

CONIFERS PRIMARY SCHOOL



November 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

I know that we officially call this term autumn, but I can't help feeling we are well and truly into our winter. Still, lots of festivities to plan for and hopefully the joy of these will help dispel any winter blues.

It seems like a long time ago, but it was a pleasure to welcome so many of you to our Parent Evenings, and thank you to all of you who took the time to answer our short questionnaire and provide feedback comments. Once again, we received approximately two hundred replies, all of which were very positive. Only two left without the information expected - and as a school, we will ensure that parents and carers are given the information both promised and required. To this effect, we have ensured our 'Planning Clouds' are up-to-date on our website, which explain to you as parents, what the 'Topic of Study' will be for the term and how the various curriculum areas will support your child's learning and development. The 'Planning Clouds' can be found by following either the 'Pencil Links' from our 'Home Page', or using our drop-down menu from 'Our School', 'Curriculum', and then using the 'Year Group' box of your choice.

May I take this opportunity to remind parents and carers that the Parent Evening questionnaires are anonymous, so if, in the future, you disagree with something the school is trying to achieve, please do use the 'comments box' to express why, in order to allow us the chance to address any issues you may have. Thank you to those who did take the time to add comments and provide feedback, which we will endeavour to action where we can. Once again, myself, staff and Governors were pleased to read many positive statements such as: 'Great staff, both new and old', 'Love the school, always there to support the children and parents', 'Very happy with my child's teacher, lots of positive feedback', 'My daughter is new and the support and encouragement she has received is outstanding'. So thank you again to all who attended and took the time to share their thoughts.

Our second 'new' residential, a stay at Hooke Court for our Year 4 children was completed in October, and I am very happy to say, that, as with our first new residential, a stay on Dartmoor for our Year 6, it was an amazing success. I know many parents and carers have had the opportunity to learn more about the trip in an assembly presented by the Year 4 children and there are some photographs and a few words from Miss Frampton and Mrs Treble in the forthcoming pages.

Our residential to Carey Camp was also completed, and although this was the last we will be running from Conifers, as we believe our new residential trips offer deeper experiences for the children and represent better value for money, the children still enjoyed the opportunity to avoid sleep and keep our staff awake all night! More on this later, from Miss Worley and Miss Jones.

We also had our first ever 'House Day' in October, which again, was a roaring success. You may remember from my last newsletter, that our 'House Days' are events, run every half term, where children from each House - Dragon, Pegasus, Gryphon and Phoenix compete against each other in various activities such as sport, art, puzzle solving or, as in our first 'House Day', Bridge Building. Each 'House' was mixed, with children from



Year 1 to Year 6 working together to build their bridges and then, collectively, the best bridge, built by their team was 'pit' against the other Houses. These bridges, (all of which were built using the same materials, in this instance, paper) were tested to see which one held the most weight and the House Cup, for this event, was awarded to Pegasus, well done to them!

Our PTA - Friends of Conifers, have been busy once again making their mark with fund raising ideas and events and have spearheaded Christmas activities for both the children's enjoyment (and perhaps yours.....) and as a way of earning some extra income for the school. A huge thank you to them, for their time and effort.

To end, I would like to officially welcome Mrs Frost to Conifers Primary, as our new receptionist. I am sure many of you have already met her, and for those of you who haven't, she's the one with the smile, who sits closest to the front doors and is always happy to help in any way she can. Other staffing news requires us to say congratulations to Mrs Treble on the announcement of her pregnancy and for us to extend a warm 'welcome back' to Mrs Dalby, who re-joins the school next week, after an extended period of absence.

My thanks to the staff for all their hard work this term and to you as parent/carers, for your support of the school.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas.

Yours sincerely

Mr A Johnson
HEADTEACHER



Pudsey Visit - Year 1

All our children really enjoyed our visit from Pudsey Bear!!



Impact Day - Year 3

Year 3 have really enjoyed their topic on the Stone Age. We had a lovely impact day using the forest school area and have been learning what life was like through writing a diary entry of a child who travels back in time.

Miss Frampton - PE and Sport

Thank you to all the children who have attended clubs this year, the week beginning 27th November is the last week of clubs until the spring term. We will send out re-start dates and new letters in the Spring term.

Our netball teams have enjoyed a successful season in the local schools league, our year 6 have managed to secure 3rd place after winning three matches and losing only two. Our year five team have showed perseverance and resilience against Year 6s in division two, they have improved massively and are looking forward to winning some games next year.



The girls football team travel to the county finals on Friday 8th December in Bournemouth, we wish them lots of luck!

As always a huge thank you to the parents who support the children and provide transport to sports fixtures.

Year 4 - Mrs Treble and Miss Frampton

Back in October Year 4 went on a residential to Hooke Court for the first time. Last month we invited year 4 parents into school so the children could share their memorable experiences with them. Singing songs, sharing stories and reminiscing the fun activities was such a positive experience for the children. We would like to thank parents for giving up their time to come and share the fun with us. The children thoroughly enjoyed sharing the exciting activities available also to our current Year 3s who will get the opportunity to enjoy the fun at Hooke Court next year.



Trimtrail

All parents - please do not let your children play on the Trimtrail before, or after school, this is for Health and Safety reasons, thank you.

Christmas Fair

Tomorrow Friday 1st December is the Christmas Fair. Please come along and see Santa in his Grotto. There will be raffles, teas, coffees, cakes, gift Tombolas, Alcohol Tombola and lots more. This is also our Team Day and children can wear **non-uniform for a donation of £1**, thank you.

School Crossing Patrol

We would like to welcome back Mrs Siddons, our School Crossing Patrol lady.



Hot School Meals

New menus for the Spring Term will be sent home next week. Please remember that meals must be ordered online by **Monday 14th December**, for the first week back (3rd January). If you have any problems ordering or have no access to the internet please contact the School Office who will be happy to help you.

Parking

Last week yet again has seen a near miss outside of the school. There were cars all along the double yellow lines opposite the school junction, and then opposite the zig zags, (left side of the school) there was another car parked in the direction towards Fiveways. Please can I ask you to be extra vigilant and considerate whilst parking your car when picking your children up. The Governors of the school are giving this issue high priority and are monitoring the situation closely.

School Nurse

The School Nurse is in school tomorrow (Friday 1st December) from 2.45pm, this is a drop in so if you have any concerns at all about your child, please pop in and have a chat with her. There is no need to make an appointment

School finishes on Friday 15th December 2017 at 1.30pm and reopens for children on Wednesday 3rd January 2018.

