

# Pathways Academy Newsletter

## Message From The Principal

Happy New Year and welcome to the first newsletter of 2017! I hope you all had a good Christmas holiday.

The children have come back full of energy and enthusiasm and we have seen a marked change in behaviour and effort from a lot of our children. I have been into a lot of classes and have seen children working hard on their learning and doing the right thing. There is a really positive, optimistic atmosphere around the academy. Thank you to all parents who attended our parents' evening last week. I'm sorry I could not be there but I had to attend an E-ACT event in Walsall. Teachers' feedback was very positive and reported that the vast majority of parents were extremely pleased with the progress, attendance, behaviour and attitudes of their children.

We have a busy term ahead of us, with our whole school review taking place with leaders from E-ACT later this month as well as a safeguarding review. Year 6 have begun their hard work leading up to the SATs which take place in May - parents of Year 6 will be notified about some parent events we have planned to support this. We are also starting our next round of formal observations of teaching and learning across the academy, as well as holding meetings with teachers to formally review the progress of your children. Our training plan for teachers includes English, maths, assessment, and Special Needs. The first day of the term was spent training the staff on a new curriculum area which we will be implementing called 'Philosophy for Children', which encourages discussion about 'big questions' and aims to develop children's thinking skills and speaking and listening skills. Our new reading, writing and maths curriculum plans are working well in classes and leading to more children making better progress. As always, at the end of term, we have our Fabulous Finish events.



**Chris Walton**  
**Principal**

Whilst the sickness bug at the end of last term saw attendance levels fall, we have made a good start to the New Year with attendance levels going up again. Thank you for your support with this.

We also have some good news in relation to the building. We have been successful in our bid to get a bike shed and this will hopefully be built during February half term holiday. As well as this, we will be completing the display pictures in the corridors, creating a bigger computer room, and carrying out some work in the Year 2 cloakroom to make an extra intervention area, some work in the KS1 toilet area, and, in the summer holidays we will be replacing all internal windows and doors.

As always, if you have any problems or concerns, please come in to talk to either your child's class teacher, your child's phase leader, a member of our pastoral team, or myself. We are always happy to help.

### Shine Café



Did you know that our Shine Café is open to all parents until 9:15 each morning? If you are waiting to bring your child to nursery then you are more than welcome to make your way to the Shine Café

and wait in a warm and comfortable environment where refreshments are available - instead of waiting outside in the cold and rain, or cramped into the office foyer!

### Charity News

We recently collected donations for the poppy appeal. Due to the generosity of everyone who donated and was involved, we managed to raise an impressive **£231.30!** We also raised **£73** for *Save The Children* from donations made on our Christmas jumper day. Thank you to everyone who donated or was involved.



**Save the Children**

### Staff News

Please join us in wishing well to Carla West (*Nursery*), Alison Haigh (*Y3*), Andrea Nahachewsky (*Y3*) and Kelly Bayliss (*Y1*) who all left us at Christmas. We are also welcoming back Helen Maw (*Y2*) from maternity leave as well as welcoming Emily Beatson (*Y1*), Claire Patterson (*Y1*) who both recently joined the academy. We currently also have Vikki King working as a teacher in *Y3* and Rosemary Bedford working with the *Nursery* team.

## PRIDE - Always Trips

Our children have recently experienced the second *Always* trip as part of our PRIDE approach. The first trip took place last term where the winning children visited Pizza Express and made their own pizzas! More recently on our second *Always* trip the winning children visited Treasure Island Play Centre and had a wonderful time playing!



For more information on our PRIDE approach and the *Always* trips feel free to grab a leaflet from the school office which will tell you all about it!

## Maths News

Maths is going well with our new curriculum. The children are making us very proud with their maths learning and teachers are focussing on using lots of resources in the classrooms to support and challenge their mathematical thinking. This half term we will



be developing the children's reasoning skills, which means we will be encouraging them to explain their maths thinking.

## Parent Forum

We would love to have more parents involved in our parent forum meetings! This is a real opportunity for you to be creative and to put forward your ideas for how the academy can further develop its relationship with our families.



Next meeting: Tuesday 24th January - 2:15pm

## Willows Class



The KS1 children attending our new 'Willows Class' have made a fantastic start. They have already begun to work hard and are settling into the new routines. Both Mrs Mason and Mr Froggatt are really enjoying working with the children every morning. The children are already making great progress with their language and social interaction skills as well as working hard in Maths and English sessions.

## Biz Kids Challenge

### Key dates:

Pathways Academy has entered Biz Kids Challenge 2017 for St Luke's Hospice. Our Biz Kids team is made up of 10 pupils from years 4 to 6. They will be supported by Pat who is our school ambassador from St Luke's and Alison who has provided us with £100 seed fund, who is our business mentor from Fletchers Bakery. The Biz Kids team has formulated a charitable business plan to ultimately grow their £100 into as much profit as possible with a focus on enterprise skills and creativity. Our target is £2000.



20/01/17 - Non Uniform Day

10/02/17 - Staff Challenge Day

14/02/17 - Valentines Disco's

16/02/17 - Sponsored Penalty Shoot Out

03/03/17 - Sponsored Zumbathon

10/03/17 - Spring Fair

Sponsored by  
carillion

## Parent Parking

We are aware that the roads around the Academy can become very busy, especially at the beginning and end of the school day. For the safety of all our children can we remind parents to be considerate when leaving and collecting their child from school and to strictly adhere to parking restrictions which includes: **Not parking in front of the Academy gate, avoiding parking on the yellow lines and not parking in front of residents driveways.** Unfortunately we have had residents from the area coming into the academy making us aware of a lot of incidents recently and in some cases cars are even mounting the kerb. The safety of our children is paramount and we cannot condone this kind of behaviour. We have been in contact with the local parking enforcement agency and asked for their representatives to visit the academy during busy times to enforce the parking regulations. **Bear in mind that it is prohibited to park on the zig zag lines, and doing so can incur a fine of up to £70 which is enforced by the local authority.**

