



### *Headteacher's Message*

Thank you to the 80 families who returned our Index to Inclusion Questionnaire. I am delighted with the response rate, especially as it was such a long questionnaire.

I am going to start sharing some of the findings over the coming weeks starting with some of the written comments under 'what would you like to change about this school' section. I have addressed the first one in this weeks Parental Guidance.

There are three main points which parents have highlighted as areas which could be improved as follows:

- 1) Parents finding out more about how their children are doing.
- 2) Understanding working parents' views.
- 3) Reviewing after school club provision.

These areas will require further thought and I will share the outcome of my findings with you in due course.

*Have a nice weekend*

*Mrs Cawson, Headteacher*

### *Year One Visit to Church*

We will be taking Year One children to St Peter's Church on Thursday **9th February**, leaving school at 1.15pm and returning before 2.45pm. If you are able to help with the walk to church please let Mrs Thorn know. You do not need to be DBS checked as you will not be left unsupervised with the children. If we are unable to find sufficient helpers we will need to cancel this visit.

### *School Lunches*

Week commencing **6th February** we will be on **Week 2** of the dinner menu.

### *Wear Red for British Red Cross*

As you are no doubt aware, the Co-op has been donating 1% of what you spend on its products to community projects. During the past term, the Co-op has been supporting a project at our school to extend the children's personal, emotional, creative and social skills through a creative outdoor musical classroom. We hope to get this project underway very soon.

The Co-op has also raised millions of pounds to fund new British Red Cross services tackling loneliness in 39 locations across the UK. To thank them for their support, we have agreed to support their charitable cause. Therefore on Friday 10th February, children are welcome to come to school dressed in red. If you would like to donate please place the money in an envelope marked 'British Red Cross' and ask your child to hand it in at the school office on Friday 10th February. Please note that the donation is voluntary, not obligatory. This is a non school uniform day for children wearing red.

### *Maths Open Morning*

Just to remind you that on **Tuesday 7th February**, all parents are invited to a Maths Open Morning at 9.05am. The session will last approximately one hour and it will be an opportunity for you to see a Maths lesson being taught in your child's class.

As this will be a working lesson we are unable to admit pre-school children to this session.

If you would like to attend, please wait in the school hall after dropping your child off. Mrs Wall will introduce the session with a short presentation then you will be invited to go to your child's class.



# Mother's Day Gift

This year the children have been designing their own ceramic mug for their Mum to celebrate Mother's Day.

It will feature your child's artwork only and therefore they will make a great present for Mums, Nannies and Aunties. The product is of high quality and will be printed to order. They are priced at £6.00 each.

If you would like to order one, please complete the order form sent home in book bags and return it to school **before Wednesday 1st March**.

Please place the **correct** money in an envelope or send a cheque made payable to Walsh Memorial C of E Infant School. If you have lost your copy of the form please pick one up from reception.

You can order as many as you like but all of the designs will be the same. There will be no writing or personalisation on the mugs.



## Half Term Fun For All The Family!

**Stuck for things for the children to do during the holidays? ....Well help is here!**

Guildford Borough Council has collated some useful information on activities for children and young people taking place in Guildford this half term. Details of playschemes, arts and crafts, dance workshops, family days out and much more can be found on our website:

[www.guildford.gov.uk/holidayactivities](http://www.guildford.gov.uk/holidayactivities)

## School Uniform Sale

Our wonderful PTA team are hoping to do a school uniform sale next week in the playground after school. It is weather dependent so we will let you know which day it will be held on once we have a better idea of the forecast.

## Water Bottles

We would like to remind parents that water bottles should only contain water. Juice or flavoured water is not permitted unless it has been advised by a Doctor and subsequently agreed with the school.

## Movie Night!

A letter has recently been sent home in book bags regarding our upcoming PTA Movie Night on 24th February from 5.00-6.30pm. If you would like your child to attend, please complete and return the form provided along with the correct payment before Monday 20th February.

Please note that it is not necessary for your child to bring a torch as they will be making their own lantern as of one of their activities.

## Ruby Class Cake Sale

The Ruby Class Cake Sale is being held on Friday 10th February at 3pm in the playground. Please could Mummies and Daddies donate cakes for the class to sell on this day. All proceeds will go directly to Ruby class and they will use the money to buy equipment for wet play and golden

## *Response to feedback from the Index to Inclusion Questionnaire*

*'Please can you think about increasing positivity for children's work and have more awards'*

At Walsh Memorial we aim to treat each child as an individual and therefore recognise their individual effort and attainment for every piece of work. As our children are very young, a great deal of this is through verbal positive comments.

During my visits to observe the quality of teaching and learning in the classrooms I constantly see positive encouragement with pleasing comments, thumbs up, smiles and other forms of praise being used.

If a child has really worked hard at a piece of work or at a social skill, for example, getting on with others, then this effort may be rewarded with a sticker. Teachers and Teaching Assistants also use stamps in the children's books and smiley faces to show they are pleased with the work that your child has done.

Some of our classes have Sunshine and Rainbow displays in their room. If a child has remained on task and the teacher is pleased with the work that they have done, their name will go on the sunshine. If they do an exceptional piece of work they will go on the Rainbow. Our children aspire to go on the rainbow and it helps to drive good behaviour and positive learning outcomes.

Some classes have group rewards, for example, extra time playing Lego when they work with their friends and 'Star Sitters' for good behaviour.

Shortly we will be re-launching RM Maths Certificates for children who work hard at this at home.

Each week teachers nominate a couple of children who have worked particularly hard that week and they are rewarded with a Headteacher sticker and certificate in our Collective Worship the following Monday. Our evaluation carried out with children at the end of Year Two always state that they like receiving these awards.

Each term we hold a Shine and Share Assembly together with all the children and staff attending. Each class shares something they have enjoyed learning about. Photos are taken and displayed at the front of the hall. Past photos are collected in a Shine and Share book which children look at.

At the end of each academic year we reward children who have achieved 100% attendance with a certificate.

At Parents Open Mornings we provide stickers for parents to congratulate their child on their efforts or achievements and these are valued by the children.

To further improve in this area we are going to be inviting parents to pop into the classroom, on a very informal basis, to share their child's wonderful learning with them. This has already started and today Early Year's Parents were invited into Silver and Gold Class to see the wonderful things they have learnt about Chinese New Year. We look forward to receiving feedback on this idea from Early Years Parents.

All other class teachers will be sending out invitations to share something they are proud of shortly.

We are really proud of our children and welcome any suggestions.

Thank you for your frank and honest responses and I hope you find our answer to this point useful.

# Parental Guidance

# Dates for your Diary

Date	Event	Time
<b>Spring Term 1</b>		
7th February	Maths Workshop (no pre-school children please)	9.05am-10.00am
9th February	Year One visit to St Peter's Church	1.15pm-2.45pm
10th February	Ruby Class Cake Sale	3.00pm
10th February	Wear Red for British Red Cross Day and the Co-op	
10th February	Last day of Half Term	3.00pm
<b>Spring Term 2</b>		
20th February	<b>Inset Day—school closed to children</b>	
21st February	Return to school	8.45am
24th February	PTA Movie Night	5.30pm-7.00pm
2nd March	World Book Day—children are welcome to dress up as book characters	
8th March	Late Parent's Evening (more details to follow) - <b>please note change to date</b>	
20th March	Early Parent's Evening (more details to follow)	
21st March	PTA Meeting (School staff room)	7.30pm-8.30pm
23rd March	Year Two Trip to Legoland— <b>late return to school</b>	9.15am-4.00pm
24th March	Mothering Sunday Assembly (more details to follow)	9.00am-10.00am
30th March	Diamond Class Cake Sale	3.00pm
31st March	Last day of term	1.15pm finish
<b>Summer Term 1</b>		
18th April	Start of Summer Term	8.45am
<b>Summer Term 2</b>		
7th July	Sports Day	Timings to follow
10th July	Cycle Training for Year Two—more details to follow	All day
17th July	Year Two Leavers Assembly (more details to follow)	1.30pm-2.30pm

## 2016/2017 Inset Days (School closed to children)

20th February 2017

5th June 2017

21st July 2017