

Easter Assembly at the Church, 1.30pm 23rd March 2016

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am really pleased to be able to tell you that we have appointed a new part-time Reception teacher, Mrs Clune. She joins us from Kingsway School, Gloucester, where she taught for three years. She will be working closely with Mrs Mac and the Class 1 team and I hope you will make her very welcome.

This Thursday we will be celebrating the children's learning at our end of term assembly, this gives the children a chance to share some of their recent work. Class 2 will be retelling the 'Gruffalo', Reception will be entertaining us with songs about the Ginger Bread Man and Class 4 will be sharing a Viking song. It is also an opportunity for our choir and musicians to show off their skills, I am sure it will be well worth seeing.

There has been much coverage in the media about the drive for schools to convert to academies. Currently our school is funded through and supported by the Local Gloucestershire Education Authority. As an Academy, schools are being advised to become part of a Multi Academy Trust and be one of a number of schools that group together to support each other. There is no rush to make these changes and the school's Governors will be investigating the best option for our children and community. Having spoken to a number of Academy Head teachers, the overriding message is that the change has very little effect on the children or the everyday working of the school. I can assure you that the Governors and Senior Leadership team will investigate all our options.

I hope you all have a good holiday and on behalf of the staff, I would like to thank everyone who volunteers in the school for their continued support. Next term we will be trialling the new SAT tests for maths in early April and will be sending out information on how we will be reporting children's attainment and progress, as well as moving forward with our plans to make changes to the way we teach maths (Please see the comments by Jo Boaler on page 3).

Regards
Alison Cooke

*Parents are always welcome to attend the Friday Celebration
Assembly in the hall at 2.30pm*

IMPORTANT DATES.

Thursday 24th March—Easter
Assembly at the Church 1.30pm

Easter Holidays 25th March—10th
April inclusive.

Wednesday 20th April—Maths Pre
tests for NFER Yr 6 only

Thursday 21st April—Queen's birth-
day Celebration at the Village Hall

Friday 22nd April—FOSS Film Night
tbc.

Wednesday 27th April—Governor
Monitoring Day—TBC

Monday 9th May—SATs Week for
Year 6 pupils.

Thursday 19th May—Assembly by
NSPCC, followed by a workshop for
Yr 5 & 6

Friday 20th May— FOSS Bingo Night
TBC

Tuesday 24th May—Yr 2 Cluster
Dance Day at N. Nibley School.

27th May—6th June Summer 1/2
term holiday

13th June—SLIMBRIDGE VILLAGE
SPORTS, races for all the family

4th—8th July Cycling Proficiency.



boys and girls.

"Youth Cricket training at Cam CC starts again after the Easter holidays....

U11's (yr 5 and yr 6) on Mondays, starting on 11th April 6pm - 7.30pm.

U7's (reception, yr 1 and yr 2) and U9's (yr 3 and yr 4) on Fridays, starting 15th April 5.45pm to 7pm.

Training is run by Level 2 coaches and goes through to the end of the Summer term, with matches and festivals along the way.

Beginners are welcome at all age groups and parents are able to stay and watch!"

If anyone needs any further information then please ring Janet Lane on 01453 547652.

FoSS Update

Many thanks to all of you who helped or joined us at the Family Egg Hunt in Rosie's Wood last weekend. It was a fun and relaxed morning and everyone enjoyed it.

Thanks also go to Sunnyside Garden Centre for the buckets, Sainsbury, Tesco & Bank Cafe for various donations, Caesar Craft for the electricity and a special thank you to Sam and Rich from the Tudor Arms who donated the bacon for the rolls. They were delicious.

Altogether we raised an amazing £400 for our school!

The next event on the FoSS calendar is our Kids Movie Night which takes place after school [on Friday 22nd April](#). Popcorn and Pyjamas at the ready! Pop it on the calendar and we'll be in touch in the new term with more information.

Meanwhile, thank you again to everyone who has helped or supported us this term, we couldn't raise the money we do without you all! Have a fantastic break.

Libby Jo & Jess
FoSS

Redwood dates for the summer term.

Class 1: 18/4 and 4/7

Class 2: 25/4 and 13/6

Class 3: 10/5 and 20/6

Do you remember how excited your children were about maths when they were young? How they were excited by patterns in nature? How they rearranged a set of objects and found, with delight, that they had the same number? Before children start school they often talk about maths with curiosity and wonder, but soon after they start school many children decide that maths is confusing and scary and they are not a “math person”.

- Encourage children to play maths puzzles and games. Award winning mathematician, Sarah Flannery reported that her maths achievement and enthusiasm came not from school but from the puzzles she was given to solve at home. Puzzles and games – anything with a dice really – will help kids enjoy maths, and develop number sense, which is critically important.
- Always be encouraging and never tell kids they are wrong when they are working on maths problems. Instead find the logic in their thinking – there is always some logic to what they say. For example if your child multiplies 3 by 4 and gets 7, say – Oh I see what you are thinking, you are using what you know about addition to add 3 and 4, when we multiply we have 4 groups of 3...
- Never associate maths with speed. It is not important to work quickly, and we now know that forcing kids to work quickly on maths is the best way to start maths anxiety for children, especially girls. Don't use flashcards or other speed drills. Instead use visual activities such as <https://bhi61nm2cr3mkgk1dtaov18-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/FluencyWithoutFear-2015.pdf>
- Never share with your children the idea that you were bad at maths at school or you dislike it – especially if you are a mother. Researchers found that as soon as mothers shared that idea with their daughters, their daughter's achievement went down.
- Encourage number sense. What separates children who are confident from those that are not confident is number sense – having an idea of the size of numbers and being able to separate and combine numbers flexibly. For example, when working out $29 + 56$, if you take one from the 56 and make it $30 + 55$, it is much easier to work out. The flexibility to work with numbers in this way is what is called number sense and it is very important.
- Perhaps most important of all – encourage a “growth mindset” let students know that they have unlimited maths potential and that being good at maths is all about working hard. When children have a growth mindset, they do well with challenges and do better in school overall. When children have a fixed mindset and they encounter difficult work, they often conclude that they are not “a math person”. One way in which parents encourage a fixed mindset is by telling their children they are “smart” when they do something well. That seems like a nice thing to do, but it sets children up for difficulties later, as when kids fail at something they or they have made a mistake, tell them: “That's wonderful, your brain is growing!” will inevitably conclude that they aren't smart after all. Instead use growth praise such as “it is great that you have learned that”, “I really like your thinking about that”. When they tell you something is hard for them, or they have made a mistake, tell them: “That's wonderful, your brain is growing!”

At Slimbridge Primary School we don't want maths to be just about a right or wrong answer. We aim to provide opportunities to explore and investigate

Village Hall 2.15 - 4.00pm

Adults £1, Children free.

At a loose end during the holidays, why not be creative and produce an entry
for the Spring show.

Entries need to be made by 6.00pm on Wednesday 30th March to:
Mr & Mrs Sealey 01453 810262

Classes for under 5 years of age:

- A potato print picture
- A flower collage
- A finger painting

5—8 Years of age:

- A drawing or painting of an animal or bird
- One decorated egg
- One decorated biscuit
- An Easter greeting card
- Flowers in a jam jar
- A drawing or painting of a garden
- A hand written copy of a poem (see programme for details)

9—16 Year of age

- A drawing or painting of an animal or bird
- One decorated egg
- An Easter card
- An arrangement of Spring Flowers
- A drawn poster advertising the Summer Show

