



Northlew and Ashbury C of E Primary

Parents' Forum – Monday 13th June 3:30-4:30pm

Agenda:

Curriculum

- Updates for the wider curriculum

The base curriculum is supporting the deeper understanding of the wider curriculum. Greater emphasis is being spent on the curriculum content looking particularly at subject specific knowledge and vocabulary. Our retrieval sessions at the beginning of every lesson help to support the children to learn and remember more. The final outcome tasks also demonstrate what the children have grasped and understood across the complete 6/7-week unit of learning.

- Texts that teach and development of talk for writing/grammar/spelling

We continue to use Babcock texts that teach to develop writing in English. This was affected during the pandemic and children have been focusing on developing their stamina for writing as well as exploring a wide range of genres. The texts expose the children to high quality language rich vocabulary and support staff to enable all children to become confident in a particular area of writing. We also use no nonsense grammar and spelling to support the writing progress.

- EYFS outside space and developments

Staff in class1 have explored how to utilise the outside space for all children. Looking at the new EYFS curriculum, staff have rearranged the zones of learning for the children to ensure that a wide range of activities can be explored in the continuous provision. We are continuing to pursue the development of a wider space in the playground for bigger pieces of equipment. The children are making use of the mud kitchen already in place in the playground during break and lunch times.

- Wider outside learning space and developments

Children are thoroughly enjoying the wider curriculum outdoors. Mrs Simmons provides weekly forest school sessions for all the children across all year groups. These opportunities are used to build relationships, develop communication skills as well as strengthening team building skills. We are very fortunate to have such wonderful outside space and our school council group are continuing to develop how the spiritual area is being used by the children. Our wildlife champions have also created a range of bug homes around the forest school shelter.

- Specialist provision for MFL, music and PE

Madam Jordan discussed how successful the French sessions that she is teaching weekly are for all Key stage 2 children. She has received some funding to trial an online language package and Northlew and Ashbury is part of the pilot schools. If this is successful, then more funding will be sourced to support other schools within the DMAT. In September Key stage 1 children will be introduced to French through a variety of songs. Our development of music has been supported through the voices foundation and the children are looking forward to putting on a performance for parents at the end of term. Mr Pugh continues to develop our PE provision with CDP opportunities for all staff.

- Mental Health Awareness - development groups and check in sessions

Mrs Lee has led on the development of children's mental health and awareness of feelings and emotions this year. Next week, the children will be completing a questionnaire. Staff will gather the information to monitor the impact of check in and check out discussion groups are having on the children. Parents have asked if they could have information on the activities the children will be completing. Mrs Lee will share these in next week's newsletter.

- Reading/book group to begin in the autumn term

In September our librarians will be promoting the love of reading through our book groups. We hope to provide opportunities for the children to meet with children from Boasley Cross over teams to discuss the books they have read. Links will be made with Plymouth book groups.

Parent Training

- Parent workshop for this half term on our new phonics program RWi (Read, Write Inc)

Miss Atkinson will be running a parent workshop on Monday 20th June from 3:30-4pm in class 1. The workshop will focus on how the new phonics program is delivered and useful support videos for parents to watch with their children at home. Everyone welcome.

- Maths workshops for the Autumn term

As we continue to look at reasoning and explanations across the maths curriculum, we will plan to lead some parent workshops to support with maths language and development at home. More information about this will be shared in the autumn term.

- Grammar knowledge organisers developed for year groups/key stages

We know how well the children use their knowledge organisers to support them with the wider curriculum. We hope to create our own knowledge organisers which focus on the wide range of grammar aspects taught throughout both key stages along with examples of how they are used in a context. These will be shared with parents to support with home learning.

Other News

- After school provision for new academic year in September

Staff are currently speaking with the children to organise the after-school clubs for the Autumn term. Some of the clubs have been poorly attended and therefore we could not continue to run these clubs (dance club for example). Following discussions with the children, we are looking at a range of clubs, not just sports based to offer a range for all children. Mrs Cook will also speak to after school leaders to ensure that the behaviour policy is being followed as some children are there but don't really want to be there and their behaviour can spoil the club for others.

- PTFA support with the curriculum

Our PTFA have paid for the first aid training that the children will be taking part in next week. We have also looked into a trip to the Eden Project that will be funded by the PTFA. Unfortunately this has been completely booked up this term. We will look into this for the autumn term. Staff will be coming along to support the duck race.

- Wildlife Champions interactive Day - Wed 15th June

This is an opportunity to bring all the wildlife champions together from across the trust primary schools. Letters have gone out to all our wildlife champions. We are looking forward to the visit and will have a range of photos to share with you in next week's newsletter. Any questions about the visit please see Mrs Cook.

- Festival off Hope -Celebration across all trust primary schools - week beginning Monday 4th July

This will be an opportunity for all our trust primary schools to come together through sports activities and competitions as well as art and music performances. Dates have been shared in the newsletter and discussed with children.

- Residential meetings

A reminder of the dates for the key stage 2 residential meetings (these are also available on the weekly newsletter). Thank you to those parents who attended the parents meeting on Wednesday 9th June - year 4 and 5 residential meeting, Thursday

16th June - year 3 residential meeting at Boasley Cross and Wednesday 29th June - year 6 meeting at Bridestowe Primary. We are so pleased to get the children together for the residentials, following covid restrictions over the last couple of years.

- Reports to parents

Reports will be sent home with children on Friday 15th July.

- Weekly celebration assembly and fortnightly book and biscuit sessions

We are pleased to continue to welcome parents into school for our book and biscuit and celebration assemblies on a Friday afternoon. The children love to share their learning with parents and parents can explore the range of activities the children have been exploring throughout the curriculum. Our school values will focus on Friendship as we look at welcoming our new reception children into school and prepare to say our goodbyes to our year six children.

Vision and Values of Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust

- Trust Values

Mrs Cook explained the rationale and mission that underpin our Trust values.

To provide the highest quality of education for all local children to ensure that children from all backgrounds are able to succeed

The values of self-help, self-responsibility, solidary, democracy, equality and equity are installed within our primary schools. We strive to serve the community of Northlew and Ashbury and all children who attend the school.

- School Ethos and Values

Our Christian values are interwoven in everything that we do at Northlew and Ashbury. The values provide the children with opportunities to reflect and review the decisions that they make daily and how they impact the behaviour and attitude of others around them. The children can talk confidently about the values and share good examples of these with each other.

- Behaviour policy - practices and procedures

Our 'yes please' behaviours are rewarded with gold stars and certificates that recognise their positive contributions to school life. Children feel a sense of pride that they are having a positive impact on the school and others. When a child displays a 'no thank you' behaviour they are given a warning as a reminder. If their behaviour continues, they will have their name on the board. At all times the adults are working alongside the child to support them to make the right decisions. If this is not successful, then the child would miss their next break/lunch time to complete a

reflection sheet. This time away from other children would allow the child to talk through the behaviour and adults to support the child to make the right decisions if the situation was to arise again. If necessary, depending on the behaviour incidents, parents will be contacted and further actions would be taken.

- Restorative approaches to behaviour - rewards and sanctions

Our restorative approaches to behaviour provide opportunities for children to understand how others feel for the decisions that they have chosen to make. The restorative conversation happens after the event when everyone has had time to review their actions. By listening to each other and the impact their behaviour has had on others, the restorative approach supports children to see the incident from another perspective. In doing so children learn to build relationships founded on mutual respect and honesty. Staff are continuing to develop the support and guidance for all children at Northlew and Ashbury.