

Headteacher: Andrew Denham

office.3127@standlake.oxon.sch.uk

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March

Dear Parents,

### Remembering Mrs Menzel

We had a lovely afternoon remembering Mrs Menzel and were pleased to see that our time together as a whole school has produced a bright flowerbed and lovely dragonflies in her memory. We will remember Rachel fondly, especially her smile and her love of working with the children.

### Parents' Meetings

You will be able to book Parents' Meeting slots from tomorrow (Friday) at 4.00pm. These will be in person with the class teacher in school. For most children these will be during the **week commencing 28<sup>th</sup> March**. Parents with children on the SEND register will be contacted separately to organise a meeting on either Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> March or Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April when Mrs Pascoe (SENCO) will be in school. Year 6 parents' meeting are during week beginning 21<sup>st</sup> March because they will be on residential the following week.

### School Closure Day

On **Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May** the school will be closed so that all staff can undertake training on a new phonics, spelling and reading programme that we will be adopting across the whole school. We are excited about adopting this new programme, called Read, Write Inc., because it will enhance the quality of teaching and the children's reading and writing learning.

Due to the high demand nationally for the trainers to deliver this training we have not been able to organise it during our regular INSET days and are sorry to any parents to whom this will cause an inconvenience. Please contact me directly before the end of this term if childcare is going to be an issue for you.

### Website

A reminder that your child's weekly timetable is on the website, should you need to check to see what days PE is on etc. You can also look at the Termly Topic Map to find out what the children are learning about. All of these can be found on the Class Page of the website.

### **Parents Online Safety Workshop**

On **Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm** we will be holding this 'Zoom' workshop for all parents and highly recommend you all attend. There are an increasing number of online issues that our children are facing; from some of our youngest (*who might have something 'pop up' while playing a harmless game designed for Nursery and Reception children*) to our oldest (*who are seeing, hearing and experiencing issues with each other and strangers, particularly in those who enjoy 'gaming' online*).

I can't stress enough how important it is that parents are made aware of current issues their child is or is about to face, and how to be prepared to keep your children safe online. As a parent myself, what I thought I knew, I didn't know enough about and what I thought I was doing to keep my daughters safe online, I could be doing more.

The session will be run by Nick Speller, a CEOP Ambassador and 360 Safe Assessor. The session will be packed with information and advice for parents on how to keep their children safe online. You will also have the opportunity to ask questions at the end of the presentation. The session covers:

- The risks of using the internet - online friends, chat, social media, gaming, bullying etc
- Tips and suggestions on how to reduce these risks to keep your children safe online
- Signposting to further resources and information.
- Advice on how to get help if things go wrong.

A Zoom link will be sent out closer to the time but please put **Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm** in your diary now.

### **Attendance**

Please could I draw your attention to the following paragraph in our attendance policy (which has been attached to the letter so you can read it in full): *The school day starts at 8.45a.m. and we expect your child to be in class at that time. Registers are marked by 8.50 a.m. and your child will receive a late mark if they are not in by that time. At 9.00a.m. the registers will be closed. In accordance with the Regulations, if your child arrives after that time, they will receive a mark that shows them to be on site, but this will not count as a present mark, and it will mean they have an unauthorised absence for the morning*

### **Staff leaving and returning**

We are very sad to announce Mrs Nichols (Murphy class) and Mrs Towersey and Ms Gurga (Donaldson Class) will be leaving us during the summer term to begin new career challenges and adventures – Ms Gurga and her family are moving to Kyrgyzstan! Mrs Nichols and Mrs Towersey will be leaving at the end of this term; Mrs Gurga at the end of Term 5. At the same time, Mrs Conroy will be having a phased return to work following her maternity leave. This is how we will be managing the changes:

#### Murphy Class (Nursery & Reception Class)

During Term 5, Mrs Kinchin will be leading the class for most of the week, supported by Mrs Pullin who will be teaching the class on a Monday. We will also have the EPA Early Years Lead providing weekly support in the classroom. During Term 6, Mrs Pullin will be teaching the class 4 days a week and Mrs Kinchin one of the days.

#### Donaldson Class (Year 1&2)

We have appointed Mrs Natasha Sibley as a full-time class teacher for the summer term to see the children through to the end of the year. In Term 5 she will work alongside Ms Gurga - so the children will have two class teachers working with them on a Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. In Term 6, Mrs Sibley will lead the class.

#### Blake Class (Year 3)

For the summer term, Mrs Fleet will be teaching the class for the majority of the week with Mrs Mitchell providing cover on two afternoons of the week. Mrs Pascoe will be returning to her full-time SENCO duties.

#### Morpurgo Class (Year 5)

In Term 5, Mrs Conroy will be teaching the class on a Monday and working alongside Mrs Pullin on a Tuesday. In Term 6, Mrs Conroy will be teaching the class for 4 days a week and Mrs Pullin for one of the days.

The governors and I are aware that change can be unsettling for some but believe the approach we are taking to manage this will ensure there is consistency for the children, as well as provide reassurance for parents. We are very fortunate to have a skilled and committed staff who are all familiar with the ways we work across the school so will be able to quickly adapt and ensure smooth transitions. If you have any concerns about these arrangements, please feel to come and speak to me.

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**Last Day of Term:**

On the last day of term, we will be having our Easter Service in the church at **9.00am**. All the classes will be performing either a song, poem or story. We are delighted to say that parents and grandparents can join us!

After the service the children will be returning to school to learn about some of the ways in which Easter is celebrated in Ukraine, including the traditional art of decorating eggs, known as *pysanky*. Each region of Ukraine has their own design. We will also be using this time to have an age-appropriate reflection on the current situation in Ukraine. Closer to the day we will send out some more information about some donations families can bring into school if they would like to.



School will finish at **1.15pm** which is when the FOSS Easter event will begin.

If you have any questions or queries about any of the information in this update letter, please do not hesitate to come and speak to me.

Kind regards,

Andrew Denham