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## Weekly Newsletter

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we are progressing through Lent, we have been exploring different ways with the pupils that they can remember Jesus' time in the desert through living more simply. In addition to this, Bishop Stephen's Lent Challenge has been set to ensure we are all interacting with members from different generations, showing love to one another.

One way in which this has commenced has been Year 6s visit to Great Shelford Free Church to lead collective worship for the local community: this centred on the Lord's Prayer. As you will know, the school's interaction within the community and the community's interaction within the school have been long established.

Another way in which the school has been supported by the local community is through a legacy left at and enhanced by the Wellcome Trust. Mrs. Clarke and I attended the Genome Campus this week to embark on the steps to achieve the school's Primary Science Quality Mark. Our main aims through this are to raise the profile of science within the school, using inquiry skills to support their learning. In addition to this, we would like our pupils to have a strong awareness of the science-based careers that could be open to them in the future. After all, 65% of primary pupils will go on to a job that doesn't yet exist!

Yesterday, we have been very fortunate to welcome GenR8 into school to share very important messages linked to the Easter story with us in our collective worship. Pupils were particularly wowed by the way in which the GenR8 representatives retold the events of Good Friday with one single piece of A3 paper, some accurate folding and careful tearing! Please note **our** Easter Service date has been set below!

With best wishes,

Mr. Grey

### **From the Chair of Governors**

The current terms of office of our two parent governors conclude at the end of this school year, so elections will be held during the summer term to fill these positions for the period 2019-2023. Both Sarah Bullock and James Doubleday have given great service to the school since 2015, but each has decided not to seek a further term, so we are definitely looking for newcomers.

Further information, including the timetable for nominations and elections, will be published shortly. In the meantime, if you think you might be interested in this opportunity to assist in furthering the development of the school please feel free to contact any governor to find out more about what is involved. Our names are on the school website, and most of us also have photographs displayed inside the main entrance of the school.

I would also like to update you on the subject of academization. Some time ago I informed parents that governors had decided to pursue membership of the Diocese of Ely Multi Academy Trust (DEMAT), but as we have undertaken further investigation and review, both of DEMAT and our future prospects under the Local Authority (LA), we have decided against joining DEMAT at this stage. We believe that under its new leadership the LA provides the best option for the future of the school and the education of the children which is of course our paramount concern. However, we will be undertaking an annual review of this important subject so that we would be ready to take the academy route if that should become the best option for the school in the future.

Finally, I would like to share some unexpected but very good news that I received recently. Two parents whose connection with the school through their children ends this year have made a generous donation to the school, recognising the way that their children have thrived here and wanting to help the school to develop further. This donation will be used to support music opportunities for children over the coming years, and I am sure that will involve activities within the wider community as well as in school. The donors wish to remain anonymous, but I would like to take this opportunity to thank them on behalf of the whole school community. It is gratifying to see people who are willing to support the school beyond the time of their direct connection, whether financially or in other ways, and to help the school to develop its position in the community.

Peter Ede

## Announcements

### **Lost Property**

Please note the procedure for returning lost property is maintained by School Council. If items are named, these are returned to class by School Council representatives fortnightly. If unnamed, the items remain in the school lobby area. Please take the time to label all items of uniform, to avoid items becoming unidentifiable!

### **Easter Service**

The school's Easter Service, led by Year 5, will take place on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April at 2:00pm at All Saints Church, Little Shelford.

### **Class Briefings**

The Year 1 Class Briefing will take place this Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March at 2:00pm. Further dates for class briefings can be found below:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Class</b>
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March at 2:00pm	Year 1
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> March at 2:00pm	Year 4
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> April at 2:00pm	Year 5

### **Choir and Orchestra**

Please can we remind parents that choir and orchestra begin at 8.00am. Children should be in the hall and ready to begin at this time. However, please can we ask that you do not drop your child off before 8.00am, as children are arriving increasing early and are having to wait unsupervised. Thank you very much for your assistance with this.

### **Instrumentalist concerts for children learning instruments in school**

Our annual Instrumentalists' concerts will take place on:

- Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March at 2.30pm (Years 2, 3 & 4 Pianists) - no tickets are necessary for this concert.
- Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March 6.30pm – 7.45pm (Y5 and Y6 pianists, **all** instrumentalists and **all** orchestra members will perform). Children will need to arrive at 6.10pm with their instrument and music and wear school uniform. Initially, two tickets per family for children performing will be issued. If you would like more tickets, please give your name to the office and these will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

We look forward to welcoming you to these excellent events.

**Term dates for next year**

All term dates and INSET days have been agreed and are now on the school website under 'Parents / Term dates'.

**Parking**

As usual, please remember that the school car park is unfortunately too small to accommodate parents. As you will be aware, the roadside near to the school is particularly congested. Please ensure safe parking at all times and consider that we all play our part within the Shelford community. Inconsiderate and unsafe parking can reflect negatively on the reputation of the school amongst the wider community, despite our lack of control or authority over it.

**Volunteers needed for Forest School sessions**

In order to maintain a safe ratio of adults to children we are looking for some more volunteers to help us carry out regular 'forest school' sessions every Wednesday afternoon in Reception after half term. If you think you might enjoy spending a couple of hours helping to make dens, crawl under low branches, create a mud pie or find a bug or two out on the meadow or in the wildlife area, please let the office know or speak to a member of the Reception Team. You do not need to commit to helping every week, but if you are able to sign up for just one session, your help will be much appreciated. For more information, please see the letter attached.

Thank you, Mrs Clarke

**Illness in school**

Please can we remind parents that if your child vomits or has diarrhoea they must be kept off school for 48 hours after the last episode (as recommended by the NHS and Department for Education). These rules are put in place to limit the spread of illness throughout the school (both for children and staff members). Thank you for your co-operation with this.

**Class List**

The PTA would like to ensure that as many parents as possible are aware of 'Class List'. This is a great way to keep in touch with the other parents in your class and should help to ensure good communication between parents. Please get in touch with your class' PTA representatives for assistance.