



Bethany CE Junior School

Newsletter: January 2024

God's hope in us to make a difference: For Ourselves, For Each Other, For the World.

Headteacher Welcome

Welcome to our January newsletter. I hope you had an enjoyable Christmas break and are ready for the term ahead! All staff returned on Tuesday 2nd January with excellent training from STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics). We explored how to integrate 'working scientifically' into our science curriculum more effectively. We will be shortly implementing these changes.

I have been walking around the school and going into classrooms regularly and it's impressive how well the children have been focusing on their learning and settling back into school life after the Christmas break.

As ever, if you have any worries/concerns, please come and speak with one of the team.

New Behaviour Policy

Last term, Coastal Learning Partnership conducted a parent survey and I shared those results with you, through the newsletter, shortly after. One of our school actions was to implement a new Behaviour and Anti-bullying policy. This has now been completed and approved by the Governors. You can find a copy of it here:

<https://shorturl.at/ozLN6>

We will be breaking this policy down with the children and explaining it to them this half term.

Dropping off and Picking up outside School

Please can you not park on the zig-zag lines outside the school gates. It is highly dangerous for the children and parents/carers dropping off.

We are increasing our presence in this area and will report cars who are persistently parking on the zig-zag lines to the Council traffic wardens.

Many thanks to parents who are helping us keep the roads immediately outside the school safe.



Chatting Faith

We have had lots of parents/carers interested in 'Chatting Faith' with their children. Chatting Faith is a scheme run by Winchester Diocese and aims to get families feeling more comfortable to talk about faith. This is done by sharing a picture book with your child and using the CHAT acronym to help guide the conversation.

C Chat about what we think.

H How does it make us feel?

A Ask about the deeper message

T Talk about what God / Jesus might think about this

Books and advice are all supplied free by the diocese/school (although this may have to be limited depending on demand)

If you are interested in joining Chatting Faith, please speak to me (Mr Woodward). There is more information at the end of this newsletter. All Chatting Faith parents/carers will also be invited to additional coffee mornings to chat about how we can best use the books to help support the children.

Our first Chatting Faith coffee morning (separate to our usual coffee morning!) will be Tuesday 30th January at 9am. Mrs Torrens will also be joining us. All welcome who are part of Chatting Faith or want to find out more!

Safeguarding - Dealing with Tantrums (Toddlers - but lots of this advice applies to older children too!)

What are tantrums?

As babies develop into toddlers, they find new ways to test boundaries and express themselves. So, when your toddler gets upset, they might scream, cry or even kick, hit or bite.

The first time this happens can be upsetting and if it happens in public, it can be embarrassing.

All children misbehave at times. It's a normal part of learning the rules. And sometimes they simply don't know what's good or bad behaviour.

How to respond to tantrums

If you're feeling at the end of your tether, Take 5 and follow these simple steps:

- Stop.
- Breathe.
- React calmly.



When they start screaming in the supermarket or having a meltdown at meal times, it's normal to feel frustrated. But reacting angrily could lead to emotional and physical harm. And this is never OK.

Children respond to how we react, which can affect their behaviour in the future. So, try to react calmly.

If you can't find an immediate reason for the tantrum (maybe they're hungry, tired or need a little tender loving care), there are things you can try to calm them down.

Things to try to calm them down

Create a distraction using something like a book.

Draw their attention to something else happening nearby.

If they're angry, tell them you know how they feel.

Things to avoid

If they're asking for something and you've said no, don't give in.

Don't bribe them with sweets.

How to cope with bad behaviour

Set clear rules

Your child's behaviour will improve when they know what the rules are, so they can stick to them. So, try to respond in the same way every time. Say what you want your child to do, clearly and in a way they'll understand. Repeat it if necessary. And if your child doesn't do as you wish, give them an appropriate consequence - so they'll know not to do it again.

Explain your actions

Choose a consequence that fits the situation, for example, if your children are arguing over a toy, take away the toy. Explain why you are taking the toy away. Stick to what you said, and when 5 minutes has passed give them back the toy so they can show you they can behave in the way you want.

Use a calm voice

When they misbehave take a deep breath and use a quiet and calm voice. Your child is far more likely to listen to you if you are in control - shouting will only make you angrier and upset your child.

Don't compare your child to others


Every child is different and it's important not to compare your child to others. You know your child best and you can help them understand good behaviour by setting rules and creating boundaries.



Attendance

Each month, we will update you with the attendance figures for each class from 1st September. We aim to have attendance above 96%.

It is clear that attendance at school, as is typical during the colder months, has dropped. We will be striving to encourage good attendance at school and if you need any help with this, or if there are any barriers you are facing, please let us know.

Class	Attendance
3AH	94.0%
3SD	94.9%
3RH 	95.7%
4KW	93.1%
4EW	93.4%
4SW	93.2%
5SB	93.5%
5BD	88.5%
5AB	92.4%
6PM	95.8%
6KR	93.9%
6JW	94.0%

Coffee Mornings

On Tuesday 6th February, we will be holding a coffee morning in the Oasis room from 9am (just so we can get all the children in and settled first). All welcome!





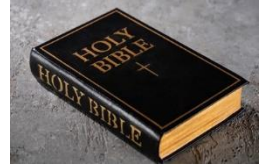
Compassion

Confidence

Creativity

Curiosity

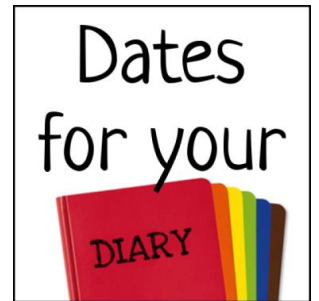
Bible Quote



*For I know the
plans I have for you,
declares the LORD,
plans to prosper you
and not to harm you,
plans to give you hope
and a future.*

jeremiah 29:11

Diary Dates



Friday 12th January: 4EW swimming

Thursday 18th January: Soundstorm Recorder performance for Y3

Friday 19th January: Y5 Football Tournament at BCS

Friday 19th January: 4EW swimming

Monday 22nd January: 5BD Curiosity Project

Friday 26th January: Y6 National Height and Weight Measurement

Friday 26th January: 4EW swimming

Tuesday 30th January: Chatting Faith coffee morning

Friday 2nd February: 4EW swimming

Monday 5th February: Y5 AFC Internet Safety

Tuesday 6th February: Internet Safety Day

Tuesday 6th February: Coffee Morning

Wednesday 6th February: Y6 AFC Internet Safety

Friday 9th February: Inset day (school closed to children)

Monday 12th - Friday 16th February: Half Term

Monday 19th February: First day back for children



Compassion

Confidence

Creativity

Curiosity

Adults' support sheet

You don't have to be a Bible expert to talk about faith as a family, and it doesn't have to take a lot of time.



part of the Church of England's Faith Foundation

Chatting Faith conversations can take place at mealtimes, bedtimes, or any time! Chatting Faith has been developed to help families talk about faith in a relaxed, non-threatening way, using children's stories. In this way children can see that it doesn't have to be a formal time where we sit down for a few minutes with the Bible and then walk away. Chatting Faith makes conversations about God a natural part of our lives.

There are many books that your children might already know, that help us talk about life's big questions. Each book in Chatting Faith comes with some suggestions of different themes found in the story, for example respect or courage and associated Bible stories. But of course you or your child might start talking about something else entirely, there is no right answer!

Jesus knew that stories were the best way to open up conversations about faith and life. Don't worry if your child asks questions you find hard to answer, it's fine to say that you don't know, or you're still thinking about it. Chatting Faith is simply here to help get those conversations started!



How to use the Chatting Faith cards

The Chatting Faith cards are just prompts to help you talk about the book you've read and link it to the Christian faith. They offer some suggestions for things you might talk about, but remember, it's not homework (!), the whole point of Chatting Faith is to keep it relaxed and see where your conversation leads.

Chat about what we think.

- What did we like about the story? Why?
- What do we think XXX means?

How does it make us feel?

- Do we feel the same way about the story?
- Are there other times when you feel like that?

Ask about the deeper message

- Do we think the story has a message?
- Do we agree what it is?
- Do we think this is important?
- Do we know any other stories with the same message?

Talk about what God / Jesus might think about this

- Would God / Jesus like this story? Why / Why not?
- Is this important for Christians?
- Does it change the way you feel?
- Is there something we should do about it?

We hope you've enjoyed reading and chatting together.

Why not tell someone else what you've been chatting about.