

Ditton CE Junior School Newsletter

“That they may have life and live it to the full”

18.7.2022

Headlines

New Chair of the Interim Executive Board

Dr. Peter Gregory is no longer our Chair of the IEB and is supporting schools in another part of the county. We are very grateful to Peter for the leadership and commitment he has given to Ditton over the last 18 months.

A huge welcome goes to our new Chair Jane Prideaux. Jane is an experienced Headteacher and she has a key role not only in leading the IEB but Jane will be working with Steve Carey the CEO from Aletheia Anglican Academies Trust to ensure there is a smooth transition for Ditton to the Trust family of schools.

For the last two terms Ditton has already received significant school improvement support from the Trust and there are exciting times ahead as the school joins with wider Trust activities. Staff have access to a range of training and Best Practice groups and throughout the year children from all Trust schools come together for music and sports events and there is a very active Pupil Voice group with representatives from all schools.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Miss Semark for all the hard work that went in to enabling the school to be awarded this amazing award!



Silver School Games Mark award

We are delighted to announce that we have achieved the Silver School Games Mark for this academic year. The School Games Mark is a Government-led award scheme launched in 2012, facilitated by the Youth Sport Trust to reward and recognise school's engagement (provision and uptake) in the School Games against a national benchmark and to celebrate keeping young people active, and we are delighted to have been recognised for our success. We have been working hard to increase our school sports offer including developing the range of after school clubs we offer, entering more local competitions and attending events as well as developing our PE lessons through better resources and quality teaching.



We are extremely proud of our pupils for their dedication to all aspects of physical activity and school sport, including those young volunteers, leaders and officials who made our events possible. We are committed to using the School Games to try and engage those young people who haven't previously been active or represented our school and to try and ensure that all our students have a positive experience and want to try out new activities beyond school too in our community. We believe in the power of physical activity and school sport as a school and give opportunities to those young people that need it most either as a participant, leader, official or volunteer. As part of our application, we were asked to fulfil criteria in the areas linked to the five School Games outcomes and we are pleased that the hard work of everyone at our school has been rewarded this year.

Goodbye.....

Sadly we are saying goodbye to three members of staff at the end of term.

Mr Hawkins, Miss Hindry and Mrs Beadle will be sadly missed but we wish them the very best of luck at their new schools.

Empathy - or Sympathy?

What is the difference between the two? Is one more useful than the other? One definition is that sympathy involves understanding from your own perspective. Empathy involves putting yourself in the other person's shoes and understanding **why** they may have these particular feelings.

So clearly we need in our own lives, homes and our school more of both - but I think empathy is more important.

Of course, it's one of our School's core values and a vital one to have. You may have noticed that on the wall in the School Hall empathy is illustrated by possibly the most famous story Jesus ever told ' *The Good Samaritan*'.

Even today when someone gives their all for someone they don't know, often putting themselves in danger we call them a 'Good Samaritan'. Jesus told this story about a man beaten almost to death on the road from Jerusalem to Jericho to answer a question from someone listening to him ' *Who is my neighbour?*' It's a story of a man who comes to the aid of someone he doesn't know and who puts his life on the line to rescue and help him.

The Samaritan isn't interested in the question ' *Who*' but more importantly ' *How*' can I love my neighbour?

Empathy costs. To show empathy can be very time consuming, sometimes exhausting. Putting yourself in someone else's shoes asks us to stop thinking about ourselves which for most of us can be a struggle!

Jesus said to his first followers ' *Love one another as I have loved you*' Imagine a life, a home, a school community living and loving like that!

Ross Terranova

Rector of Ditton

Term dates 2022-2023

Term 1 INSET (In service-education for teachers only) **days** Thursday 1st and Friday 2nd September

School – Monday 5th September – Friday 21st October inclusive

Term 2 INSET day Monday 31st October

School – Tuesday 1st November – Friday 16th December inclusive

Term 3 – INSET day Tuesday 3rd January

School – Wednesday 4th January – Friday 10th February inclusive

Term 4 – School – Monday 20th February-Friday 31st March. **Please note Monday 20th March is a Trust development day and children will not be in school on that day**

Term 5 – School – Monday 17th April – Friday 26th May inclusive

Term 6 – INSET day Monday 5th June

School – Tuesday 6th June – Friday 21st July inclusive

In arranging these days we have taken in to account the agreed Infant development days, the needs of Ditton CE Junior School and some common Aletheia Trust training days where all Trust schools meet together. We are currently working on dates for the following academic year and will let you have these as soon as they are finalized. Thank you for your patience over the above dates, as I know you would normally have had these sooner.

Happy Summer Holidays!

Thank you for all your hard work and support this year...I know it has been tricky at times, but staff do really appreciate all the lovely thanks they get. We wish everyone a happy and safe summer break and look forward to seeing you all on Monday 5th September.

