

# Itchen Abbas Primary School

## 'Growing Hearts and Minds'



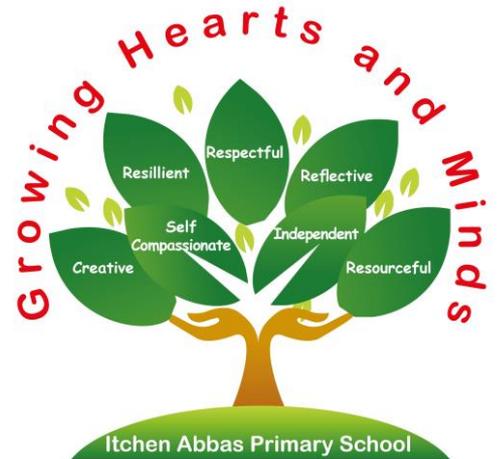
School Lane  
Itchen Abbas  
Winchester  
SO21 1BE  
Telephone: (01962) 779310  
Email: [admin@itchenabbas.org.uk](mailto:admin@itchenabbas.org.uk)  
[www.itchenabbasprimary.co.uk](http://www.itchenabbasprimary.co.uk)

Headteacher: Mrs A. Dear

## Newsletter – 6<sup>th</sup> September 2019

Dear Parents / Guardians

Welcome back! We were very happy to see the children come back to school looking refreshed and ready for the new year. Once again, the children have settled in quickly and well. The school feels calm, happy and we are all ready to learn. You will see on our letter headings and around the school that we have instigated our new school values. The values will underpin what we do in school and our school year starts with a focus on what they mean.



### **Buildings Refurbishments**

I am delighted that over the Summer, Key Stage 2 toilets and staff / visitor toilets have been refurbished. We are really pleased with them! All Key Stage 2 toilets are now gender neutral, in line with the rest of the school.

The Key Stage 2 corridor has been decorated too – it looks very smart! This made way for us to install lockers for the children. All Foxes and Otters have lockers in the corridors and Hedgehogs have them in their classroom; we hope this will help reduce lost property and keep the school looking tidy. The lockers do not lock and children will not need a key or code to access their belongings. Squirrels will continue to use their pegs as we feel this is easier for our youngest children.

### **School Bags, Stationery and Uniform**

We remind you that the children are not to have large school bags and only need book bags in Hedgehogs and Squirrels.

Last year we asked children from year 2 upwards to bring in their own empty pencil case for their equipment. This was very successful and we will continue with it this year. We would like all children (except Squirrels) to continue to bring one named small, fabric pencil case to school. Tins and solid plastic cases are not allowed as they do not fit in our trays. Thank you.

The children all looked very smart coming into school this week. We will be maintaining these high standards. Fleece is for outdoors only and jewellery (except small earring studs) is not to be worn in school. Children can wear watches, but we cannot take responsibility for any damage or loss.

It is essential that all uniform and equipment is named. All lost property is returned to the rightful owner if it is named. We are trialling not having a lost property box this year; we will not be able to store unnamed lost property and therefore ask that all your child's property is named.

Thank you for your on-going support in these areas.

### Homework Changes

Following our reflections and your feedback, we are making some changes to this year's homework system. Curriculum homework is set from year 1 upwards (year R will continue to practise phonics and reading at home please). The green homework boxes remain compulsory, but these tasks are now differentiated. We will continue to set the additional voluntary challenges which will also be differentiated. Rather than listing spellings and number work to each half termly homework sheet, these will now be added weekly to the children's homework books. We hope this will give you more guidance on how to support your child.

### Communication and Routines

Welcome to all our new parents. Getting used to routines always takes a while, if you aren't sure, please ask! Teachers are available to parents after school for a quick chat. If you need a longer time, please talk to, phone or email Mrs Smith who will make an appointment for you. Teachers are not available before school as this is their lesson preparation time. However, if you need to get a message to your teacher before school, Mrs Smith will pass a verbal message on or you can send an email or a note with your child. Communication and working with you is really important to us and with these systems, we can ensure it is effective.

### Car Parking

We are very fortunate to have an agreement that parents can park at the Village Hall for drop off and pick up times. We request that parents do not drive up School Lane for drop offs / pick ups (unless they have a disability or mobility difficulty) as this blocks the road and makes it more dangerous for our families. Thank you.

### Self-Compassion Open Evening

This week we are focussing on being self-compassionate, a powerful tool for resilience. We will be introducing some new ideas with the children and hope they will talk to you about this.

We consider this work essential for children and adults – unless we are able to look after ourselves, we cannot be as productive as we would want. It leads on very well from growth mindset and will support our children's well-being. To explain this to you we have invited Maureen Bowes from People Intelligence to lead an **open evening for us on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October**. Please keep the evening free, we would love all of you to attend if possible. We will provide you with further information soon.

We are very much looking forward to working alongside you and with your children this year and thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Aimée Dear