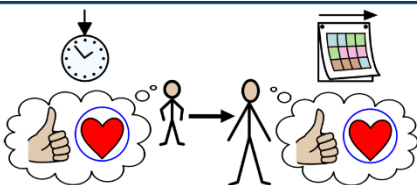




Newsletter

February

2024



"What does a good life look like for me
now and in the future"



Message from Swavek

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of this half-term, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on the wonderful journey we have embarked upon together. It has been a period filled with growth, learning, and memorable experiences for our pupils.

Firstly, I would like to express my gratitude to each one of you for your continued support and partnership. Your involvement in your child's education is invaluable, and it plays a crucial role in creating a positive and nurturing learning environment.

Throughout these past weeks, our pupils have once again exhibited enthusiasm and joy of being in the school. Their achievements, both big and small, are a testament to their hard work, support, and the encouragement they receive at home. We are proud of the progress they have made.

By the end of this half-term, we will complete the pupils survey which will help us to understand better the pupils school experience. We will share the outcomes of the pupil's survey with you all via the school website. A text message will be sent to you all when the survey is uploaded and available to view/read.

Our dedicated team of teachers and support staff has worked tirelessly to create engaging and enriching lessons, fostering an environment where all pupils can flourish. We have witnessed remarkable moments of engagement, joy, progress, and resilience among our pupils.

As we approach the half-term break, I encourage you to take some time to relax and recharge with your children.

Looking ahead, we have exciting plans and projects in store for the next half of the term, which are listed in one of the sections of this newsletter.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. Your feedback is crucial in ensuring that we continue to enhance the educational experience for all our pupils.

Thank you once again for your ongoing partnership and support. Wishing you a restful and enjoyable half-term break.

Kind regards

Swavek Nowakiewicz

Headteacher



Safeguarding children and young people through the school holidays

How can you help?

If you ever see anything that makes you feel uncomfortable, please contact **Somerset Direct (Social Care) – 0300 123 2224** or if you feel a child/young person is in **immediate danger (Emergency services) – 999**. You are not causing problems, but it could save a child from unnecessary harm. Any one of these things might not mean anything, but it is important to share so the right services can support if necessary.

For all other safeguarding enquiries during the school holidays please email - DSL@fiveways.school Your email will be picked up by one of our team.

If you have any queries, questions, comments...

or just want a brew and a chat, please contact -

Chloe Baker

Safeguarding & Attendance Officer

Tel: 01935 476227 **Mob:** 07557 671013 **Email:** cbaker@fiveways.school

Working days: Tues, Wed, Thurs. Term time only.

Attendance

As part of our commitment to improving the attainment of our pupils here at Fiveways we monitor attendance on a regular basis and identify any pupil whose attendance causes concern.

Please ensure your child's school attendance gives them the best opportunities in life.

If your child is unable to attend school, please phone, text or email the office by 8.00 am each day that your child is absent. This is a legal requirement as stated in our attendance policy to ensure our attendance records meet government guidelines.

Please feel rest assured that we are fully aware of our pupil population and their physical, emotions and medical needs.

Any questions or queries regarding attendance please contact -

Chloe Baker - 01935 476227 or 07557 671013



The Educational Psychology Service is running a free three-hour training session that will look at ADHD, what it is as well as what it isn't, explore differences (neurodiversity), and offer practical strategies and guidance to support children and young people with ADHD.

A coffee morning will be held on Monday 22 April 2024, 9.30am-12.30pm in the training centre to access the training virtually for any parent/carers who wish to attend. If you would like any further information, please do not hesitate to contact our PFSA Kayleigh



Hope you have found the curriculum leaflets useful and informative. From these leaflets you will know this term Lower school are exploring their Weather topic and in Upper school the topic is Our Material World. In 6th form the topic is Helping Others (and those who help us). These curriculum leaflets will be sent out at the beginning of each term, giving you an overview of how each strand of the curriculum is covered.

To gain a deeper understanding of our curriculum across the school I invite you to join me for a curriculum information afternoon on Thursday the 29th of February at 2.30pm. Reminders will be sent out weekly - we hope to see many of you there!

Naomi Austin

Assistant Head and Curriculum Lead

Congratulations to Fiveways for again achieving 100% in the Gatsby Benchmarks



World Book day is in Spring term, on Thursday 7th March 2024. As normal we will plan a fun day of book related activities and of course invite children and staff to wear book related fancy dress. For ideas and activities look at the World Book Day website.

<https://www.worldbookday.com/>

A letter will be sent home soon.

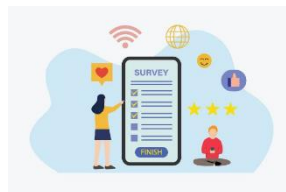




Evidence for Learning (EFL) Family app. Parent Carer Survey

Thank you to those who responded to the Evidence for Learning family app. survey. Of those who responded:

- 86% have activated and use EFL family app.
- 36% have captured a special moment at home & shared with school.
- 100% of those families accessing the app. like it. Reasons given included:
 - Seeing what they are doing in school.
 - It's quick & simple to use.
 - Gives an insight to your child's learning.
 - Being able to see their progress.
 - Seeing them thrive in school.
 - Videoing at home to share with school.



It has been a very successful start and thank you to those families who have given us such positive feedback. We hope most of you have now been able to log on to see the weekly evidence and achievements shared with you.

We are keen that all families can use this wonderful tool so if you need support to access it, please refer to the "How to" guide sent out to you or feel free to contact us.

Calendar Dates

Monday 12th – Friday 16th February – Half Term

Monday 19th February – Return to School

Thursday 7th March – World Book Day

Friday 15th March – Red Nose Day

Wednesday 27th March – Easter Trail

Thursday 28th March – INSET Day

Friday 29th March – Bank Holiday

Monday 1st April – Bank Holiday

Tuesday 2nd April > Friday 12th April – Half Term

Monday 15th April – Return to School



Policy updates

Listed below recently updated policies. We recommend that you familiarise yourself with these policies:

- Attendance Policy
- First Aid Policy
- Curriculum Policy
- RHSE Policy

You can find all policies on the school website or simply follow the below link.

<https://www.fivewaysschool.co.uk/school/information/>



"The Storm"

This term Bamboozle theatre group visited Fiveways to perform "The Storm". Not all pupils could attend so it was offered for those pupils who had not experienced the group before and hadn't experienced the pantomime at Christmas. A big thank you to FofFSA for helping with the funding of this amazing experience.

The show is carefully designed for children and young people with autism and learning disabilities, to put them at ease, give them space and time to move freely and experience the show in their own way. Using elements of Shakespeare's "*The Tempest*" and a limited amount of Shakespeare's language, *Storm* tells a dramatic story of the sea, ships, islands and magic. Pupils were welcomed into the performance space with relaxing music and during the performance were invited to interact with the actors and the setting.

The pupil reactions and a few words from the supporting staff tell you just what a wonderful emotional experience it was!

Immersive Amazing Engaging Responsive Inclusive Interactive

The expertise the Bamboozle team have to connect and engage our pupils and sustain their attention and rapture for 45 minutes was beautiful to see. The music, lighting, props and script are only the support materials - the real gem is the marvellous Intensive Interaction they bring throughout their performance that brings with it joy and delight. It was truly wonderful.

Many thanks Bamboozle team!



Class News

GEMS



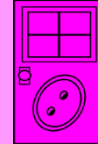
Gems Class have been exploring different types of weather through dance, music, art and sensory exploration. We have had lots of fun exploring weather through shaving foam clouds, muddy footprints and splashing in puddles with our wellies! We enjoyed our bucket session by sitting under an umbrella and watching and hearing the raindrops.

We have been incredibly lucky as the weather has helped us deliver the different weather!

The children have been exploring number and heavy and light objects in Numeracy. We have been listening to poems, reading stories with sensory elements and singing lots of songs all relating to the weather. We're super weather experts now!



Buttons



In Buttons this term our topic is weather and seasons. Looking into different activities we might do in each season. Cycling when the weather is hot, splashing in the water when the weather is wet and wrapping up warm for snowball fights when it is cold. In phonics we have continued to explore sounds and our knowledge of what makes each sound. Our favourites including the elephant, helicopter and pouring water. In maths, alongside our usual number songs and Attention Autism we have begun to explore "big and small" as well as moving on to "light and heavy". really enjoying exploring using the bucket scales to investigate which things are light and which are heavy. Whilst swimming is a consistent form of move that we engage in each week we have also been experiencing dance in our PE sessions. Starting with a warm up song, then having a go at a dance with some specific moves (clapping, stomping, etc.) before then ending with a silly song which always leaves us in stitches. In our creative times we have continued to explore the seasons and what might grow in the spring. As a result of this we have been planting a lot of seeds to later plant in the woodland walk. A great start to 2024 from Buttons and we can't wait to see what will happen next half term.



Class News



This term in Acorns we have had so much fun exploring our weather topic. We learnt a weather poem and signs and have been creative making lots of weather artwork. Our multisensory weather story has involved shaving foam snow, rain sticks, thunder drumming, rainbow streamers and a very blowy wind machine! On Mondays, pupils have become budding scientists. Our favourite experiments have been 'storm in a jar', 'magic rain milk', 'expanding hot air balloons' and 'fizzy rainbow volcanoes'.

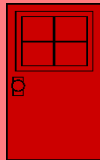


Shells have been busy exploring different science experiments during our bucket sessions based on weather. They enjoyed the volcano exploding and rainbow rain. We have had fun in Art lessons making a weather mobile and exploring different weather conditions. In cookery, the children have been learning how to make a sandwich and trying some new fillings. In maths, we have been exploring different prepositions. The children enjoyed using their preposition knowledge in the classroom and on the adventure playground.



Class News

Feathers



This half term in Feathers, we have been learning about the weather in its different forms. We have been working hard creating weather journals throughout the weeks and have had fun getting our hands in and getting messy. We have also been learning to share our emotions throughout the day with a focus of this being in circle time which has been really interesting for everyone.



Class 1



We made pizzas on Tuesday, and we touched food as hot and cold, we discovered how materials work! How we made the tiffin's hot and cold, we also looked at water, and we also discovered how we made a water dam to stop water coming out the end. We had to use different materials, to see what one stopped the water. Written by the students of class 1.



Class News



Materials

We used a switch to make a fan and hairdryer work and enjoyed Hot Chocolate and ice-cream. YUM! We went to hot and cold places in the discovery Room and Painted Hot and Cold colour pictures.



hot

+

and



cold



Class News



We sorted wet and dry objects that we found in the woodland walk and made Vegetable soup and toast for snack AND had hot chocolate and biscuits! Yum again!



wet



and



dry



Class News

Class 3



This term Class 3 went on a class trip to Ninesprings to explore our theme of wet and dry. We had a lovely walk up to the pond, splashing in puddles then even stopped off at the cafe for a slice of cake.



Class 4



This term we have been taking trips to the shops. The pupils have been buying different items each week and learning how to exchange money.

Some of the items bought have been for our sensory cooking. They have tried sweet jelly and sour lemon; the tasting of the lemon produced some interesting facial expressions. Plus, soft cottage cheese which wasn't liked much, but crunchy crisps were a hit!

We had a theatre company, Bamboozle, in school recently. It was fabulous and all the pupils enjoyed the experience, with great participation from them all.

There was also a visit from the Police, the students were able to sit inside and press the button for the siren, they loved it.



Class News

Class 5



Class 5 have had a brilliant half term. They have enjoyed sensory exploring for our literacy topic of materials. They have been exploring hot and cold, wet and dry, soft and hard and have enjoyed creating our own non-fiction class book putting together what we have found out about the different materials.

Class 5 have also been putting their independent living skills into practice by going on weekly trips to the shop and cooking a variety of different things including pizza and biscuits.

Their enterprise task this half term was to make, prepare and sell cream teas to the Fiveways staff, we hope they enjoyed them. The money raised from this will go towards a special lunch trip during the last week of half term.



6th Form



During this ½ term the 6th form learners have been busy working on their AQA units, discussing the emergency services and talking about values and culture. The learners are also planning an afternoon tea, as part of the AQA unit working as a group to plan an afternoon event, look out for invitations coming out soon. Some learners have also been having hand massages as part of their taking part in a hand massage unit.



The learners have also started to learn about what to do in an emergency as part of First Aid which they are undertaking as the skill element of their Duke of Edinburgh award and have also started littering picking at Ninesprings for the volunteering element of the Duke of Edinburgh. Hopefully the weather will be kinder to us next ½ term and we can get out walking to practice for the physical element of the award.



6th form would also like to say a "big hello" to Josh and say "hope you are feeling better", Josh is a valued member of the 6th form group who unfortunately hasn't been well recently.





Useful Information

Cary Amateur Theatrical Society Presents



The Wizard of

Weds 14 - Sat 17th February 2024
7:30pm Ansford Academy, Castle Cary

Tickets £11
 Available from December at
www.thelittleboxoffice.com/cats/
 Or From January at Needful Things, Castle Cary

Enquires: castlecarycats@gmail.com
[Facebook.com/castlecarycats](https://www.facebook.com/castlecarycats)

The Wizard of Oz
 By L. Frank Baum
 With Music and Lyrics by Harold Arlen and E.Y. Hamburg
 Background Music by Herber Stothart
 Dance and Vocal Arrangements by Peter Howard
 Orchestration by Larry Wilcox
 Adapted by John Kiefer for Royal Shakespeare Company
 Based upon the Classic Motion Picture owned by Turner Entertainment Co. and distributed in all media by Warner Bros.



Autism Empowerment Webinar

This one-hour lunchtime webinar is a brief exploration of how Autism can present, the history of Autism, diagnosis as well as differences in communication and social interaction. We will also be looking at how the environment can impact on someone with sensory processing challenges.

The main aim of this webinar is to focus on the many strengths autistic individuals have and how we can increase understanding and Neuro-inclusivity through education and raising awareness.

Webinars are held on Zoom on the following dates:

Thursday 29th February 12:30 to 13:30

Friday 29th March 12:30 to 13:30

Friday 26th April 12:30 to 13:30

At the end of the webinar, you will receive a certificate of attendance that will be emailed to your given email address.

The cost of this one-hour webinar is only £5.50!

To book your place on the webinar please either scan the QR code below or go to: www.theautismtrainingnetwork.com/training

"For every person who understands Autism better, another Autistic person will be happier."
 Libby Scott, Autistic Author (at age 11)



*****SWCP Trials 2024*****

On the back of the clubs Tri-County Disability Sessions through the summer.

We are very pleased to announce that we will be focussing on adding to our CP provision in 2024.

SWCP can offer bespoke coaching on the CP game, knowledge & experience of classification, opportunities to play regular competitive both at home & abroad.

Several SWCP players have been successful in accessing the Para Pathways and been successful at playing at full international level.

The club is a like family that offers a supportive & inclusive environment.

There is a wealth of experience within the club and we welcome players from 12+ to join us on Saturday 24 February for our launch date for our trials & open day for prospective new players



Cerebral Palsy Football Trials

Why join SWCP:

- Experience top-level coaching
- Be part of a supportive and inclusive environment
- Showcase your football skills
- Potential pathway to represent regional and national team

Saturday 24th February 2024

Who can participate?

☑ Players aged 12+

Individuals with:

- ☑ Cerebral Palsy
- ☑ Stroke
- ☑ Acquired Brain Injury

10:00am - 12:00pm

1610 Robert Blake & Elmwood
 Bridgewater
 TA6 6AW

07775802317

swcp.seniors

jbswcp@gmail.com

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