

## Newsletter 6: 2019 20

Dear Parents/ Carers

### Vision

#### THE VISION:

We cherish all the people in our school  
Our aim for them:

#### *'Life in all its fullness'*

-for us this means people who are flourishing

- people who have the wherewithal to shape their own life well;
  - people who take a delight in learning;
  - people who are compassionate, who appreciate the value and preciousness of each and every person and all life on earth;
- hence people who help to make the world a better place.

A rationale for the vision has been emailed out today and will also find its way into the website.

#### **Vision Quote-5**

*'The mentally healthy person is the productive and unalienated person; the person who relates himself to the world lovingly, and who uses his reason to grasp reality objectively; who experiences himself as a unique individual entity, and at the same time feels one with his fellow man, who is not subject to irrational authority, and accepts willingly the rational authority of conscience and reason, who is in the process of being born as long as he is alive and considers the gift of life as the most precious chance he has.'*

*Eric Fromm 1956*

#### **Vision Quote-6**

*'We run this company on questions, not answers.'* Eric Schmidt (CEO Google)

We are committed to Philosophy For Children: a form of cooperative argumentative dialogue between individuals, based on asking and answering questions to stimulate critical thinking and to draw out ideas and underlying presuppositions.

Wisdom for Socrates was not knowing lots of facts, or knowing how to do something but how you use the knowledge you have. It is about fashioning the body and mind to create moral, just people: the method is to question and question until people can clearly defend their beliefs.

#### **Poetry Blog**

Tess and Viola have started a poetry blog. We will be going round classes collecting poems from children who are happy to put their poems on the blog. We have already

put [several poems](#) up there- please go on and make a comment- it would mean a lot to us!

**Football Match for Year 3/4**—our year 3/4 footballers had a very [successful time at Painswick](#).

**Football Match for Year 5/6-** [also had a very successful time](#).

**The Year 3/4 Trip to Rencombe Opera** was a roaring success—the opera was about [Laika, the first dog in space](#).

### **Harvest Produce**

Thank you to everyone who brought in produce for the Harvest for Food Bank.

### **The deadline for Secondary applications for 2020 is fast approaching!**

Please would you check you have submitted an application for Y7 entry 2020. If this hasn't been done please could you make sure you do this before the **31st October 2019**.

If no application is submitted then a place will be allocated at the closest school to the home address with space – this may not be the most local school, or the school. Applications can be submitted online via the [Gloucestershire County Council](#) website, or alternatively, a paper Common Application Form can be requested by phoning 01452 425407 or downloaded from the website.

### **Holidays: Term 1**

This term, 8 families have taken holidays during term time.

Between them, **9 children missed 47 days of school- that is more than a whole half term between them!**

9 weeks also equates to approximately **188 lessons**. Every time a child comes back having missed lessons, it can take more of the teacher's time to help them understand what is going on and to help them catch up with everyone else: this is time taken away from children who did not go on holiday.

Every week, talk partners get changed so that means **9 children had no talk partner for a whole week** which could affect their learning.

If we assume test papers or other assessments to happen on average twice a week, and more for Year 5/6, this means that **18 assessments may have been missed** overall. Teachers and teaching assistants often then have to make time for these children to do them separately- sometimes in KS1 this means the adult sitting with the child; in KS2 this would mean having to find the space and time to support the children in taking the test.

There are 10 playtimes a week so that means these **children missed approximately 90 playtimes**: that is 90 playtimes where their friends missed them out at play. When

children come back from being away, it is often more difficult for them to settle back in socially and staff have to support them—let's say on average each child needs 10 minutes to be settled back in- so that's **90 minutes of pastoral support**.

This is of course a fiction- it was written by a couple of our pupils but please don't underestimate the impact- thank you.

<b>Parent Forum coming up: 14<sup>th</sup> November at 7.00pm in the school library</b>
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Jan INSET now on 13 <sup>th</sup> January – not the 6th
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### **Parent Forum on 14<sup>th</sup> November in the school library**

Two Forums were held this week. One parent came and we discussed some of the areas on the agenda- see some more detailed thoughts below. We decided to hold another forum at 7.00pm because we thought this might be easier for childcare. We have put it on the calendar on the same night as the next PTA meeting.

#### Possible Agenda Items:

- Vision ●Affording pastoral support ●Holidays
- Homework – do KS1 parents get an adequate window into learning going on in class given no learning journals. Would it be helpful to have some general ideas re engaging children with maths outside of school, as well as some more detail re maths coverage so can link the two at home?
- Communication—discussed possibility of re-publishing the methods school use to communicate—see here on this newsletter and to do this once a year to remind parents—this given how complex and varied communication preferences are these days.