

FAIRISLE TIMES

November 2020

Issue No. 5

The Newsletter of Fairisle Junior School

School Improvement Officer Visit to FJS



Last Wednesday we had our annual visit from Mark Lindfield, our new School Improvement Officer. Like most of our meetings currently, it took place over Zoom, but he spent the entire day getting under the skin of our school, checking out our systems for keeping children and staff safe, how we have changed the curriculum this year to take account of lost learning in the summer, remote learning, children's behaviour and personal development as well as leadership, including governance.

Before the day I sent him our School Improvement Plan, attendance records, the results of our Year 3 anonymous survey (see overleaf for the results) and then during his 'visit', he spoke with lots of groups that included children, governors and staff, including all our year leaders & our group of Year 4 teachers (his choice).

I have now received his final report, which makes us all very proud. He said:

- ◆ We have a strong and cohesive team ethos that permeates across our school;
- ◆ We keep a strong focus on promoting pupils' personal and emotional development;
- ◆ Staff and pupils build a good rapport ensuring pupils feel well supported. They are confident that staff will listen to their concerns and respond sensitively;
- ◆ Our protocols and procedures (around Covid) show good attention to detail and reflect a coordinated approach to maintaining the safety and well-being of the whole school community;
- ◆ Pupils are enjoying being back in school;
- ◆ Our Year 3 pupils have settled quickly and happily into the life of the school
- ◆ Governors are confident to ask questions and challenge leaders in well-structured meetings. They are intent on finding ways that they can virtually monitor the school's performance as we enter another period of lockdown.

I would like to thank everyone who took part in the day. Our children were awesome and hardly let Mark get a word in during their half hour of fame!

Health & Safety Update

Thank you very much for complying with the various routines in school over the past half term. As you may already know, as a result of an increase in the Covid-19 infection rate recently, **we are asking all parents and visitors to wear a face covering on site when dropping off or picking up your children.**

I would ask that parents do not crowd around the gates so that others have plenty of space to enter and leave the school site. Thank you.

Please do not allow younger children to play with the cones and ropes in our playground.

If you have any positive test results in your household at any time, please ensure you let us know the details including the date you received the result by emailing our Business Manager, at mhughes@fjslive.net.

Thank you very much for your on-going support.



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Please
Park



Considerately

SOME DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

On the front page of our new website www.fjslive.net is our school calendar. We will keep this up to date so you can see it at anytime.

Monday 7—Thursday 10 December	Year 5 day visits to Stubbington
Tuesday 15 December	Christmas Craft Day
Wednesday 16 December	Christmas Lunch (Free for all children)
Thursday 17 December	Class Bubble Christmas Parties
Friday 18 December	School closes for Christmas Holiday
Monday 4 January 2021	Children return to school

I have once again contacted Stubbington about our Year 5 day visits in December. Hampshire County and Southampton City Councils have both given the go-ahead for these, so unless anything changes from government, we are looking forward to seeing them on 7th December.

Year 3 Settling in Survey Outcomes

At the very beginning of last week, I asked every child in Year 3 to complete an anonymous survey for me to let me know how they have settled into life in the junior school. This is really important, especially this year as the children had not been in school during the summer to participate in our regular transition work in Year 2. This is what they told me:

	Percentage of Yes answers
I enjoy coming to school	94%
I feel happy and safe at school	97%
Children behave well in my class	94%
I think the other children are friendly in our school	94%
I like my teacher	98%
My teacher is kind and fair	99%
My teachers help me when I don't know what to do	100%
My teachers help me if I have a problem or am worried	100%
My teachers make lessons fun	93%
I learn a lot in class	97%
The work in class is just right – not too hard or too easy	89%
I know what to do if someone else treats me unfairly or badly	98%
I have been asked how the school could be better	96%

They also wrote some brilliant comments about how they have settled in. They included “Our school is the best, I love my teacher very much, everyone is very friendly”, and I especially liked “I have a smile on my face when I come into school because it’s awesome”. What the children tell me really helps us to improve.

Year 4 Diwali Day

On Wednesday this week, our Year 4 children learned about Diwali. They had a brilliant time and really enjoyed the day. As part of the learning, they explored the concept of good and evil. After lunch, everyone got to taste some Indian cuisine, prepared in our school kitchen. It was great to see everyone so keen to tuck in!



Staffing Update

On Monday, we welcomed Maria Pinn to our admin team. It's great to have you on board. At the end of today, Miss Milford leaves us to start her maternity leave. I know you will want to join me in wishing Laura all the very best as she prepares to have her first child. We all look forward to hearing her news and, of course, receiving some fab photos!

