

5 November 2021

Dear Parents,

Much news and information today, plus news from some of our children.

Please would you use my new email address acordingley@fossebankschool.co.uk rather than headteacher@fossebankschool.co.uk in future, that way I can be sure of seeing your emails quickly without wading through other emails.



On Thursday 11th November Years 4 to 6 will attend a Remembrance Service at St John's church for which they should wear school uniform. Poppies will be available at school from Monday 8th November. Mr Tipler thanks all those who have already sent in empty plastic bottles to be transformed into poppies. We do not yet have enough for every child to make a poppy so would be grateful for any more bottles on Monday.

The English Speaking Union: is an international body and we are fortunate to have a Governor, William Glover, who is active in the Eastbourne Section of English Speaking Union. Mr Glover has arranged for us to take part in an exciting *Celebration of Children's Voices* project.

How it works: Every pupil will be made a gift of their own copy of English Speaking Union's *Paddy the Wanderer book*. These books will serve as the inspiration/an illustration of what the pupils are working towards producing. In Year 3-6 each child will produce an e-book that is quite simply inspired by their own interest be that their own pet, environmental topics, their teddy bear, a toy, their hobbies etc. The topic of their story will be determined by discussion between the teacher and the pupil. All e-books, including the story and the attendant artwork will be completed by April. It is planned that the winning entries in each year group, along with any commendation certificates, will be presented to the pupils at the annual Fosse Bank School Prizegiving Celebration.

Having told the children in Years 4, 5 and 6 about this project I know many of them have already been thinking about the subject they wish to write about. This will be launched at Fosse on 19th November with VIPs here meeting the children. It will be announced in the Telegraph.

All the children from Reception to Year 6 have a packed timetable starting at 8.50 am and Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 usually have their phonics lesson at this time. We are finding that some children are a little late to school, causing that essential lesson to start late which is not a great start to the day.

Snow! Yes I know this is not imminent but we have a plan. If there is snow many staff and most children can get to school it will be open. However should the school **have** to shut this is what we are proposing. Pre-covid we had optional work on the website for the children if the school was shut. However, now we are all Zoom users, and knowing that snow is rare and to be savoured when it happens, we intend to have the first day as a play in the snow day. On any following days there would be a mixture of Zoom lessons and work set for children to do independently.

We had a good number of prospective parents at our recent Open Day and Open Week. I must commend Eric and Darcey from Year 6 who came to school on the Saturday and showed some of the parents round the school. As some parents sent in applications the very next day Darcy and Eric obviously did a splendid job. Prospective parents who came to see the school this week said they were much impressed by the many children from all years who said a cheery hello to them as they passed through the entrance hall and this influenced their view of Fosse. Their daughter will be joining the Reception class in September.

You will be receiving an update early next week about the proposed new buildings for the school and we are arranging a meeting at Fosse where you will be able to see more of the plans and be able to ask questions of the developers. I am delighted to have reached this stage as it has been so long in the planning. We love the school as it is, and we would never want bigger numbers in each class or to lose the family ethos that we have now, but it would be good for the school to have more modern facilities.



Children in Need is 19th November but we will celebrate this on 18th November as we need the children to be looking smart for the English Speaking Union event on the 19th. The children are invited, in exchange for a donation to Children in Need, to wear their own clothes but including something sparkly, this can be a major sparkly event; hair gel, sparkly clothes etc or a token sparkle. Please do not buy anything specially for this!

From Y6 prefects: Benjamin, Frances, Josie Laurence and Samuel:

We will be running a stationery shop in school called 'Super Stationery and Terrific Treats! It will be open on Tuesday and Thursday break times for Year 1 to Year 6. We are doing this so we can learn how to run a business and the younger children can learn about money. Items cost between 10p and £1.50. Any profits will go to a charity and we have chosen Folly Wildlife Rescue which is a local charity near Tunbridge Wells that helps animals.



Reception Class have been learning all about Diwali this week. They made diva lamps out of clay and decorated them beautifully. They also had fun designing colourful rangoli patterns and talked about how this exciting Festival of Lights is celebrated around the world. "We made Diwali lights." "I'm drawing fireworks!"

Best wishes,

Alison Cordingley.

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