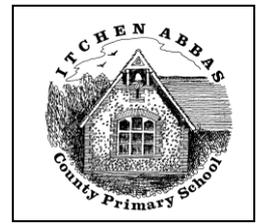


Itchen Abbas Primary School Newsletter

School Lane
Itchen Abbas
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23rd October 2019



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Dear Parents

Thank you for your support this half term. Your attendance at school events has been high: at our self compassion evening, Year R/1 reading and phonics talk, Harvest Festival and Parents Evenings. We really value your involvement and contribution and, of course, your generous donations towards our Harvest, which have been taken to Winchester Basics Bank – thank you.

Self-Compassion

After half term, we are anticipating the first part of our work books for children to arrive from Maureen Bowes. We will begin the next phase of our journey by developing understanding of the vocabulary we use to describe our feelings and emotions. We will think about what the words mean, how those emotions make us feel and what our bodies may do when we are feeling this way (for example, when excited, it may be harder to sit still, when nervous, we may look around a lot and our heart beat become faster). The aim is to help children develop their recognition of emotions and be able to name them ready for the following phase which will be starting to learn about managing the emotions in a positive way.

If you did not make it to the evening or video sessions, it is important you take time to look through the website, <https://whenthetensiongoes.com> as this will give you a good insight into what we will be doing. On the first screen you will see lots of balloons with different emotions in them. Our work is a child friendly version which will look very similar.

Curriculum

Due to our mixed age classes, we run a two-year cycle for our curriculum. Last year we focused on developing our curriculum aims and what we believe are the essentials for our children whilst developing planning for Cycle A. This half term, we have been working hard developing Cycle B of our curriculum. We were delighted that the new Ofsted Framework introduced in September 2019, recognises the importance of a broad, balanced curriculum where children receive quality experiences in all subjects; this reflects our curriculum aims. We want to see children not just learning facts but being able to transfer that knowledge into different situations and apply their learning to solve new problems. Our two INSET days are focusing on the further development of Foundation Subjects with Subject Leaders working hard to plan more exciting learning experiences for your children.

For those of you new to the school, we have attached to our weekly email a copy of our 'Curriculum For Learning' document which outlines the intent of our curriculum, how we aim to implement it and what we expect its impact to be.

We would value your feedback on the children's learning so far; what they have enjoyed / been excited about etc. This helps us reflect on planning moving forward, Thank you.

School Pick Up

At the end of the day, our class teachers will not release your children until they have seen the adult collecting them. We would like to remind you that whilst I am often at the school gate, I am there to talk to parents and children. Whilst I will always stop children leaving the school without an adult, your children are your responsibility once they have been dismissed to you.

Please talk with your child over the holidays to remind them that they need to stay with you in the car park and should not be running around or getting in the way of the children going to the bus. The car park opens to moving traffic at 3.15pm and we ask you all to vacate the car park by 3.10pm. We appreciate your support with this to ensure the safety of all our children. Thank you.

Parking

Thank you to the drivers who have taken heed of our plea not to drive up School Lane at pick off and drop off. We have been alerted by parents of children in our school that the issue still extends to Little Hayes Lane too. Parents are parking in the lane, blocking access to residents' homes and blocking the keep clear areas for emergency vehicles. We ask you, again, to be respectful to our neighbours and be considerate with your parking.

INSET DAYS

A reminder that we are closed on Thursday 24th and Friday 25th October 2019 for our INSET days. We wish you all a happy half term and look forward to seeing you at the normal time on Monday 4th November 2019.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Aimée Dear', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Aimée Dear