

Preesall Fleetwood's Charity School

Newsletter

Friday 1st April



'Trust in the Lord and do good;
dwell in the land and enjoy safe
pasture.'

Psalms 37:5-6

Highlights of the week

- I have received some lovely cards this week thanking us for taking part in St. Oswald's Mothering Sunday service. The congregation love seeing the children and were amazed by their confidence when speaking to an audience.
- Our Year 5 and 6 pupils enjoyed watching St. Aidan's 'Curtain Up' performance this week. It was also lovely to hear that some of our ex-pupils were involved.
- We have been given £250 by Preesall Town Council towards a Jubilee party for the children so we will get planning!



Forest

Next half-term, Oak, Willow and Maple Class will have some extra forest sessions. Oak – 29/4 and 6/5; Willow – 13/5; Maple - 20/5. Forest sessions will be on Friday mornings. Pupils can come dressed in suitable clothes and bring uniform to change into.

School Drop-Off

Please can you try to avoid driving around the hill to drop off your children in the morning? Not only is it unsafe, it also causes traffic congestion. Now the weather is getting better, I would appreciate it if you could park a bit further away and walk the last part of the journey or join our walk-to-school group!

Easter Service

We will be holding our whole school Easter Service on Friday 22nd April at St. Oswald's Church at 9:00 am. Pupils should be dropped off at church from 8:45-8:55 am. (We will still do walk to school from the park).

Parents are welcome to join us. Each class will be presenting a different section of the Easter story.

After the service, we will walk back to school.

(Pre-School will not attend).



Walk To School

We are actively promoting the walk to school campaign both for physical health and better brain function. Since September, a group of us have walked to school every Wednesday morning in all weathers! When I met with the Road Safety Officer recently, he was very impressed! For the summer term we will be walking to school on **Wednesdays and Fridays** and we would love more pupils to join us. It also helps reduce traffic congestion as well as our carbon footprint.

Meet at Preesall Park at 8:25 am from Wednesday 20th April.

Summer Uniform

Pupils may wear summer uniform after the Easter holidays. This consists of red and white checked dresses with white socks and grey/black shorts. Black school shoes must still be worn.

Pupils may wear black shorts for PE.

Year 6 Parents' Meeting

We will be holding a meeting in school on Wednesday 20th April at 6:00 pm. Year 6 pupils may attend.

The meeting will be to talk about the forth coming SATS assessments; arrangements for the Lockerbie trip and planning for the end-of-year events.

Community Jubilee Event

We will be hosting a Jubilee event in the school grounds on Thursday 2nd June which we hope some of you will be able to attend. The event will start at 6:30 pm and the Beacon which we have had commissioned, will be lit at 9:15 pm.

We would like families to bring a picnic and some fizz to celebrate the event. The plan is to have stalls and live entertainment.

If you know anyone who may like a stall, please get in touch with Mrs Adams.

We will shortly be selling tickets for £5 per family which you will need to access the event. Please help us to spread the word.

Lunches

Please use the following link for lunch arrangements— <https://forms.office.com/r/exTQMjtNLL>



Statutory Assessments

This year, all schools will be once again taking part in statutory assessments set by the DFE.

Year 6 SATS will be taking place week beginning 9th May.

Year 2 assessments will be taking place week beginning 16th May. (In Year 2 the overall judgement made is based on teacher assessment; test papers are used to back-up the teacher judgement).

Teachers will ensure all pupils are well-prepared and it is important that pupils are not made to feel worried or anxious. I always tell them that tests are a chance for them to show off and demonstrate how much they have learnt through school.

It is important that pupils are in school as much as possible in the lead up to test weeks so as not to miss out on revision and preparation. For Year 6 pupils, looking at practice questions at home between now and then will also help build confidence.

Year 1 pupils will take part in a phonics screening test in June and Year 4 pupils will have a multiplication check test, also in June.

Our whole school end of year assessment week will be the last week in June.

Swimming

The rest of Year 3 and 4, who did not swim this term, have been split into 2 groups. We have kept the groups fairly small as there are a lot of non-swimmers. The first group will start lessons on Tuesday 19th April (these children have been given individual letters). The second group will go swimming after the half-term holiday in May or added in when there is space.

If your child is a complete non-swimmer it would be useful for them to have some lessons outside school at one of the local pools, to get them used to the water and to start them off with the basics. We currently have a lot of pupils in Year 4 and Year 5 who are non-swimmers.

reminder

Decorated Egg Competition

We would like to invite our pupils from Pre-School to year 6, to decorate an egg in the holidays and bring it into school on Tuesday 19th April. Be as creative as you like!

Judging will take place on Thursday 21st April and prizes will be awarded for the winners and runners-up in each year group.

Dates for your diary:

Sunday 10th April 2022—Mayoral Charity Easter Family Fun Day—Fleetwood

Monday 11th April—Family Chocolate Bingo—Knott End Library (free entry)

Tuesday 19th April—School opens

Tuesday 17th May— Dress Rehearsal (Laura Sandham School of Dance Showcase)

Thursday 19th May—Sports Day

Sunday 22nd May— Laura Sandham School of Dance Showcase, Lancaster

Wednesday 25th May—Young Voices Concert, Manchester

Thursday 2nd June—Platinum Jubilee Community Event at school—6:30pm

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are nearly at the end of the Easter term and as promised I am writing to update you of the main activities undertaken by the Governing Body (GB) during this period. I am delighted to inform you of two new governors who were formally approved by the GB at its last meeting, namely Mr. Lee Hodgett as your parent governor and Mrs. Nattie Wright as a co-opted governor. We hope that they enjoy their time with us and I am sure that they will make a substantial contribution to the progress of the school.

A key focus at this time of the year is the budget and I am pleased to share with you that the financial situation is looking good for the next couple of years and whilst we will still have to be careful, the additional investment that we have made in the last year to help support children's health and well-being and raising standards will continue into the next year and possibly the year after. Undoubtedly this will help improve children's learning opportunities and contribute to raising standards. Formal assessments will take place in the summer term so more on the outcomes in July.

All three sub-committees have met since I last wrote to you and the main focus of their work has been:

- i) Ethos Committee - Collective Worship (Year 6 delivered a whole school worship on thankfulness); KS2 You Tube Carol Concert; reviews of pastoral care, effectiveness of RE provision and global issues related to RE; consideration of the positive comments of a visit by the Diocesan adviser, Jo Snape.
- ii) Curriculum and Standards Committee – School Improvement Plan (SIP) – a comprehensive document covering the full range of the curriculum across the school and setting targets for the year, whilst there is no room for complacency, the evaluation of progress against the targets show that generally, good progress is being made.
- iii) Resources Committee – the early indicative budget and using it to produce the business plan for the next year; upgrading the alarm system, emergency lighting and legionella works; preparing a bid to replace the flat roof; cloakroom remodelling project; H&S; and staffing

Also the full GB met on the 1st March and at which the minutes of the 3 sub-committees were reported for comment and scrutiny. The meeting took 2 hours so I will refer briefly only to the key items which were as follows:-

- * safeguarding – the GB has substantial responsibilities for safeguarding and at this meeting the main task was reviewing our role under 'Keeping Children Safe in Education'. Our view is that the school can be proud of what it achieves in this respect but it must always be the number one priority;
- * general review of standards – pupil performance, mid year reviews and teacher appraisal. Essentially this was an interim review because the key results will emerge next term and be considered at the summer meetings of Curriculum & Standards and the full GB meetings.
- * policy approval – consideration and approval was given to the updated local authority policies mainly relating to personnel. This item is one which appears on most full GB meeting agendas.
- * governor training and development – again this appears as an item on most full GB meetings. Currently there is a lot of activity to ensure that governors are well-prepared and well-supported to fulfil their role.
- * school budget – agreed a means of finalising the budget and reviewing pupil numbers and staffing
- * approval and evaluation of school visits – this also is a standard item and on this occasion reports were received on the excellent skating visit before Christmas
- * school emergency plan – agreed the means of updating and finalising the plan
- * governor links with subject leads – each subject taught in the school has a teacher who is the designated lead for that subject and to whom is linked a governor or small group of governors – progress will be reviewed during the summer term
- * buildings – as above + new play equipment considered and reviewed possibilities of outdoor learning classroom,
- * H&S (health and safety) – a key topic reported both to Resources Sub and the full GB and on this occasion reports were received on training that had been undertaken.

Finally, I would like to ask a favour. It would be good to receive some feedback about this letter. Is it helpful for you to know about the work of the GB? If so, does this letter meet your needs – is it too long, too short, too detailed or not covering the key areas about which you would like to receive our comments. If you could spare 5 minutes to give me your views that would be most helpful. My email address is:

david@sandersconsulting.co.uk

Meantime may I wish you and your family a relaxing and pleasant Easter holiday.

With very best wishes,

David

David Sanders

Chair of Governors