



## Uffington Church of England Primary School

### Governors' Newsletter – December 2019

#### *A Message from the Chair of Governors*

*Is it really that time of year again? However, when I think back, I realise that so much has occurred in the past months. Our planning started early in order to further enhance the children's academic achievements and personal development.*

*Performance statistics from the Department for Education for 2018 / 2019 showed that our KS2 cohort propelled us into the top 12% of 329 schools in Lincolnshire and, in addition, showed we were the Number One school in the Stamford Cluster. The local authority have informed us that they have no concerns about the performance of the school at the present time.*

*Finance is, as ever, one of our main concerns; however, I am pleased to report that our funding for 2020 / 2021 will be increased due to our strong marketing approach resulting in a school roll increase of some 19%. Our after-school care, Reach for the Stars, was more than favourably received judging by the recent survey carried out by the operator. This excellent news fully justified our decision to award Inspire+ the contract. Our strategic planning led us to contact the local community for volunteers in a bid to assist with children's reading; this is now in place and is proving a success being thoroughly enjoyed not only by the children, but by those acting as mentors. Our church-school activities continue at a pace and we thank Father Aran and those members of the community for their services. Our thanks also to our vibrant PTA and the Somes Trust for their activities and generosity towards our funds. Finally, on behalf of the governing body, may I wish all families a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful and Prosperous New Year.*

*Ron Carter*



*Father Aran helps Y5/6 to test their parachutes designed and made as part of their Science topic, Forces.*

## Christmas Preparations

As always, Christmas has been a special time in school: celebrations began with our customary art day resulting in work from each class being displayed throughout the school. Children from the Foundation Stage and Y1 greatly enjoyed their very muddy visit to Tallington Christmas Tree Farm and chose the beautiful tree which is adding a festive touch to the office entrance. With the help of Fr Aran, and Liz and Les of Uffington Church, everyone enjoyed making their Christingles and taking part in the service in church.

This year's Nativity play 'Prickly Hay' was a truly joyous occasion; congratulations to all the children and staff who worked so hard to stage this production, not forgetting the parents who kindly gave up their time to erect and dismantle the stage.

This year's Christmas treat was a visit to see Cinderella at The Cresset and the last week of term began with the annual Winter Wonderland fun run: the children had a great time running with their friends around the field in their Christmas jumpers and Santa hats as they raised money for Save the Children. Congratulations to this year's champions—Eli Saralis (KS2) and Martha Saralis (KS1). The children also enjoyed their Christmas lunch complete with home-made crackers made by our newly-appointed Environment Ambassadors and School Councillors.

Finally, Fritz, the Reach for the Stars 'elf on the shelf' has taken the school by storm! We have all been entertained by his antics including the weekly announcement of which staff are on the 'good list' and 'naughty list'!



## School Data Summary 2019

At this time of year, national and school-level data is published by OFSTED. The governors and staff spend a significant amount of time analysing the data included in the Inspection Summary Data Report to identify areas of strength and weakness in order to plan for the future development of the school in regard to teaching and learning.

- In 2019, progress from KS1 to KS2 in comparison to schools nationally was Average.
- The percentage of children achieving the Expected Standard at the end of Key Stage 2 in Reading, Writing and Mathematics was 71%, 10% above the local authority average and 6% above the national average.
- The percentage of children achieving the Higher Standard at the end of Key Stage 2 in Reading, Writing and Mathematics was 21%, 11% above the local authority average and 10% above the national average.

A full set of 2019 data is available on the school website. <https://www.uffingtonprimary.co.uk/page/?title=School+Performance&pid=45>

*Should you have any further questions relating to school performance, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Simms at school who will be more than happy to explain the data in greater depth. Equally, Mrs Simms will be happy to discuss individual progress and projections for end of key stage assessment with you.*

## Information for Parents

We would like to thank all those parents who took time to attend both Parents' Evening and the Open Afternoon. We believe that these are key to ensuring that parents and carers are informed about their children's attainment and progress. The next Parents' Evening will take place the week before February half term with the second Open Afternoon of the year being held at the end of the spring term before we break up for Easter.

## Meeting the Needs of All Children and Safeguarding

All staff and governors receive regular training in Safeguarding led by the Designated Safeguarding Lead, Mrs Simms assisted by Miss Waters (Deputy DSL) and the governor with responsibility for Safeguarding, Dr John Baldwin or by Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Partnership. Should you have any concerns or questions about safeguarding, please contact Mrs Simms.

An important part of our work in maintaining the physical and mental well-being of our children is to work with outside agencies and to this end we work closely with Speech and Language Therapists, Physiotherapists and Healthy Minds.

### **Five Ways to Well-being**

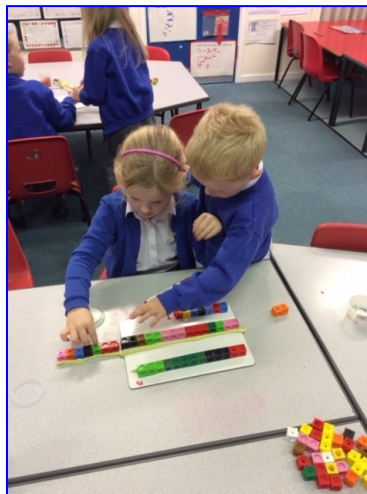
We have been working with the Stamford Mental Health Charity MINDSPACE for some months as part of a project to develop a universal programme to promote good mental health and well-being in the local community. Staff have received training in the delivery of the programme and are putting the final touches to our approach before a whole-school launch in January.

Each day, children and staff will have opportunities to engage in activities which promote well-being and talk about how these support good mental health.

The Five Ways to Well-being are:

1. Talk and Listen – CONNECT
2. Be ACTIVE
3. Remember to take NOTICE
4. Keep LEARNING every day
5. Acts of kindness – GIVE to others

### **Learning in Action—Practical Maths in KS1**



### **Reach for the Stars**

Who could have imagined the level of demand for wrap-around care just a year ago as we were planning to implement this provision? We are delighted with the level of support for Reach for the Stars and that we are able to meet your needs in providing a high-quality service. We continue to work closely with staff from Inspire+ to develop provision and look forward to a long and successful partnership. Many thanks to all the Inspire+ staff, especially Sharalyn, Will and Kieran who work with your children day to day.



### Sports Premium

We are delighted to have been awarded the Gold Sportsmark once again in recognition of our commitment to sport and physical activity.

We benefit greatly from our investment in the sports charity Inspire+, not least because of the opportunities the children have to meet inspirational athletes such as Olympic swimmer Lizzie Simmonds who visited school in November. We use Sports Premium to employ Mr Kieran Loftus as a sports apprentice: Mr Loftus supports PE lessons throughout the school as well as running coaching sessions at lunchtimes. He supports inter-school sport and runs early morning running sessions.

Four new Sports Ambassadors were appointed earlier this term: they have attended training and were excited to begin their work in promoting sport amongst their peers.



### Inter-School Sport

We are delighted to announce that the netball team are unbeaten to date in the Stamford and District league; the final match will take place in the new year. Congratulations to Abbie Graham and Isabella Arnone who have since been selected to play for the county. The lacrosse team were also successful and they will also compete in the county finals.



## Out and About

We have had a busy term with many activities taking place to enrich the children's learning. Children in Years 3 and 4 enjoyed a day at Burghley funded by the Stamford Young Person's Charity on a scorching day in September. The children took part in an a sculpture workshop, explored the Sculpture Garden and then cooled off in the Garden of Surprises. Meanwhile, Years 5 and 6 enjoyed a



lantern-making workshop as part of the preparations for the Stamford Georgian Festival with many children taking part in the parade the following weekend.

Andrews Building Supplies of Peterborough visited school with an enormous lorry to teach the children about the hazards of heavy-goods vehicles. However hard they tried, Y3/4 could not move the tonne of gravel without the help of the heavy lifting gear!

KS1 enjoyed an Old Toys workshop organised through Peterborough Museum while KS2 enjoyed taking part in the annual IntoFilm Festival, both kindly funded by the PTA.

Meanwhile, Years 5 and 6 have had the opportunity to look ahead into the adult world as they welcomed Parliamentary Education Officers who gave a fascinating insight into how Parliament operates including a mock debate in the House of Commons. This was followed by a wonderful trip to RAF College Cranwell where the children learned about the history of the RAF and the opportunities which a military career can offer. They have also taken part in a K-nex Engineering Challenge and a hands-on Construction Skills Day hosted by Stamford College—congratulations to Daisy Rouse and Red Huggett who were awarded certificates in recognition of their aptitude for the skills they were taught.





### **School Council / Environment Ambassadors**

A new group of school councillors were elected by their peers in September. The group have already considered what they want to achieve this year and have encouraged their friends to support Christmas Jumper Day in aid of Save the Children and to buy poppies on behalf of the British Legion. Children in KS2 were invited to apply for the post of Environment Ambassador earlier this term; as a result, we have an enthusiastic team who are planning ways in which the school community can become more environmentally-friendly.

### **Somes Trust**

We value highly the financial support given to us by the Somes Trust. The Trust continue to subsidise the cost of swimming tuition and transport to Stamford for both PE and Swimming lessons. At the end of the summer term, all Y6 leavers were presented with a Bible and a book of their choice by the trust.



### **Extra-curricular activities**

Sports coaching—Mrs Swanson and Mr Loftus  
Woodwind tuition—Ruth Smith  
Two Little Birds Sewing—Vicky Palmer  
Smart Raspberry Cooking—Sarah  
Running Club—Mr Loftus  
Hockey Club—Inspire+  
Board Games Club—Miss Johnston

We look forward to offering tuition in descant recorder from January.

### **Parent Teachers' Association**

The PTA continue to work hard to raise funds for the school. The annual Christmas Fayre was a great success, raising in the region of £1,600 for the school—many thanks to all those who helped with and supported this important fundraising event. The PTA have contributed towards the purchase of classroom materials and equipment this term, as well as subsidising the cost of school trips.

The PTA also help us to support various charities throughout the year; this year's Children in Need celebrations were greatly enjoyed by all and raised £175.



### **Dates for your Diary**

Term 3 begins—Monday 6th January  
Term 3 ends—Thursday 13th February



We endeavour to post news items on Facebook most days; please follow, like and share!