

CONIFERS PRIMARY SCHOOL

1st February 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

With 2018 having started in earnest, the children have settled down to the 'nitty-gritty' reasonably well, after the excitement of Christmas - all of which seems a distant memory. The weather may have been grim and it feels as if it's rained every day since the 1st January, but the children have continued to show enthusiasm and determination towards their learning, which certainly helps diminish those January blues.

A quick reminder that if you would like to 'keep a track' of what your child is learning, all Year Groups have posted their 'Planning Clouds' on our website, which can be accessed by following these links; from the Home Page, click on the coloured pencils which denote your child's Year Group, and then on the Planning Cloud icon, or, using the drop-down box from the top of our Home Page, click on, Our School, then Curriculum. Choose your child's Year Group from the menu on the right-hand side of the page, and then, again, simply click on the Planning Cloud icon. I am hoping that your child has already shared their learning experiences with you however, if they remain tight-lipped about this, the clouds will help you both support and question them on their daily activities.

Staying with our Curriculum, Year 6 have started their after school booster classes. This is in preparation for their SAT's, which is week beginning Monday 14th May. These sessions are intended to consolidate knowledge, boost confidence and tackle any misconceptions that the children may have regarding their SAT's.

Our Team Days have been running for almost a year now and our House Afternoons for just over one term. I wanted to take this opportunity to remind you of the rationale for these events and how, in the future, we intend to both publicise and promote them through our website.

We first trialled our 'Team Days' last year, in which we shuffle the entire school, from Reception to Year 6, and then consider topics from a British Values angle. Having children work together, across the entire age range has been a pleasure to watch as both the nurturing and supportive ethos of the school is readily demonstrated by them. Due to the success of these days, we have now incorporated them into our yearly timetable and aim, as much as possible to hold them on the last day of each half term. Our next one will be Thursday 8th February. The children's focus for this day will be 'The Chinese New Year'. This extra-curricular activity allows children to explore and learn about the beliefs and faiths of other people in the world, through our own consideration of British Values, of mutual respect and tolerance.

Now to our House Afternoons. Each half term, we will hold an event or 'House Afternoon' where the children in each House - Dragon, Pegasus, Gryphon and Phoenix will compete against each other in various activities such as sport, art, puzzle solving

or, as in our first House Day, Bridge Building. Our second House Afternoon had us pitching children against one another to build the most robust snowman and our third, run very recently, was used to ascertain which house has the best orienteering skills. The House cup is awarded to the winners, each half term.

As previously stated, we intend to publicise and promote these extra-curricular activities far more than we have to date, and will predominately use our website to do so. We are in the process of designing the format for this and will obviously keep you in the loop regarding developments.

To end, you no doubt remember my mentioning Mrs Treble's exciting news, in respect of her forthcoming journey into motherhood. Well, I am happy to say that Mrs Dalby, recently returned to school, will be covering her maternity leave, which means the children will be taught by a familiar face and someone who already knows the school. I know this will ease any concerns that you and/or your child, may possibly have had.

Don't forget School finishes on Thursday 8th February and children return to school on Monday 19th February.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mr A Johnson
HEADTEACHER

School Council

The School Council have been busy this term, focusing on different priorities on the School Development Plan.

Focus 1:

Target: Quality feedback and target setting

Action: Embed AFL expectations across the school

The first task for the Key Stage 2 School Councillors was to check through a selection of English, Maths and Topic books and give feedback to the teachers about how well the children and teacher give feedback to each other and how well the children know what they are learning. The children checked the books using success criteria and wrote comments for the teachers.

The children worked really well together and took the job very seriously. The children confidently looked through the books and were able to identify strengths and improvements to feedback to the teachers.

Focus 2:

Target: Establish a THRIVE culture to improve behaviour

Action: Regular THRIVE assemblies and feedback



The Key Stage 1 School Councillors have written a playground charter for behaviour at playtime to ensure everyone has the right to play safely. The children presented the charter to the whole school in assembly. This is the charter created by the children. It has been shared with the staff and children.

Rights & Responsibilities

Right to play and have free time.

Responsibilities:

- Use the equipment safely
- Use kind hands, feet and words
- Be kind and friendly
- Listen to adults and children
- Only play in areas where it is safe
- Play safe games agreed by the school

THRIVE at Conifers



At Conifers, we are using the THRIVE approach to support all children's emotional and social learning throughout their school day. We do this during lesson time, break times, in one to one or group sessions, ELSA sessions and through our work in the THRIVE base.

At Conifers, THRIVE isn't just an intervention for just a few children, we consider it to be a whole-school approach. We believe that all behaviour is communication and that communication needs to be understood and supported. Thrive feeds into everything we do; Star Writer & Star Mathematician assemblies, ClassDojo rewards, getting to know everyone and their families, sharing all achievements (not just academic ones), celebrating our diversity, our school learning charter and of course learning time.

6 members of staff are THRIVE Licensed Practitioners;

- Mr Johnson
- Mrs Roper
- Mrs Hutchinson
- Miss Frampton
- Mrs Glover
- Mrs Newport



If you want to know more about THRIVE, do visit the THRIVE Approach website; www.thethriveapproach.com or visit the school website to learn more about the THRIVE approach and our school THRIVE base or speak to a member of staff.

Lunchtimes

Any rubbish will be thrown away in the hall. Any uneaten food will be taken home so that parents/carers can monitor what their child has eaten at school.

Friends

This year the Friends are busy raising funds for our new nature area. The total cost of this is £4226. They are planning a cake sale after school on Wednesday and Thursday of next week. If any of you would like to donate some cakes please bring them into school on Tuesday or Wednesday morning, thank you.

Here are some of the funding requests that the Friends have granted this year.

Phonic resources, Panto trip, School Party Day, Wooden Dolls, Games, E-Safty, Tea, Coffee and Mince pies for the Carol service.

This amounts to £1122 donated already since September. A big thank you to them as all the children benefit greatly from this fund-raising.

After School Clubs

We have a number of after school clubs on at the moment; please take a minute to look on our website, where they are all listed or pop into the School Office.

Parking

Please be mindful when parking outside of our school. This week 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.

Lost Property Sale

Don't forget there is a Lost Property Sale the first Monday in every month, the next one is Monday 5th March, 3.15pm, outside the Rainbow Room. Come and grab yourselves a bargain!! This time Mrs Poolman will be selling ex library books as well to raise funds to buy more books for Library!



Please remember to name your children's clothes; we get so much in lost property and nothing is named.

PE & Sport at Conifers

The new spring term means new and returning clubs for the children, I currently have places in Netball Club on Monday for KS2. The KS2 Gymnastics club, KS1 Multi-Sports and KS2 Football clubs are full; however, there is a waiting list in the office. Can I remind parents that children need to consistently attend clubs to keep their place, if a child misses two sessions with no reason, your child will lose their place on the club.

The Girls Football Team travelled to Bournemouth for the county finals before the Christmas break, they all represented the school well playing against some tough teams from all over the county. We are very proud to say that we have the 7th best girl's football team in Dorset!

It's a busy term of events, with the High5 Netball Rally, Nash Cup, Tag Rugby, Orienteering and Swimming galas. Please check your emails for consent forms as we are trying to move to an electronic system.

I am very much looking forward to receiving all of your Healthy Selfie photographs for our new competition; February's prize is a family swim!

Miss Frampton
PE Leader



