



Okeford Fitzpaine CE Primary School

Newsletter 3

23.10.2020

Encourage one another AND build each other up
Thessalonians 5:11

“Learning together to be the best that we can be”

Our aim is for our Okeford Fitzpaine children to be the best that they can be: the best learners, the best friends, the best people, in school and in the wider community, now and in the future.

Dear Parents,

Firstly, I would like to thank you for all your support over this half term and for making me feel so welcome as the new Headteacher at our lovely school. Secondly, I would like to thank the children for coming back to school so sensibly, acting responsibly and following all the new rules. The staff and I are so proud of them. They are the future and we are determined to support them in coming through this time wiser and emotionally sound.

I am incredibly lucky to be able to lead such a dedicated and supportive team of people who care deeply about our school and all of the children who are part of our school family. Members of our school community really do encourage one another AND build each other up. Our new tag line “Learning together to be the best that we can be” is beginning to be felt throughout the school and threads through all we do. Our new behaviour strategy is having a positive impact; as we all focus on ‘catching the children being good’ and celebrating everything positive.

The staff team and our children have coped admirably well with the new procedures, routines and protocols linked to the Covid-19 pandemic. Thank you to all of you for following our Covid guidance and helping to keep our school community safe. Please do continue to keep in mind the rules of social distancing, track and trace and the rule of 6 to help us keep this virus at bay. We have managed to keep the school fully open by everyone working together. Every day that we keep the children coming into school and learning is a success!

The staff team have spent this half term assessing the children to find their learning starting points and identifying their next steps. Parent consultations that have taken place this week have been positive and have updated you on your child’s progress so far and what you can do to support at home.

As a bit of fun for half term I would like to challenge our children and staff in a DEAR (Drop Everything and Read) competition. Please see below for further details!

I hope that you all have a lovely half term break,

Yours truly,

Mrs Dowling
Headteacher

One Bubble

Following the half term break our school will become one 'Okeford Fitzpaine School bubble'. We are fortunate that because our school is small this is possible. We believe that joining together will be in the best interests of the children as they will be able to:

- Join together for worship
- Play together at morning break and lunchtimes
- Eat in the dining hall - we will be having hot meals following half term
- Attend after school clubs together
- Take part in a Christmas performance

Drop Everything and Read Competition

At the end of each school day, teachers celebrate books and reading during 'Drop Everything and Read' (D.E.A.R) time by reading to their class. To celebrate books and reading I would like to challenge our children and the staff team to read a book in an unusual place or while taking part in an unusual activity over this half term. Please take a photo of your child and either email it to the school office office@okeford.dorset.sch.uk or print it to bring in to school. There will be a display of photos in our new reading corridor and a small prize for the winners (child and staff member).

Covid Safety

Thank you all for being so patient with our new rules and routines, which have been devised to ensure we are adhering to Government guidance. As we are all adjusting to our new normal, I would like to urge everyone not to become complacent. Please stick to the one-way system and continue to adhere to the 2m social distancing rule. When waiting for your child at the end of the school day please use the lines on the floor (by the wall) to remain socially distanced. Thank you for helping to keep our school safe and COVID free.

Learning from Home - Known as 'Blended Learning'

Following the half term break and our INSET day on Monday 2nd November, we will be issuing a letter regarding learning from home. If your child is well but unable to attend school due to Covid -19. We will be able to provide a programme of learning via online learning platforms. Each child in school will be able to access a suite of online resources to aid their learning from home.

Poppy Appeal

We are supporting the poppy appeal this year. If your child would like to make a donation and wear a poppy then please put a donation in an envelope and bring in to school after half term. Envelopes will be placed in a collection box and a poppy given to the child to wear.

Harvest

Sadly, we have not been able to share a Harvest celebration this year. However, we have made a collection for a local food bank which will be taken to them over the half term break. Thank you to all our families who have made a donation.

Diary Dates:

Monday 26th - Friday 30th October - Half term break

Monday 2nd November - INSET Day 3. School closed to children

Tuesday 3rd November - School open for children