

Dear families,

Unbelievably this is the last newsletter of the first half-term. Time has flown! The children have settled in their new classes and are producing some fantastic work. Hopefully many of you will be able to come and look at their books after the curriculum workshop on November 2nd (see below for further information)

Thank you to all of you who took part in our parent survey about parent evenings/meetings. 86% of you have stated you would like face to face meetings with the rest asking for virtual meetings. As a result we will be offering mainly face to face slots with an opportunity for virtual for those who prefer. We appreciate it is difficult for working parents to come to school during the day and we are trying to balance that with the teachers' workload. Moving forwards to next year we will hopefully be able to offer more evening appointments.

Star of the Week (from after half-term)

We have reviewed how we celebrate our children at school. Our aim is to make sure we are being fully inclusive and take out any potential anxiety that children may feel as they are waiting to hear if they have won the award each week and the resulting disappointment when they haven't. We are also keen to ensure there is no bias when awarding children with some children receiving many awards and others, who are just as deserving, receiving no award.

The 'Star of the Week' award is designed for pupils to celebrate each other, to highlight what makes each child special and unique, and to offer a structure by which individuals can be applauded for their values. It is not designed to be a competitive award. We want our pupils and staff to celebrate a child each week with sincerity and forethought over the qualities being applauded. This also provides opportunities for children to learn how to give positive feedback and identify good in others. This new approach should be a positive experience for all.

What does this mean in practise:

- Each pupil is assigned a week in the school year, to be the 'star of the week'. The assignment of weeks is in register order.
- At the start of the week, pupils can bring in a photo or drawing of themselves to place on the star of the week box.
- Staff and children write their notes celebrating the individual (related to our Vineyard values - caring, curious, courageous) on post-it notes, to go in the box. Staff can also scribe for pupils if necessary. The child being celebrated can include things they like about themselves, and things they are proud of either inside or outside of school.

- Some of these notes will be put in an envelope and given to the member of staff leading the assembly. One of the notes will be read out for everyone to hear and the child will be given their envelope to take home and share with their family.

Homework at The Vineyard

Following feedback from the parent survey in June we are reviewing our homework policy. We would really like some further input from all of you. Please can you complete the [short survey](#) by Wednesday 19th October.

Lost property

Thank you to our wonderful Ms Dinc and some of our PTA who have gathered our lost property and put it in boxes which will be stored next to the lockers outside Year 3 and Year 4. All named items will be returned to children. Any unnamed and unclaimed items will be recycled every half-term.

When to keep child off school

Please to try and ensure all appointments are outside the school day. If this is not possible, please let the office know in advance with evidence of the appointment.

When a child should come to school: cough, cold, sore throat, feeling tired. If we think your child is too unwell to be in school, we will call you. Please give your child the appropriate medicine if required before school.

When to stay at home: Sickness, diarrhoea or a high temperature.

Safeguarding Update

We will now be including a safeguarding update each week on our newsletter. For this week, please see our safeguarding team [here](#).

Bulb planting - preparing our wonderful school for Spring

We hope you can join us to plant a bulb as part of our Vineyard Community Bulb Planting session on Wednesday 19th October between 3-4pm. Bring your own bulb or share our school daffodils.



Vision/values/curriculum workshop

This will take place on 02/11/2022 at 2pm in the hall and will be repeated on 03.11.2022 on zoom at 6pm. We understand it is very difficult for some working parents to attend an event in school during the day. For the in-school workshop you need to book tickets [here](#).

Come and see what your child has been learning at school during Autumn 1

Following the curriculum workshop on 02/11/2022 there will be an opportunity for you to visit your child/ren's classroom so they can show you their work in their books. This is not a time to receive feedback about your child's progress but an opportunity for your child to share their work. This will take place between 3.00 and 4.30pm - all welcome.

Reading expectations for KS1

As you know we have been reviewing the expectations for reading at home as well as in school. We have asking parents to bring their child's reading record into school each day. Children will have the opportunity to read with their teacher once a fortnight and the teacher will write a comment in their reading record of how they have progressed. If a child needs to read more than fortnightly to a member of staff, this is recorded by the class teacher on their own records. Once a child has come off of the phonics scheme (after assessing them) they will read with an adult once every four weeks. This will be recorded by a stamp in their reading record.

We strongly advise that all children read for at least 20 minutes per day with an adult listening to them. Please ensure your child's reading record and reading book is in their bag every day. Following this, please ensure to sign that you have read with them. The teachers will be monitoring this regularly.

ISEB tests 19th November

As mentioned previously, we will be giving children the opportunity to complete their ISEB tests at The Vineyard. Secondary Schools recommend children complete these at their current school as it is a familiar environment. Please sign up [here](#). We will be hosting the tests on 19th November at 10am. To do their test at The Vineyard, there will be a fee of £75 which will be ready to pay on pay360. To sign up for this, please ensure

you have added your child's account on the [ISEB portal](#) and let us know you are attending [here](#).

Please look below for our weekly forest school update

Key Dates

- PTA disco Tuesday 18th October
- End of the day Wednesday 19th October - break up for half-term
- November 2nd- vision/values/curriculum workshop at 2pm in the hall, book your free tickets [here](#)
- November 2nd 3-4:30pm time for your child to show you their work so far (in classrooms)
- November 3rd- vision/values/curriculum workshop at 6:30pm virtual meeting

Have a lovely weekend.

Frances