Tonwell St Mary's CE (VC) Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs Sarah Bridgman

'Knowing each child, growing each child, in God's love'

Friday 25th March

Dear parents,

It has been feeling very spring like in school with the arrival of our chicks in EYFS and the beautiful sunshine!

Next Friday will mark the official start of our formal federation with Thundridge School. I had the pleasure of taking a group of our Y5/6 girls to take part in the Hertford and Ware Sports Partnership tag rugby festival last week. They joined up with girls from Thundridge to make a mixed team. I was incredibly proud of their resilience in the challenging weather conditions. They played six games, improving each time and winning their last two matches! Giving our children broader opportunities and opportunities to meet other friends is a core part of us moving forward with the federation. You will see from key dates below that we have even more to look forward to.

A huge 'Well done!' to children in Oak class who have been taking part in the Dragon's Apprentice project. Children prepared presentations for a board of local dragons. I am pleased to share that our school has won the Best Sustainable Product award.

Thank you to our school council for organising non-uniform and red nose sales to raise money for comic relief. We raised a total of £50.50!

Mrs Coleman helped organise a range of events for children during our Science Week. Activities included a whole school assembly to learn about different jobs that use science, planting in Forest School, making paper helicopters and aeroplanes to explore forces and a fun, if not messy, experiment on the playground.



Miss Nicolaou has recorded a further maths presentation explaining the different steps of our maths calculation policy for subtraction. This can be found on our website at Parents/Parent Workshops.

As you know, good attendance and punctuality are extremely important for our children's learning and wellbeing. Missing school can negatively impact children's progress and friendships. I will be sending more informal letters to keep you informed of your child's attendance. It can be surprising how missing a just a few days of school can impact their overall percentage. We aim for all children to be above the national average of 96%.

Thank you for your feedback for parent forum and the SEND coffee afternoon. Please see notes below.

Kind regards,

Mrs Bridgman



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Key Dates

Friday 1st April First day of formal federation with Thundridge

School closes 1.15pm

Wednesday 20th April First day of summer term for children

26/4, 3/5, 17/5, 24/5, 7/5 Y4-6 swimming @ Heathmount

Thursday 28th April Y4-6 K'nex Challenge

Wednesday 25th May Y4-6 trip to Woodhall Pak with Thundridge

Friday 27th May Decades Day Jubilee Celebration with Thnudridge

Saturday 11th June F.O.T. Summer Fair (Jubilee Theme!)

Friday 17th June Jubilee Occasional Day (school closed)

> **Parent Forum** Tuesday 22nd March

Diversity in our curriculum

Mrs Bridgman shared examples of the school's curriculum 'intent' statements from the website. These documents show what will be taught in each subject and the expectations for each year group. They can be found on the website at Curriculum/Long Term Intent Statements. Staff have been updating the documents to ensure there is a diverse range of content. For example, our music curriculum includes musicians with disabilities, male and female and from across the world. Our history curriculum has been updated to include a more diverse group of famous people from the past.

Mrs Bridgman explained that although we have always prioritised having a range of trips and visitors, we are able to do this more as covid restrictions have eased. The recent Faith Tour trip enabled our children to visit a Gurdwara, Mosque and Church and experience meeting people from different faiths in person.

Federation

Mrs Bridgman gave a brief update on federation and shared news about the Y5/6 girls' rugby festival. There are several shared events planned for summer term, including a letter writing project between children and decades day for the Queen's Jubilee.