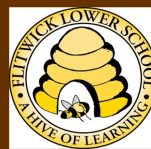


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## Flitwick Lower School Newsletter



16 July 2021

### Message to everyone

We are coming to the end of what has been another difficult year for us all but we must also think about all the positive things as well. The year started and ends with bubbles which the children have coped with amazingly well and now see it as the norm!. In the Autumn term, it was learning as normal with the extra measures in place for social distancing, such as our staggered starts, playtimes and lunchtimes. We brought a little excitement to school by managing to record our Christmas Shows and have a visit from Santa and his little helpers. We also held the Christmas pop up shop which was very well received.

The Spring term was another change of circumstances and we had to move to remote learning. The teachers had quickly to become media gurus: filming, recording and uploading videos and work for you all to access at home. We also provided on site teaching for a significant number of key worker children. This was a steep learning curve for all of us but we worked together as a team of staff and parents to ensure the very best for the children given the challenging circumstances. The return to school in March was such a positive one, we were so happy to be able to welcome the children back to school and to be able to hold the Easter event of tea and crafts with the Easter Bunny. On the 1st April we merged with Busy Bees and welcomed them officially to Flitwick Lower School. Since then, they have been an integral part of school, joining in with many of our events.

The Summer term has been a huge success with us managing to hold many of our planned events, although these have been without visitors which, I know, has been difficult for you all. The sports days took place in year group bubbles with the children taking part in lots of different field and track events. We also managed to hold the annual Fun Run which was lots of fun, with the children challenging themselves to run as many laps of the course as possible.

This year for the first time we arranged for a company to deliver some basic first aid workshops for the children. These are part of our wellbeing and PE action plan. The feedback from the children has been very positive so we will hopefully plan these in again. We also welcomed back Pete from Skip Beatz to promote healthy activity and the wonders of skipping. This was such a fun day and I know lots of you bought skipping ropes to practise the skills at home.

We are now on the last push to the end of term and hoping that we can keep everyone safe as well as enjoy the last few days of term. We are saying a sad farewell to our Year 4 children but wish them all the best for their transition to Middle School. They have some activities planned to celebrate which will take place in their year group bubble. We also say farewell to Mrs Shield who has been the School Manager for the last 18years. She has decided to retire and have a new adventure with her family and a new addition (a puppy). We also say goodbye to Miss Holyhead who is moving on to pastures new.

We also say congratulations to Mrs Pekszyk who is expecting her second child in August and to Mrs Ficuciello who is expecting her first child in December.

I would like to say a huge thank you to you all for your patience, support and understanding over what has been a difficult year for everyone. We have managed to stay open and enjoy as many activities as possible. We are looking forward to September and being able to return hopefully to a near normal routine. We will be contacting you during the summer with our plans for the September return.

### Busy Bees

We are also saying a sad farewell to Carole Murton who has managed Busy Bees both on our site and elsewhere in Flitwick for more than 19 years. It is the end of an era, but we wish her the best for the new adventures which we know she will have as she moves forward.

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16th July 2021

### Association News

We would like to say a massive thank you to the Association and all of the parents who help out with this. They have managed to arrange several events this year, despite the really trying conditions and sometimes at short notice. They have raised over £4,500 for the School, which will go towards refurbishing the Courtyard area, so that we can use it as an activity space and a sensory zone. We raised £228.12 from the "Break the Rules" day yesterday and a massive £4,290.11 from the Fun Run Sponsorships, of which £487.50 was raised by Busy Bees. We received a large number of very generous sponsorships, several in the region of £150—£160, but the largest single sponsorship amount was for a massive total of £603. We are extremely grateful for all your generosity.

The School was 40 in May this year and to celebrate this, the Association arranged for a photograph to be taken by a drone of the whole school in the shape of the number 40. We are waiting for details about how and when this will be available. The Association also sent home a cone of sweets to every child to continue this celebration.



Also we need to thank Allsortz Bouncers for supporting us with the Bouncy Castle which we have in school today, which is available to all Year Groups and will then be used for the Yr 4 Leavers party this evening.

### Reading Challenge

This year's summer reading challenge which is organised by the library takes place 23rd July - 11th September.

This year the theme is linked to the very timely and important theme of the environment and especially animals. 'Wild World Heroes'

You need to be members of the library but you can join this online if you haven't signed up yet and follow the instructions.

There is a Summer Reading Challenge Newsletter available on the website with more information for you.

### TERM DATES:

Please always refer to the School Calendar on the Flitwick Lower School Website, as our dates may vary slightly from the main Central Bedfordshire ones.

**Autumn Term:** 6th Sept 2021 to 17th Dec 2021  
(Half term week of 25th October 2021)

**Spring Term:** 4th Jan 2022 to 1st Apr 2022  
(Half term week of 14th February 2022)

**Summer Term:** 20th Apr 2022 to 22nd Jul 2022  
(Half term week of 30th May 2022)

Inset Days—1st Nov 2021 and 19th Apr 2022  
Bank Holidays—2nd May 2022 and 2nd & 3rd Jun 2022

### Pirate Ship

We would like to say a massive thank you to Mr and Mrs Stone (Gemma and Richard) who kindly offered to paint our Pirate Ship in Foundation and ended up making us a brand new one!! The Rubee Gem now has pride of place in the Foundation play area.



### Secret Garden Helpers

Another thank you needs to go to Janet and Tony Roberts who have been coming into School at weekends to work on the gardens. I'm sure you will have noticed the newly planted bed by the scooter pods as well as the garden outside of Beehive, but they have been quietly trimming, pruning and planting all over the School Site. Thank you very much!

Here's a photo of our aspirations....



### Run for Charity

Jack Marriott is taking part in a charity run, 'Run 31k in July' to raise money for Great Ormond Street Hospital. The aim is to run 1k every night but he has been doing 2 so hopefully he (and his Mum!) will run 62k or more in July! Here is the link if anyone would like to donate [https://www.facebook.com/donate/382805153127702/?fundraiser\\_source=messages](https://www.facebook.com/donate/382805153127702/?fundraiser_source=messages) He has raised over £200 already. We and his family are very proud of him. He is always up for doing anything that helps raise money for charity! Well done Jack (and his Mum!)

### CHUMS WORKSHOP

Attached you will find details of several workshops which CHUMS are running over the summer holidays and into September.

If you are interested, there is a Registration form in the attachment, plus details of where to send it.

### Latest Advice from Public Health England

#### **Advice that all current COVID-19 measures remain in settings until the end of term**

"Local Public Health advice is that all Educational settings should continue with all current COVID-19 measures **until the end of the summer term**. This will help to minimise COVID-19 transmission in schools/colleges and to keep staff and pupils as safe as possible in the lead up to the summer break.

**The Government has made it clear that from 19 July 2021, contact tracing in children and young people will be the responsibility of NHS Test & Trace. Given this change, we have been advised that all staff and pupils identified as close contacts during the last week of term only, to stay away from the School setting.**

Wider contact tracing and requirements to self-isolate will be the responsibility of NHS Test & Trace. The rationale for continuing to ask staff/students identified as close contacts to stay away from the setting is that they have been judged to have been exposed to COVID-19 and pose a risk to the safety of other pupils and staff."