

Important Dates

Friday 14 February

School closes for Half term

Monday 24 February

School re-opens

Monday 24 February – 28 February

Equality and Diversity Week

Thursday 5 March

World Book Day

Thursday 2 April

School closes for Easter Holidays

Friday 3 April

Inset Day for Staff

Monday 20 April

School re-opens after Easter Holidays

Welcome

We say hello to Amy who has joined us as a Teaching Assistant

Welcome to Owen, Oliver and Sophia who have joined us in classes 1 and 2. They have all settled in well.

Reminder

School starts at 9am, if parents who bring their children in to school could wait until that time as the office is trying to operate and may have difficulty on the telephone with too much background noise. Many thanks for your co-operation

Look out for our Scarecrow at Tatton Park over the holidays.



Our Website address: www.foxwoodschoo.org.uk

Message from Lucinda

This half term I thought it would be a good opportunity to update you on the ways in which Governors are working hard to learn more about all aspects of school life, in their quest to ensure that your children are receiving the best education and opportunities possible. At the beginning of this academic year Governors agreed six focus questions that they wanted to explore in relation to the following areas. So far these have been in relation to:

- Our 'Ready to Learn' programme and the impact of this
- Enrichment Week, Work Related Learning, and Work Experience opportunities
- Anti-Bullying and the work of the Kindness Champions

Further areas will focus on:

- The use of 'Evidence for Learning' to demonstrate and share progress
- The development of life skills through Forest Schools
- Assessing Pupil Progress and ensuring that we are offering all pupils appropriate support and challenge as they learn

Governors spend time walking around school experiencing what different aspects of school are like, reading reports from a variety of staff members, listening to me talk (a lot!), asking questions, attending school events, exploring the school website, attending Subject Leader presentations, meeting with individual members of staff about focus areas such as Sports Grant, Health & Safety and Safeguarding, championing our school to a wide range of audiences, and attending meetings and training with the Local Authority and other Governors. They do all of this to ensure that they are doing their very best for us all, but especially for our pupils.

I can say with absolute confidence, that Governors' collective favourite experience to date occurred this half term when our Kindness Champions presented to all of our Governors and the Clerk to the Governors (that's thirteen adults!)

The Kindness Champions – supported by Jade (who leads on behaviour as part of our Senior Leadership Team) and Anna (HLTA for behaviour) - were absolutely amazing in describing the work that they do, reminding Governors of the Anti-Bullying guidance document on our website, explaining why we choose to focus on Kindness rather than bullying, and in sharing their ideas about how we hope to improve this work even further. I was incredibly proud of them for representing themselves and all of our pupils so well, and – as several Governors openly said – they were by far the best part of an extremely positive meeting!

If you would like to know more about the work of our Governors, have any comments to share with Governors, or any questions to ask them, then please contact Trish Chapman, Chair of Governors, via school.

WELLBEING

Children's Mental Health week was 3-9th February, the theme this year was 'Find Your Brave.' All pupils in school have experienced this and helped to raise awareness during assemblies and through completing activities in classes. They have all highlighted their own braveness and the braveness in others.

There is a lovely website supporting this week, with a parents and carers section for you to have a look at. Below are some things you may like to try with your children over the holidays. This is a snap from the website <https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/>.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Here are a few simple ways you can encourage your child to **FIND THEIR BRAVE**.

- 1. Remind your child that bravery comes in many forms and everyone is different.** What's brave for them might not feel brave to someone else.
- 2. Chat with your child about a time when you've had to FIND YOUR BRAVE.** It might have been something big or small.
- 3. Praise your child when they FIND THEIR BRAVE.** Maybe they've kept going at learning a new skill or tried something outside of their comfort zone which boosted their confidence.
- 4. Point out examples of bravery in books and films** to your child and talk about how trying out different ways of being brave will help them feel good.
- 5. Reassure your child that not feeling brave is OK too** and that there are times when it might be more difficult to be brave.



At Fox Wood school, we strive for our pupils to achieve their full potential and believe all their achievements should be celebrated and recognised. We have devised an activity booklet- **40 things to do before we leave Fox Wood School**, that you can work on with your pupils throughout their time here at Fox Wood. Pupils can earn up to 4 different certificates and stamps along the way. There are two levels to the award to make it accessible to all pupils; The Adventurer and The Investigator. Adults at home can record each activity they have completed with their child and share this with us, through our Evidence for Learning app, which we can share and celebrate with all pupils and staff here at Fox Wood. If you require any further information or support,

please do not hesitate to contact Sam Scott or Jade Ashton who are our Forest School leaders. These booklets should be sent out in your child's home school diary.



This year our Summer Fayre will be on Friday 12th June and we are starting to make plans. If you or anyone you know would like a stall please get in contact with me through the school office, we are charging £8 per stall and funds raised will be going towards school funds.

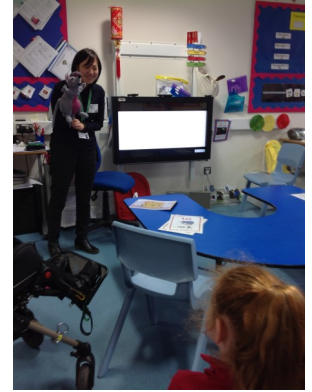
Friends of Fox Wood supported with the E-safety coffee morning on 11th February and pupils have enjoyed learning how to keep themselves safe on line in class.

If you require any support please do not hesitate to contact me through the school office.

Rachael, Pastoral Support Officer

Class 5 have enjoyed learning about Chinese traditions and the New year Zodiac story this half term. We were delighted to welcome into school Maggie Wang, a teacher from Beijing who is currently on placement at Cowley International Language college in St Helens supporting high school students with their Mandarin learning.

She told us the Chinese New Year story with the Mandarin names for the animals and helped us with counting and numbers to 5 in Mandarin. She also showed us some videos, shared some traditional songs and told us about traditions in her country. She helped us make Chinese Money envelopes. Ms Wang is very keen to come back to school and help again and really enjoyed spending time with us!



This year, British Science Week is from the 6th-15th of March. Fox Wood will be celebrating British Science Week with a series of experiments and science activities that will be led by class 7 pupils. During the week commencing the 9th March, class 7 will invite all other classes to participate in a range of activities that will help to promote a love of science for our pupils.

We were fortunate enough to be successful in 2 separate bids for science week funding, to provide our pupils with a week to remember. More details on British Science Week will follow in the coming weeks. Dale (Class 7)

This half term some of our Kindness Champions supported Jade (who leads on Behaviour at Fox Wood) to give a presentation to Governors. This helped them to learn more about how we tackle bullying and promote kindness – the Governors were very impressed! Further information about our work can be found in the Anti-Bullying Guidance on our website. The champions have been very busy this half term as they have also been celebrating kindness within our school, awarding nominated pupils with certificates and kindness hearts. Weekly meetings ensure that the champions have regular opportunities to discuss nominations and share ideas to further develop our kindness/anti-bullying system that we have here at Fox Wood. The pupils within the school truly enjoy accepting their awards and celebrating their kindness and friendships.



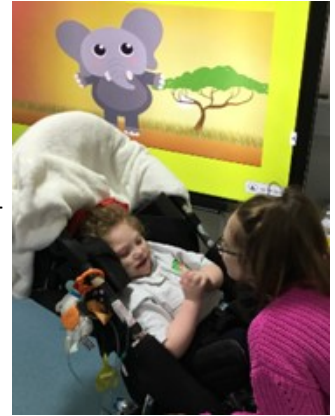
Other Notices - Dinner Money—Just a reminder that Dinner Money has increased to £2.40 per day, (£12.00 per week) This is still payable on the Friday for the following week and must be paid on a weekly basis or termly in advance. Any monies sent into school must be in a sealed envelope with the pupil's name, the amount, and what the money is for, written clearly. School cannot take responsibility for any loose cash.

Early Years update

Wow what a busy half term Class 1 has had. We have welcomed 2 new pupils to our class, Oliver and Owen! They have settled in excellently and are enjoying taking part activities with their new friends.

This half term the pupils in Class 1 have been learning all about Africa. We have explored animal footprints, African sensory trays, African drums and have enjoyed making lion masks and animal patterns in shaving foam! We also loved our daily song each morning called 'Jungle Animal Song' and have started doing some of the actions and sounds ourselves!

Next half term we will be learning all about Dinosaurs – we can't wait!



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This term Class 8 have created their own newspaper, *Fox Wood Life*, as part of their *In the News* topic. They have taken on different roles including interviewing, taking photos and editing articles. The first issue was a huge success and everyone was very proud of their achievements. Class 8 have been practising their writing skills so the next issue will be even better and they look forward to sharing the next issue with their subscribers.

