

Minchinhampton C of E Primary Academy

Newsletter

Newsletter Number 2: Autumn Term

Friday 13th October 2017

NEWS:

Ofsted

So- there it is! Most satisfying of all was that, within minutes of the Ofsted team leaving, the conversation amongst staff had moved on beyond their visit and into discussions about developments and initiatives in school that we feel passionate about, and which have absolutely no relevance to Ofsted and their tick lists. As I said- I haven't got an axe to grind about the existence of Ofsted per se- I simply question their worth when they come so rarely. The shocking truth is that I got more out of the half hour conversation (mentioned above) with my staff- that's more in terms of in depth evaluation and pertinent next steps- than I have from the entire Ofsted report. Their report is positive enough- it's fine- it's just not very forensic, inspiring or meaningful. I said to them just before they left- 'Come back every 6 months and work with us and then we could really make a difference.' Schools (like children when they're given the chance to voice their thoughts) are quite capable of self-assessing- what they hanker after is the opportunity to work alongside wise and experienced people (we have to hope and assume the majority of inspectors are this and possibly even we teachers on a good day) and continue developing.

Mental Health

A few of us have been on mental health training recently. This is a recent push by government and well over-due. We will be following this up with whole staff training in March. For a bit of inspiration, please watch Eleanor Longden on Ted Talks. Key for me is just how much people 'judge' others who are struggling with their mental health; this despite the fact that we are all on a mental health continuum and all struggle sometimes. As always we need empathy (not sympathy); and to be listened to (rather than told)....effectively we need a bit of love. We are aware and we do try at school but there is so much more we can do. Our aim must be to make ourselves a place where people feel understood; where there is the space for healing and people's self-esteem is maximised.

COMMUNICATION

Please note that as of today – it is safe to update your own diaries from our parent calendar. However, as always, look out for any changes/ updates in this section of the newsletter.

-Please check year dates – they have recently been altered

-Please note **harvest produce** in for harvest assembly next Wednesday

TEXTS:'I have realised the importance of looking carefully.....when we created our maths book, we learnt again the value of 'sticking at it'....every time I surprise myself with the quality of my work it chips away at my self doubt-I have made some in-depth deductions about a fascinating artefact...

LEARNING

Ofsted

Nice moments (before I lay it to rest):

Words like:-
compassion, empathy,
understanding, sprinkle of
brilliance, inspiring them,
warm relationships, high
quality books.

I do here solemnly promise
that we will earnestly
engage in the report's
findings, the more so where
they strike a chord with our
own ongoing evaluations.

Now on with the job!

INSET next week

We are intent on building
our knowledge and
understanding of SEN--staff
training next week will be--
'Autism level 2'

SCHOOL PRACTICE

Reading

Please recall my previous letter
when I stated I would be insistent
about children reading for 10
minutes a day at home and this
being recorded. I will be popping
into classes and will expect to see
reading records/ home-school
books filled in on a daily basis---
all I want to do here is help pupils
read regularly— I will always
understand individual
circumstances. That said I would
ask that all of you at home run
with the spirit of this thing and
make a big effort to keep it going.
10 minutes (particularly in the
absence of other compulsory
homework) is really not very
much to ask and yet is, to my
mind, so important. Yes, it is a
system—and all systems can rile
the individual in us- but when it
concerns a habit so intrinsic and
is ultimately so reasonable a
request, I would ask that
everyone comes along for the ride
with the rest.

POETS CORNER

'Let's get Ready to Crumble'

This term I started cookery club with
Mrs Legg,
Flour, sugar and eggs,
Mixing bowls, cutters and aprons we wear,
Following recipes for puddings we share.

How excited we were when Mrs Legg said,
We could do apply crumble today instead,
One group set off to do the topping,
Flour, butter and sugar were rubbed into
Bread

I'm glad I didn't do the shopping.

The other group dealt with the apples
Slicing and peeling to make a base
Once in the tray the topping was added
It looked so yummy,
I had a smile on my face.

I took it home to family G
And they devoured it all with their tea.

The Sound of the Sea

The sound of the sea whistled,
Overlapping the sound of crashing.
The sound of the sea wind
Bustled through rustling litter,
The sound of the sea raced,
Rushing as the waves smacked
the sand,
Then disappearing under the sand,
The waves rolled backwards
Collecting treasures as they began their
journey.

REQUESTS-: Please remember previous:::no pens ::no nuts :::

Concerns

Please feel free to email the school if you have any concerns
about school policy or practice. I would rather this than the
Facebook page. I understand that very often the answer to a
query or a concern can be found from other parents and that
this is most often the only aim of putting it up there but please
consider possible impact on staff when this happens.

Pens and pencil cases

Please a reminder to you all that the children should not be
bringing in pencil cases this term and/or pens of any kind
from home. We must insist on this for the health and safety of
one of our pupils. If you have any queries don't hesitate to
contact me