



Newsletter

Thursday 19th October 2017

2017/18 Issue 4

Play Leaders

Our play leaders are doing a fantastic job at lunchtimes providing positive play experiences for children on the Butts. Each day they have run a range of games and popular favourites already are Elephant Football (which doesn't involve feet at all) and Scarecrow Hide & Seek.



Good job everyone!

Thank you everyone for your continued support over this first half-term of the school year. It has been a very busy time and I know we are all looking forward to a bit of a break in school.

Over the half-term we have been collating all your comments and suggestions into our five-year plan and I expect to be able to share some details of this early next half-term.

We have achieved many of the tasks on my list from the start of the year, but continue to have lots to do in our aim for continued and sustained improvements at Fowlmere School and I am looking forward to this ongoing challenge over the coming months!

I hope that we can work hard together to make Fowlmere School the very best that it can be.

School Values

Out of the work undertaken with families, pupils, staff and governors we have identified five core values which will underpin our work at the school. These are:

- Care
- Ambition
- Determination
- Teamwork
- Confidence

Each value will be interpreted broadly, so, for example, 'Care' means caring for each other, but also caring about your work and being proud of your achievements.

Our next task will be to embed these values within the school as a whole: staff, pupils and governors. This will be the focus of our work over next half-term and I'm sure you will hear of them at home.

Goodbye

Today we say goodbye to Josh in Class 3 who, after moving to Chrishall last month, will be starting at Chrishall School after the holidays. We wish him well on the next stage of his learning journey.

After-School Club

After-School Club continues to go from strength to strength and my thanks go to all the staff for their great work in this area. Booking forms for next half-term are now available. If you haven't received one (by email) and would like one, please contact Mrs Compton on ccompton@fowlmere.cambs.sch.uk.

Reminders

- School is closed for Staff Training tomorrow.
- Year 6 Bikeability starts on Monday 6th November – so Y6 children will need their bikes and helmets to Thursday that week.
- Meetings about SATs for Year 2 and Year 6 and about Burwell House for Year 5 & Year 6 are all on Wednesday 8th November.

Congratulations to...

- Loui (Class 3) who shared all his footballing trophies and medals with us last Friday.

With best wishes,
Mr Philip Atkin
Headteacher

PTFA Events

The PTFA are currently very busy preparing the next series of events for the school. Here are some of the highlights...

- **Christmas Fair Meet** – Monday 30th October, 7.30pm, Venue TBA
- **PTFA Coffee Morning** – Thursday 16th November, 8.40am – 10am, School Hall. This is opportunity to come along, meet other parents, chat to PTFA members and see what is happening. And, of course, have a cup of tea or coffee and a little cake.
- **Wine Tasting with Noel Young Wines** – Friday 1st December, 8pm, School Hall. Come along to try some different wines and pre-order your Christmas wine too.
- **Christmas Fair** – Sunday 10th December, 2pm – 4.30pm, Fowlmere Village Hall. Come along for some Christmas games and stalls, a little pre-Christmas shopping and plenty of fun.

If you are able to help at any of these events, especially the Christmas Fair which has a multitude of small jobs which need doing, please contact Angela Mulholland, PTFA Chair. Also, if you know of a company who would be willing to support the PTFA, for example through the donation of raffle prizes, Angela would be happy to hear from you.

If you have any questions, or would like to book an event, please ask any member of the committee or email them at ptfa@fowlmere.cambs.sch.uk.

School Meals

The menu cycle changes to the winter menu after half-term. You should have received a copy of the new menus this week.

Term-Time Holidays and Penalty Notices

As you probably already know, the law about term-time absences changed in July 2013 removing headteachers' previous rights to grant permission for family holidays in term-time. This means that term time holidays are now automatically an unauthorised absence from school. You will probably also know that a legal case brought in the Isle of Wight earlier this year means that the Local Authority can no longer take prior attendance into account when deciding whether or not to issue a penalty notice.

Our Education Welfare Officer (responsible for monitoring attendance) has asked me to write to you to say that **this means that any unauthorised absence from school for three consecutive days or more will be followed up by a penalty notice from the Local Authority**. This currently stands at £60 per pupil per parent (as each parent with parental responsibility carries equal responsibility for school attendance) if paid within 21 days of the notice.

There remains scope in the legislation for headteachers to grant leave in exceptional circumstances, for example if a family needs to attend a funeral or deal with a family emergency, but there is no ability to grant leave for holidays during term time.

If you have any questions, I will endeavour to answer them for you. Failing that, I will be meeting our Education Welfare Officer at the beginning of November and can find out more for you should you wish.

Dates for Your Diary

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| Friday 20th October | School Closed for Staff Training |
| Monday 23rd October – Friday 27th October | Half-Term Holiday |
| Monday 6th November – Thursday 9th November | Bikeability for Year 6 |
| Wednesday 8th November, 6pm | Key Stage 1 SATs Meeting (Y2) |
| Wednesday 8th November, 6.45pm | Key Stage 2 SATs Meeting (Y6) |
| Wednesday 8th November, 7.30pm | Burwell House Residential Information Meeting (Class 4) |
| Thursday 16th November, 8.40am | PTFA Coffee Morning NEW |
| Tuesday 21st November, 7pm | Safer Internet Workshop |
| Wednesday 29th November, 7pm | PTFA Meeting NEW |
| Friday 1st December, 8pm | PTFA Wine Tasting NEW |
| Friday 8th December, 9.30am | KS1 and EYFS Production |
| Sunday 10th December, 2pm – 4.30pm | PTFA Christmas Fair NEW |
| Wednesday 13th December | Christmas Dinner |
| Thursday 14th December | Whole-School Panto Visit |
| Friday 15th December | Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day |