

4th February 2022

Dear Parents

We had an external review by our School Improvement Advisor, Barbara Breed on Wednesday. Her focus for the morning was English. She was very impressed with our teaching of reading, writing, phonics and the children's overall behaviour for learning. She found the children were engaged in their learning, keen to talk about what they are learning and how they are making progress. I was very proud of all the staff and children for their continued hard work – well done everyone!

Breda Ryan – Many of you will know Breda Ryan who has worked at the school for the last sixteen years. She has made a difficult decision to leave school and is now looking forward to doing some exciting things with her husband. In her role here she has overseen the library and ICT suite. It is thanks to her that the children have been able to visit the library and have had all the resources they need to learn about iPads, chromebooks, computers and computing. Over the years she has helped and supported both staff and children with their learning in the ICT suite. She has taken thousands of photographs of every special event held at school and every year has contributed to the Year 6 photo albums with her carefully catalogued library! Her last working day will be next Friday and she will be sorely missed. She has put in a last request for a return of any library books you may have at home. Please send any to the office next week. Thank you.

Assemblies – On Monday I spoke to all the children about how it makes us feel when we are a bucket filler or bucket dipper (following on from the story Mrs Weston had told the infants and Mrs Koumpi to the juniors). I then went on to remind the children about the zones of regulation. We aim to stay in the green zone where we are calm, happy and ready to learn. There are four different coloured “zones” which explain how we might feel at different times. Sometimes we might find ourselves in the red zone; when we feel angry, aggressive or want to shout or hurt someone. The blue zone is when we might feel sad, tired, bored or sick. The yellow zone is when we might feel worried, nervous, anxious or annoyed. The green zone is where we aim to be and stay and we talked about strategies for getting out of a red, yellow or blue zone. Strategies might include going for a walk, taking deep breaths, listening to some music, taking some exercise, talking to another person about the issue, counting to ten or talking yourself out of feeling in a bad mood by remembering some good things.

On Tuesday the infant children enjoyed finding out about Chinese New Year. Miss Galvin explained to them that this year marks the year of the tiger. In Chinese culture, the tiger is the symbol of bravery, wisdom and strength. The children found out about the different symbols of Chinese New Year and in particular the colour red being regarded as lucky. Miss Galvin read a story called ‘Chelsea’s Chinese New Year’ where we found out about the different ways people prepare for this special celebration which lasts for 15 days!

On Wednesday Mrs Roper led an assembly about diversity with the Junior children. The children learnt that each individual is unique and it is important to recognise our individual differences. We discussed respecting people's race, ethnicity, gender, age, physical abilities and religious beliefs. They learnt that Christians believe that when God made the world, he didn't just make one type of flower or animal. He didn't make every plant the same shade of green or every animal the same colour, shape and size. He made a world full of colour and diversity. Just as God loves diversity in nature, he also loves diversity in us. He didn't make us all the same and he doesn't want us all to be the same.

She read the book 'Shine' by Sarah Asuquo which taught us to celebrate diversity in society and to help us recognise how our differences make us special.

Return of uniform – If your child has an accident in school and is given clean clothes, please would you ensure that they are washed and returned to be used again. We are running out of clean underwear and infant sized trousers! Thank you

Bottle tops! – Year 4 need as many bottle tops as possible by next Friday for their art project. Please keep sending them in! Thank you

I hope you all have a lovely weekend and to those of you celebrating Chinese New Year – enjoy the year of the tiger!

Kind regards
Kate Baptiste
Headteacher