Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you are all keeping well, I can’t believe we are half way through this half term and what a busy half term it will be. I know Mrs Muncaster and the school team have lots of fantastic, festive activities planned plus author visits, a trip to the cinema and lots of exciting things! You can find the events on our school website here <https://tithe-barn.eschools.co.uk/website/calendar/252186>

Firstly, I would like to say a **HUGE, BIG THANK YOU** to our fantastic, fundraisers FOTB, what amazing efforts and achievements. Thank you to all of you that donated your time, money and skills, the playground transformation has begun, and the results are brilliant. As everyone knows the schools budget gets increasingly challenging each year and with rising costs your help and support makes an enormous difference. Thank you so much!!

It has been an absolute pleasure to be back in school over the last term, it is always fantastic to spend time with our pupils and to find out about their learning, what work they are proud of and how they are building their subject knowledge as they progress through school. It’s wonderful to see the progress of our reception children on their learning journey. I know that Mr Blackburn has been impressed with how quickly the children are settling in and already demonstrating our Learning Jungle characteristics, curiosity seems to be a particular highlight! Albert the Armadillo is proud of them.

I would also like to congratulate all the pupils and the school team on the excellent SAT results, phonics screening and multiplication tests from the Summer Term. Everyone approached these with positivity and proved that a growth mindset achieves great results. In all areas our pupils achieved above national and local authority scores and we are so proud of everyone’s achievements and great progress. The assessments and progress combined with observations, feedback and ideas from our school team have informed the update for our School Development Plan you can read the SDP for 2022 on the school website here <https://tithe-barn.eschools.co.uk/website/school_development_plans/584850>

Our School Development Plan (SDP) is our strategic plan for improvement.

* It allows the whole school community to understand the school’s areas for development
* It provides everyone with a clear understanding of the school’s goals and how they will be achieved
* It contains timescales for implementation to ensure accountability
* It allows the school to determine how to effectively use resources to meet goals
* It helps the school to budget and determine spending priorities
* It clarifies the key priorities the school believes are the most important to address at this time

Our aim is to be a continually improving school so we constantly review everything we do based on self-evaluation (SEF), assessments, observations, feedback, and the needs of our pupils. The development plan is updated throughout the year to track progress, we have just reviewed the November update at the last Governing Board Meeting.

We continue to develop our focus on ‘Every child a reader’ to ensure that all children develop a positive attitude to reading. At Tithe Barn we love reading books, sharing books, borrowing books, our lovely school is brimming with books, because we believe that nurturing a love of reading is essential for our children’s learning journey.

If parents, grandparents, carers would like to come and support our love of reading, please let Mrs. Muncaster know you would like to volunteer. All our children love the opportunity to read aloud and this is an incredibly important skill to practice so your time is very much appreciated.

We would also encourage all children to have the opportunity to read aloud at home and listen to stories as reading aloud is the foundation for literacy development. <https://www.readingrockets.org/article/reading-aloud-build-comprehension>

We continue to develop our aspiration of “every child a writer” nurturing a love of reading **and** writing. At school we use high-quality texts and are working alongside our literacy consultant Dawn Robertson and virtual author visits to spark our pupil’s imagination. We are working with a diverse range of books and authors to encourage our pupils to immerse themselves in books and writing. I hope that our Reception and Year 1 families enjoyed the Early Reading Workshop, Mrs Muncaster is planning more parent workshops, which are really interesting and full of great tips to share.

Our pupils continue to be excellent role models for the 5 Golden Rules of Behaviour and have all quickly progressed into their new year groups, building on their knowledge from previous years and embracing new topics and challenges. The whole school developed our Behaviour policy which works alongside our 5 Golden Rules, you can read this with other policies on our School Website.

This term new School Councillors, Eco Warriors and Librarians have started their roles and I know that the Governors are looking forward to meeting them all and discussing the pupil’s ideas and suggestions to improve school.

We are also super proud to have been awarded with the Primary Science Quality Mark, big thank you and well done to Mrs Patton. You can read the PSQM Reviewers Feedback <https://tithe-barn.eschools.co.uk/website/science/575109> and we look forward to all children enjoying practical science and experiments learning science.

Our School improvements have continued over the last few months. We have replaced the next stage of rotten windows, added lockers to Year 5 and 6, internal decoration has commenced, plus replacement doors and entry system are in progress.

Whilst our budget remains very challenging, compounded by rising costs, we are continuing to ensure every penny counts and prioritise our pupils learning and safeguarding. We have invested in Rocket phonics scheme for reading and staff training, high quality text book for English curriculum. We will keep you updated on progress and highlights throughout the year.

Thank you once again for your continued support it is very much appreciated, if you have any ideas you would like to share please let me know.

Best Wishes

Trudy

Chair of Governors

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