



5th January 2018

Happy New Year!

Welcome back to a brand new year and a brand new term of learning and discovery! We have a packed curriculum programme for the children this half-term which will, in addition to our usual learning timetables, include a 'A Week of Inspirational Maths' starting on the 8th January. The week includes an opportunity for you to come along and get involved with some fun maths activities alongside your child(ren). For more details, please see overleaf. This is the second time we have participated in this special maths week which looks as interesting and exciting as the first was. Please come along if you can, we'd love to see you.

Thank You!

The staff would like to express their gratitude for all the thoughtful gifts which were sent into school in the run up to Christmas. We have all enjoyed the delicious chocolates, biscuits and goodies given to the staffroom.

Infant Performance of 'Follow the Star'

As promised in church on the last day of term, we have discussed what to do about the missed evening performance of Follow the Star and have found a way to make it up to you. On Wednesday 10th January in the evening, we will host a repeat performance of the play for all those who were not able to attend due to the school closure. We will remind children of the songs and their lines in the next few days. Since the story is mostly about the Epiphany (celebrated traditionally on 6th January) it seems just as seasonal to put on the show after Christmas.

NSPCC PANTS learning project

An email and attachment or hard copy letter and booklet will be sent out to all families today to explain that the school will be participating in the NSPCC's PANTS project next week as part of our efforts to keep all our children safe from abuse. Please watch out for the information which explains everything to you.

Christmas Maths Challenge

23 children entered this term's competition (many more said they did it but then forgot to post their entry in the box!). This time the winners picked out were... Sophia YR, Reuben Y2 and Ava Y4. Well done to everyone who took part!

Re-issued Flu Vaccine Letters

The school nursing team are returning to school to administer the vaccine to those children who were missed last time. They have sent out letters to all families who gave no response as to whether they wanted their child to have the vaccine or not last time. Please reply with a yes or a no so that we know if the team need to bother returning to school in a few weeks. Thank you.

Sports Club

Please book online with Tim to ensure your place. Go to www.timcourridge.co.uk

Maths Activity Sessions for Parents/Carers and Children.

Next week, from the 8th to the 12th of January, the children will be taking part in a series of maths lessons called '**A week of Inspirational Maths**'. These lessons are specifically designed to promote *Growth Mindset* - a current focus area for the school and the content of most of the lessons are based around understanding of shapes and their properties.

During that week we would also like to offer a couple of maths problem solving sessions for parents to attend with their children. The session for children in Rubies and Diamonds will be in the school hall from 2.30 until 3.15 on Wednesday 10th January and for children in Sapphires and Emeralds on Thursday 11th January also from 2.15 until 3.15. We want to make the activities in these sessions appropriate for the age of the children attending, hence the need to split the days. However, if you have children in classes across the different ages and are unable to make both days, then please come along to either session with your children.

There will be a number of puzzles and problems to work through with your child. The idea is that you work together on these problems and therefore we request that you don't bring pre-schoolers/toddlers along if they are going to become restless and need your attention.

Several parents and children attended a similar maths session which was held in October 2016. The feedback from this workshop was that parents would be happy to tackle the same problem solving activities in the future, especially as many didn't have time to finish all the tasks. Therefore, I will be re-using some of those same problem solving activities as well as adding a few new ones.

It would be helpful, if you are planning to come, if you could sign up on the sheet outside Diamond Class. Then I will have some idea of numbers attending and the resources that will be needed. Alternatively you can email me at hcartner@forncett.norfolk.sch.uk. The children who are part of the Forncett Maths Team (from Year 6) will be working alongside me to deliver these sessions.

Many thanks,

Helen Cartner (Maths subject leader).

DIARY DATES

January

Tues 16th – Emerald visit to Castle Museum for Ancient Egyptians topic

February

Fri 9th – break up

Monday 12th – 16th is Feb half-term break

Mon 19th – School re-opens

March

Weds 8th – Y6 all to LSHS to participate in the GSUS Live multi-media PSHE project

Weds 14th – Fri 16th – Holt Hall Residential for all KS2

Break up for Easter Weds 28th March-13th April. School re-opens Mon 16th

April -

May – The month of May is the Year 2 SATS teacher assessment and testing window

Monday 14th-17th is the Y6 SATS week of testing

Mon 28th – Fri 1st June is the May half-term week – school is closed

June

Mon 2nd – school opens after half-term

Week commencing Monday 11th the DFE Y1 Phonic Check will be carried out

July

Tues 24th – School breaks up for summer holiday.