



Newsletter 14th December 2018



COURAGE CARE COMPASSION

Fingringhoe Church of England (VA) Primary School

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Dear All,

Thank you to all parents and families for your continuing support. We feel that the school is going from strength to strength and, where pupils make the most progress is with **your** help. THANK YOU. It is fantastic to see more and more pupils completing homework tasks to a high standard.

It has come to our attention that a few children seem to be yawning more in class and are having difficulty concentrating. I am pretty certain that it is not boring lessons that are causing this phenomenon... Some children are able to discuss which TV programmes they watched the night before which are on late... We ask parents to consider their children's sleeping habits. Please read the article at the end of this newsletter.

A HUGE THANK YOU TO THE PTA

The Christmas Fair raised a whopping £1500!
We are very grateful to all those that helped out beforehand, during and after the event.
We will keep you posted about how we spend the money!

Upcoming Dates

PLEASE PUT THESE DATES IN YOUR DIARY...

Monday 17th December 2018 Willow Class Nativity - afternoon and evening performances

Tuesday 18th December 2018 Christmas Jumper Day, Christmas Lunch, Pantomime at the Village Hall

Wednesday 19th December Last day of Term 1

Christingle Service 24th December 2018 St Andrew's Church – school choir to sing at Christingle Service 4pm

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

Thursday 3rd January 2019 First Day for pupils Term 2

Tuesday 12th February 2018 Parents' Evening 3:30-8:30pm

Friday 18th January Charity Quiz Night -Details to follow

Thursday 14th February 2019 PTA Talent Show 6pm TBC

18th – 22nd February 2019 Half Term

Monday 25th February 2019 Non-Pupil Day

Week beginning 4th March 2019 Book Fair in school

Last Day of Term 2 - 5th April 2019

EASTER HOLIDAYS

Tuesday 23rd April 2019 First day of Term 3

Week beginning 13th May 2019 Year 6 Test Week

25th – 28th June 2019 Mersea Camp

Friday 5th July 2019 Sports Afternoon and PTA BBQ

Friday 12th July 2019 Sports Afternoon and PTA BBQ (if postponed due to extreme weather)

Thursday 18th July 2019 1:30pm & 6pm Elm and Maple Classes Performance

Monday 22nd July 2019 PTA End of Term Party

Wednesday 24th July 2019 9:15am Leavers' Service Church & Last Day of Term 3

Our school choir will be performing at the Christingle Service at St Andrew's Church, Fingringhoe



4pm 24th December 2018

We ask children in the choir to attend with parents. We hope you are able to make it.

Please wear a Christmas jumper or brightly coloured jumper and bobble hat or similar.



Quiz Night

Some of the staff will be hosting an adult Quiz Night on Friday 18th January @ 7.30pm

Village Hall

We would like to invite all parents to get teams together and join us in a fun evening, to raise money towards Claire Harrington-Clark's fundraising for Breast Cancer Click.

We will be serving hot food mid-way through the quiz.

Teams can be up to 8 people and the cost is £3.00 per ticket.

Tickets will be on sale in January. We hope that you can start thinking of teams now 😊

Pantomime

The children will be attending the pantomime on Tuesday 18th December over at the preschool, if you haven't done so please can you make payment urgently via ParentPay. If we do not receive payment and consent for your child unfortunately, they will not be able to attend, and future events will not take place.

If you need to speak to a member of staff regarding the above, please see a member of the office team.

Nativity Arrangements

Nativity performance for Willow class will take place on Monday 17th December @ 2pm & 6pm.

Refreshments will be sold at both performances from 1.30pm & 5.30pm.

Please can children be dropped at school at 5.20pm for the evening performance.

Curriculum Update Term 1 2018-2019

We are proud of our curriculum that we redesigned two years ago. We try to ensure we include a broad range of activities and fun, linked to interesting stories or real life... We are also excited to be making more trips to our outdoor classroom and the local area. Next term, we will be starting a 'forest school' afternoon in Maple Class. We hope to roll this out to all classes in the future.

Willow Class have enjoyed making superhero potatoes, linked to the story 'Supertato'. They are also carrying out observations and art work based on our famous oak tree on the green, tracking the changes across the seasons. The tree is known as "The Smuggler's Oak" or "Highwayman's Tree". The story is that a smuggler was buried and the oak grew from an acorn placed in the dead man's mouth before burial on the spot. As the name suggests, some think him to have been a highwayman, and others, a pirate. The tale made it into Baring-Gould's 19th century novel 'Mehalah': "By the roadside to Colchester where cross ways met, was growing an oak that had been planted as an acorn in the mouth of a pirate of Rowhedge..."



Beech Class made bird feeders and took them to the Outdoor Classroom; they also found newts hidden in the log circle. As part of their topic, 'Who's the King of the Castle?', they have been discovering what life in castles would have been like. They designed and made their own castles with turrets and crenellations, using recyclable materials.

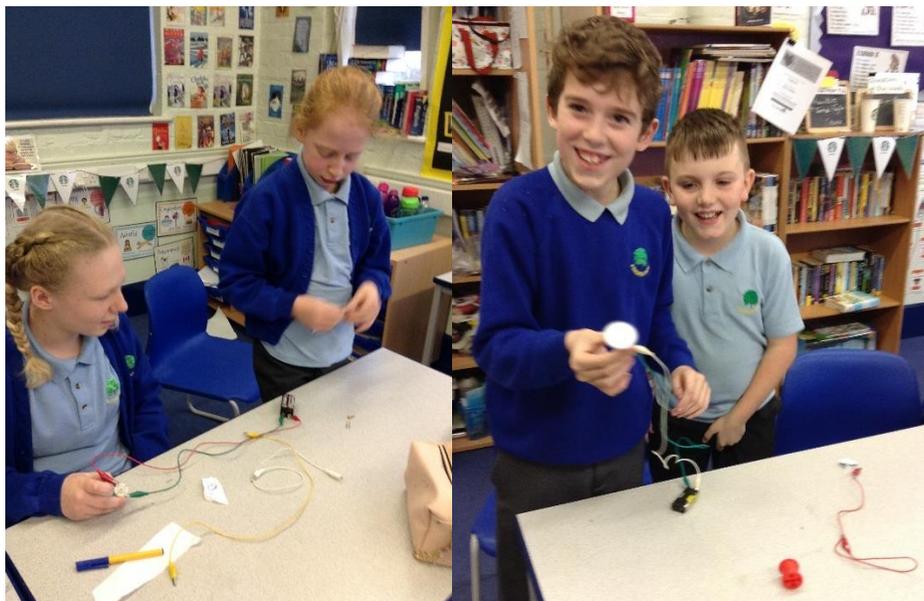




Maple Class made the most brilliant poison dart beanbag frogs linked to their Rainforest topic using felt and sewing techniques. For homework, they wrote their own fact files about poison dart frogs. They also constructed collages to demonstrate the layers of the rainforest.



Elm Class have been learning about the Ancient Greeks, origins of democracy, and how Greek cities were governed compared to today. They have also been reading Greek myths and are creating their own moving monsters using pulleys and electrical circuits.



YAWNING ALERT!



Sleep requirements differ from individual to individual, but in general a younger child needs more sleep than an older one. Between the ages of five and 11, your child will need 10-12 hours of sleep a night.

A bedtime routine is the best way to ensure that your child gets enough sleep. Devise a routine that lasts 30-40 minutes, and includes a bath and the chance to read a story (or stories) together. Try not to change your routine – don't change it at all during the week, and if you want your child to have a slightly later bedtime at the weekend, then only change it by maybe an hour.

Bedtime is a chance to spend some quality time together, and if it's a time both you and your child enjoy, your son or daughter will settle down in bed and drop off to sleep more easily.

At stressful times, such as when your child starts in Reception, and at the start of each new school year, your child will probably get more tired than usual and will need more sleep.

In the summer, because of the light evenings, it may be tempting to keep children up later – but try to keep to scheduled bedtimes, and invest in curtains with a blackout lining so the room is dark.

Towards the end of primary school, your son or daughter may start to stay up later in the evening, maybe chatting to friends online, playing games on a console or watching TV. They will find it difficult to get up in the morning and will be tired or irritable during the day if they don't get enough sleep.

Limit your child's use of the internet, games consoles and TV in the hour before they go to bed – and ideally don't allow your son or daughter to have a computer, console or a TV set in their bedroom.