools that schools and settings can use to capture a child's development over time in the different areas of learning in the Early Years Foundation Stage. We have now introduced the sharing tool for staff to be able to capture observations of 'wow' moments with parents and carers. We hope that you enjoy receiving these but most of all we hope that this helps us to work more closely with families.

### **Parent Governor**

We have a vacancy for a Parent Governor on our board of Governors. Please see the letter attached from Lee Taylor, our Chair of Governors, for further information about this role.

### **FoTIS pumpkin trail - 24th October-1st November**

If you are looking for a socially distanced activity for your children to do this half term, FoTIS are running a community trail. All children will receive a map and answer sheet so they can find the letters to spell the Autumnal phrases. FoTIS will have collection buckets in the playground again on Thursday 22nd October to collect a voluntary contribution of £1 for this activity. All children who return their sheets to school will receive a small prize. (Please note that it's fine if you only do part of it. It's a long walk!) Huge thanks to everyone who has volunteered to host a letter. It's wonderful to see so many people getting involved.

### **FoTIS Christmas cards**

Do you have a budding artist or are you looking for fun personal gifts to give to family and friends?

Your child will be sent home with card on which they can design an original piece of artwork that can be made into cards and more. For each pack of cards/item ordered FoTIS will receive £1 towards our fundraising efforts for the school.

Please note that bolder colours are better for the finished product i.e. using bright felt tips, glitter glue or well attached collage. The card company suggest you avoid using the following to get a nice clear image: loose glitter or collages, metallic finishes or stickers. It's also a good idea to encourage your child to use the whole space. The artwork needs to be returned to school no later than **TUESDAY 3rd NOVEMBER**. We regret that we will not be able to accept late returns.

**PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT YOU PUT YOUR CHILD'S NAME AND CLASS ON THE CARD (THIS IS MARKED FOR THE TEACHER TO COMPLETE, BUT YOU WILL NEED TO DO THIS) AND CLEARLY MARK WHICH SIDE IS THE TOP (BY PLACING A TICK IN THE RELEVANT BOX).**

This year all artwork will need to be done at home and all payments will need to be made online. If you choose to do this activity, we hope you have lots of fun doing it. We thank you, as always, for your support.

### **Story telling for writing**

This time last year we started to introduce a 'story telling' approach to writing using a key story each half term as the focus for teaching and learning. In delivering this approach we use lots of different activities, many of them based around talk and drama, over several weeks. We start by introducing a story and then develop and deepen the children's vocabulary, their understanding of the story structure and characters as well as developing their use of story language for writing.

In Year 2, the key story for writing has been 'The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch' by Rhonda and David Armitage and in Year 1, the key story has been a re-telling of the traditional tale, 'Rapunzel' by Chloe Perkins and Archana Sreenivasan. In Reception, the children have focused on Nursery Rhymes to introduce some of the story telling techniques such as putting actions to words and making story maps.

Reading the pieces of writing that the children in Year 1 and 2 have recently produced has made my heart sing. The story telling approach gives children such confidence as writers and they have been able to build on their skills from Reception and Year 1. It is great to see the ongoing impact of this in children's work but it's also fantastic to see such creativity and fun in our school again!

### **Virtual tours – children starting Reception in September 2021**

I will be hosting three virtual Zoom tours for parents who are looking for school places in Reception in September 2021. Dates and times are as follows:

*8pm Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October*

*8pm Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November*

*8pm Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> November*

Email the school office [office@turnfurlong-inf.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:office@turnfurlong-inf.bucks.sch.uk) for further details.

### **Phonics Screening Check**

In the summer term of Year 1 all pupils take a government screening test to assess their skills in reading words that are phonetically decodable. These include real words and nonsense words. Due to COVID and lockdown in 2019/20 the children who are currently in Year 2 did not take this screening test. This means that this year the children in Year 2 will take the screening test at some point between half term and Christmas. Please note that, unlike previous years, schools will not be expected to complete the test within a given week. This means that some children will take the test at different times to others.

Year 1 children will take the phonics screening check in the summer term.

Mrs Glen will be delivering a Zoom presentation for parents in Year 1 and Year 2 to explain further about the phonics screening test this year. The link will be sent by ParentMail.

### **Library book amnesty!**

There are still library books missing from being out on loan during the last school year. If you find any at home, please would you return them to the office or the class teacher as soon as possible. Thank you.

**We look forward to seeing you all again for the beginning of the second half of the Autumn Term on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November.**

<b>Dates for the Diary</b>	
<b>November</b>	
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Children return to school
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	1 pm: Zoom meeting re Phonics Screening Test for Year 1
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	2 pm: Zoom meeting re Phonics Screening Test for Year 2
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 am: Zoom meeting for Years 1 & 2 parents re Reading (details to follow)
<b>December</b>	
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Flu vaccinations. Further details to follow nearer the time.
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas party day
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Break up for Christmas holiday

<b>TERM DATES: 2020-2021</b>		
	<b>Open on morning of</b>	<b>Close at end of afternoon of</b>
<b>Autumn Term</b>		
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> half</b>	Monday 2 November 2020	Friday 18 December 2020
<b>Spring Term</b>	Tuesday 5 January 2021	Friday 12 February 2021
	Monday 22 February 2021	Thursday 1 April 2021
<b>Summer Term</b>	Tuesday 20 April 2021	Friday 28 May 2021
	Tuesday 8 June 2021	Wednesday 21 July 2021
<b>Staff Training Days</b>	<i>Monday 4 January 2021</i> <i>Monday 19 April 2021</i> <i>Monday 7 June 2021</i>	