

# Puddletown CEVC First School

*'Inspiring learners to be the best they can be'*

## Newsletter No.7

13<sup>th</sup> Jan 2017

A belated Happy New Year to you and all your family. I hope that you all had a fantastic Christmas, many thanks for all the cards and gifts we received at the end of last term.

It has been great to welcome back the children this term and see them settle quickly back into their classroom routines.

### **A Growth Mindset**

This term you will be receiving information to help you support your child's learning, particularly in maths. Often in the week the children will be taking spelling and mental maths 'test'. Can I ask you not to get too focussed on the score achieved and to link it with rewards at home. It can be better to link any rewards or praise you may offer to the **effort** that the children put into practising the words or maths skill and the **progress** that they are making as a consequence of this effort. There is very strong evidence through research to show that praising and rewarding effort has a significant and powerful effect on pupil's outcomes overall. This is because it supports the learner to develop an identity and attitude that through effort they have the capacity to grow and improve, what is called a growth mindset. If you want to find out more about this I can recommend this link in which Carol Dweck explains the importance of developing a growth mindset. She explains how learners need to view their brain as a muscle which has the capacity to be stronger, rather than as a bucket in which an ability is set at a predetermined level according to the ability you have been born with. The link is

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=hiiEeMN7vbQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hiiEeMN7vbQ)

### **Parking and Road Safety**

As always can I please ask you that if you use the car that you park safely, legally and considerately around the school. With the move of the rec carpark extra care is needed and you may wish to consider parking in the village to ensure that you can use pavements. When walking with children it is always a good opportunity to reinforce road safety messages.

I would like to thank the parent group that have been active in working with the council to improve the phasing of the traffic lights and to improve the signage around the school in the future.

### **E Safety**

On the subject of safety can I urge you to look at the E Safety information on our website, it is in the safeguarding section in the 'information and policies' tab. Take time to look at the Autumn Newsletter and the 'Think you know' website. Online safety is massively important, the children are often way ahead of us in their knowledge and use of online activity.

### **The Governing Body**

This week Caroline Cox retired from the Governing Body of the school. Many of you will know Caroline personally and be aware of all the work she has done to support our school.

Caroline has been a governor for many years and was key in securing the move from the old school to the fantastic facility we now enjoy. Her wise council will be much missed by us all. However, I am very pleased to say that she will continue to give up her time to support the teaching and learning of our children as a volunteer helper.

Thank you Caroline for all you have done over many, many years and even more meetings!

### **Communication**

If you need to contact me at all please do catch me on the gate in the morning, contact the school office or email me [head@puddletownfirst.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:head@puddletownfirst.dorset.sch.uk)

### **Diary Dates**

18 Jan – FOPS disco  
23 Jan – School nurse drop in session  
9 Feb – Break up  
20 Feb – Return to school  
27 Feb – Book Fair Week  
2 Mar – World Book Day  
2 Mar – FOPS – Books at bedtime  
3 Mar – Y4 Hooke Court meeting for parents  
13 Mar – School nurse drop in session  
14 Mar – Class R open afternoon  
16 Mar – Year 3 open afternoon  
17 Mar – Reports to parents  
17 Mar – FOPS Dinner & Race Night  
20 Mar – First Aid training Y3 & Y4  
21-23 Mar – Parent/Teacher meetings  
23 Mar – Y1 open afternoon  
24 Mar – Comic Relief  
3-5 Apr – Y4 at Hooke Court  
7 Apr – Break up  
24 Apr – Return to school  
9-10 May – Life Education Van  
10 May – FOPS movie night  
16 May – E Safety Parent Workshop  
22 May – School nurse drop in session  
23 May – New Year R parent meeting  
26 May – Break Up

### **Not home learning...**

This is something you may wish to talk with your children about. I am always happy to hear your ideas though.

**We teach the children we have 5 senses, if you could invent one more what would it be?**