



# Castor Church of England Primary School

Stocks Hill, Castor, Peterborough Cambs PE5 7AY

Telephone: 01733 380280

14<sup>th</sup> February 2019

Dear Parents

Although this half-term has only been 6 weeks long, we can now say that we're at the mid-point of the academic year. Time certainly seems to have flown by!

## Christian Values

Just before Christmas, Mrs McMillan (Chair of Governors) wrote to you to inform you of our new Christian vision statement: **'We have faith in God, ourselves and everyone around us'**. You were also asked for your feedback on the Christian values that you feel link to this vision and would best represent our school. Thank you for the feedback that we received. This feedback was analysed at a recent meeting of our Church, School and Community Committee, and it was decided that rather than focusing on just a handful of these values we would actually focus on them all over a period of time, on a rolling programme. Not only was it felt that each of these values was of equal importance and significance, we also feel that this will give the school more scope to widen the children's understanding of the values and how they can live them out in their lives.

## Pupil Numbers

At a recent meeting of our Full Governing Body, the decision was made to increase our published admission number (PAN) from 26 to 28. Our PAN relates to children joining us at the start of Reception, and this means that from September 2019 onwards, subject to LA approval, we will be admitting up to 28 children into Reception. Throughout the school, we have different numbers of children in each of the classes, and we are also permitted to admit children up to this number, should applications be received. This is a decision that has been given great consideration, and one that has been made to help secure the long-term financial future of the school.

## Bank and Shop Update

On Monday 11<sup>th</sup> February we held the official opening of our bank and shop. This has been named in memory of the late George Stevenson, a popular and well-respected former Headteacher of the school. We were very pleased to welcome George's wife, Christine Stevenson, into school to 'cut the ribbon' at the opening. We also had representatives from the various organisations that have supported the project (Friends of Castor School, CASPRA, Castor and Ailsworth Parish Councils) with us to celebrate the opening. It was a lovely morning and a real example of the community coming together to support the village school. A special thank you must also go to the Hendry family (Martha James Kitchens and Living Spaces) and the Pickett family (James Pickett Plumb-Web) who, since I last wrote to you about the bank and shop, have donated very generously in terms of equipment and their time to ensure the interior of the building is furnished to a very high standard.

The children have certainly 'bought into' the initiative and we have seen some real improvements in their weekly spelling and Maths tests. Children across the school are working hard for their pen licences as this is our 'top earner' at 5 Denarii. Parents have also said that they have noticed that their children want to improve their score to get the reward, and this is what we were aiming for. This term we have also introduced the concept of 'interest' being added to any money that has been saved in the bank. This is a new concept to many of the children and we hope that it will encourage children to save for some of the more expensive items in the shop. Please do keep encouraging your child by talking to them about their Denarii and reminding them that to get more, they must continue to work hard in school.

## Parents' Evening

During Parents' Evenings I spend a lot of time in the corridors talking to parents about their child's work and answering any queries they may have. It was really lovely to see so many parents come out of their appointments with teachers full of praise for the teachers and sense of pride in their child's achievements. Thank you and I'm sure the staff appreciate this feedback as well.

Please Turn Over



*"We have faith in God, ourselves and everyone around us"*

### **Farm Kitchen**

During the parents' evenings, Farm Kitchen served over 90 meals over the two nights. Thank you for taking these meals up and showing your support of our school meals provider, and also for the positive feedback received during the evenings. I hope that by sampling some of the food, the children will be keen to have a hot school meal on a regular basis. I will be meeting the senior staff at Farm Kitchen after half-term to review uptake since I last brought this to your attention. If you would like to order meals for the first week back, the deadline is 3pm on **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> February** (the Tuesday of half term).

To order KS2 children's meals, you will need to set up an account with The Farm Kitchen. To do this, go online: [hotschoolmeals.com](http://hotschoolmeals.com), then you can order and pay for your child's lunches. If you have any problems, their office staff are very helpful and can be reached by phone (01529 460821) or email ([enquiries@thefarmkitchen.com](mailto:enquiries@thefarmkitchen.com)). If you register your email on your account, they will send reminders to you.

To come to Mothers' Day lunch (on either Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> for R and KS1, or Friday 29<sup>th</sup> for KS2), you will have to set up an account with The Farm Kitchen (see above), then in the 'child detail' tab on your account, enter your child's class with the name 'Parent Meals' and tick the 'Adult Meal' box. Select and pay for the meal you wish to have. Please also remember to select and pay for a meal for your child/ren (if they are in KS2). Please note that you need to have set up an account, ordered and paid for the Mothers' Day meal **by 3pm on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March**.

### **UNICEF**

After half-term we will be collecting pairs of old shoes in for our UNICEF 'Shoe Share' appeal. These shoes will then be taken to Clarks, who make a donation to UNICEF based upon the number of shoes received. These can be either child or adult shoes, so please don't throw any away over half-term, bring them into school during the first week back!

The more shoes you bring in, the more money we can raise for Unicef, helping children around the world to be able to access education.

A few things to remember:

- Please make sure that the shoes are in relatively good condition, so no holes or broken soles!
- Please pair your shoes with a rubber band to make it easier to sort and pack shoes

### **World Book Day**

On Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March children may come to school dressed as their favourite character from a book. During this week, Friends will be organising a sponsored read in conjunction with Usborne Books. This will raise money for books for school.

### **Chickens**

Next half-term our children in Reception will be patiently waiting for some chicks to hatch in an incubator in their classroom. What we would like to do this year is keep these chicks as they grow into chickens, and house them in our nature area. We are always emphasising to the children the importance of being resourceful, and therefore wondered whether any parents or their families / friends might have a chicken coop that they no longer use and would be willing to donate to school. If so, please let us know.

### **Squash Club**

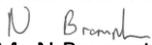
This club has now dropped down to 7 regular attenders. Dan McGinn who currently runs the club is moving to another position, and to make the club financially viable to continue we need at least 8 children attending regularly. The club takes place on a Friday after school, and the cost is between £5 and £6 and will cover transport from school to the club and parents pick their child up from the Squash Club at the end of each session. If you would like further information, please pop into the school office.

### **Student Update Forms**

If this has not been returned, please can you update as appropriate and return to school, paying particular attention to the 'Parental Consents' section.

I hope you have a lovely half-term break and enjoy the time with your families.

Yours sincerely

  
Mr N Brompton  
Headteacher