



Tonwell St Mary's CE (VC) Primary School

Ware Road, Tonwell, Herts, SG12 0HN

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Headteacher: Mrs Sarah Bridgman



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

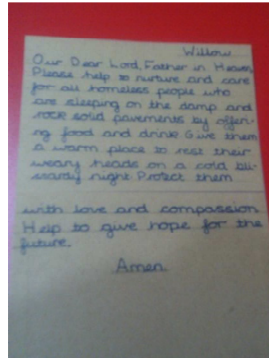
Friday 2nd February 2018

Dear parents,

Well done to representatives from Y3/4 took part in a 'Maths Mastermind' day at St Joseph's in the Park School. They supported each other well in activities and showed their growth mindsets not giving up with trickier challenges. Our children have been incredibly reflective about our value of compassion and have written some thoughtful prayers and messages.

Our Dear Lord, Father in Heaven,

Please help to nurture and care for all homeless people who are sleeping on the damp and solid pavements by offering food and drink. Give them a warm place to rest their weary heads on cold, blizzard nights. Protect them with love and compassion. Help to give hope for the future. Amen



I look forward to seeing you at parent consultation evenings next week. After school clubs and wraparound will be on as usual.

Please remember that we break up for half term on Friday 9th February and children return to school on Tuesday 20th February.

Kind regards,

Mrs Bridgman

Safer Internet Day

We will be marking Safer Internet Day on Tuesday 6th February with a range of activities in class to help children learn about esafety.

40 Acts of Kindness

The children will be taking part in 40 acts of kindness during the period of Lent, with a kindness challenge set each day in school. As Lent begins during half term, please see a 40 acts poster attached to the newsletter for you to share with your child at home.

Feeling Good Week

Children will be taking part in Hertfordshire's 'Feeling Good Week' during the week after half term. The purpose of the week is to raise awareness of mental health. We have secured some funding to support our activities for the week which will include: children's yoga sessions, a fun dance workshop and school council organising healthy snacks for playtime.

Parent Forum

Thank you to those who were able to attend parent forum. Please see notes on the next page:



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Actions from previous meeting:

ACTION: Shared staff training with other schools has been completed. The training allowed our staff to make links with other teachers to share ideas to use in lessons.

- **Updated Behaviour Policy**

There is a new draft behaviour policy in place. Some changes have been implemented after staff had training in 'Hertfordshire Steps', which is a therapeutic approach to behaviour. It emphasises the importance of consistency and teaching internal, rather than imposing external, discipline. It focuses on care, control and consequences, not punishment. The main changes are moving from 'sanctions' to 'consequences' for difficult behaviour and a risk reduction plan for children who may need extra support. The policy is available on our website in the 'Parent Information' section.

- **Initial feedback from Local Authority Review Visit**

Two representatives from the Local Authority carried out a review visit at the school on Friday 19th January. The purpose of the visit was to monitor progress towards OFSTED priorities and support with school improvement.

- ✓ Review visit recognises that we are still continuing to make reasonable progress towards our OFSTED priorities
- ✓ Lessons across the school were observed by the two visitors and they spoke to many of the children. They described our children as 'delightful', 'articulate' and 'confident'.
- ✓ The steady staff team and support for staff training were areas praised.
- ✓ There is an improvement in teaching and in expectations for pupils since the inspection.
- ✓ Governors have a far clearer view of the school, monitor through visits regularly and ask challenging questions to hold the school to account.
- ✓ There are a range of enrichment activities and trips to support children's enjoyment of learning.

- Although there was a marked improvement from 2016 to 2017, end of Key Stage Two results are still below the national average. The inspectors recommended further training for governors and staff in interpreting data so they can identify gaps and take action to improve.
- Attendance is well below national average and impacting children's progress. Headteacher and governors to work with families to improve this.
- More-able children could be pushed even more to achieve the highest results at the end of Key Stage Two.

- **AOB**

A parent asked about what had been done for the school to have achieved the School Games Gold Mark. We have taken part in a broader range of sporting activities and competitions and improved our PE provision for children across the school. For example: taking part in more Hertford and Ware sports partnership events, introducing the 'Monday Mile' and Y6 sports ambassadors.

A parent asked about nursery and reception applications for next September. Reception places are offered in April 2018 and nursery places are offered in March 2018. We are expecting 6-7 children in reception and at least 4 children for nursery. We are also expecting new children in Y1 and Y5.