



Friday 6th January 2023

Dear Parents/carers,



I am delighted to join the team here at Coombe Bissett CE Primary School in role as the Interim Headteacher, and I am very much looking forward to getting to know all our pupils, parents, carers and staff.

I have been in education for over thirty-four years, including twenty-eight years as a senior leader in schools. My work has taken me across several local authorities, covering a range of diverse primary schools in several inner city and rural settings. I have held four headship posts, leading two of those schools as an Executive Headteacher; I have also worked as a consultant leader and supported experienced and new headteachers. I am passionate and enthusiastic about education, and I feel humbled by the privileged position I have as a school leader to impact positively on the outcomes for an individual child.

I have had some quality handover time with the outgoing Acting Headteacher Mr. Coles and the Chair of Governors, which was informative and useful. This week, I was able to spend the inset day with the staff on Tuesday in school. There are so many excellent and unique elements at Coombe Bissett that can be celebrated. I am confident that I will learn more and contribute to moving the school forward, working in partnership with the whole school community. I will be in school on Monday and I look forward to meeting the children, learning about them and hearing their views of what they expect from me.

For Coombe Bissett CE Primary to be a successful and happy school, it will depend on all of us working together. As parents and carers, you make an important contribution to your children's achievements, and I am excited to build on the relationship between you and the school.

I will be holding a number of events over this term, including a coffee morning / afternoon as well as offering a monthly virtual parent forum via Zoom; I look forward to meeting many of you. These meetings will be at different times in the hope that as many families as possible have the opportunity to attend. I will confirm the dates shortly via the school newsletter.

If you do see me in the playground/at the school gate before and after school, please do say hello.

You are also welcome to contact me at school via the school office email or by phone and I will get back to you at the earliest opportunity. I look forward to meeting you soon.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Sandra Miller

Interim Headteacher

Here are some highlights of the last week in school.....

Ash Class report on this week's "Jack & the Beanstalk" Pantomime as performed by the Treehouse Theatre Company which was kindly funded by the Friends of Coombe Bissett School 100 Club.

OUR PANTOMIME EXPERIENCE

On Thursday 5th January 2023, Treehouse Theatre Group came to Coombe Bissett Primary School to deliver us a fantastic experience of 'Jack and the beanstalk' pantomime, which the 100 Club kindly funded.

One of the best parts was when we all got to join in with the panto. This was very fun as we got to wear funny costumes and dance around with the actors.

All of these actors were very friendly and were so good at putting on different voices for each of their different characters. Many of them played lots of different parts which include: The giant, Jack, The cow/Jill, Mum, Puff (baby dragon), Tia (The mum dragon) and The evil fairy/bean seller. They all had great costumes.

One of my favourite parts was when Tia ate the evil fairy. (Lauren yr6)

My favourite character was the giant because his costume was so big and was very well made. (Jude yr6)

In my opinion, my favourite character was the cow because it was quite mysterious because for some strange reason it could talk – turns out it was Jill! (Sophia yr6)

No one didn't enjoy the show and throughout the day everyone was talking about how funny and exciting it was. The actors even had make – up on, which made them look even funnier.

The panto was just like the ones you see in the playhouse in Salisbury. Like in all good pantos there was a man dressed as a woman. There were the boos and hisses and of course they all had amazing costumes. They all projected their voices loud enough for everyone to hear them.

Overall the panto was the best panto we have had with them. The story was clear and even the younger ones could understand some of the jokes. Everyone joined in with the "boos" and the "he's behind you!"

EVERYONE enjoyed it!

By Lauren, Sophia and Jude



Please take a moment to read the following facts regarding school attendance

Attendance

A school year for children is 190 school days. **Attendance of 95%** for the year equals 10 days that a child has been absent, **that is 2 full weeks of a child's learning missed** for that year.

- **Attendance of 90%** for the year equals 19 days that a child has been absent, **that is almost 4 school weeks missed.**
- **Attendance of 85%** for the year equals 29 days that a child has been absent, **that is almost 6 weeks of school missed.**
- **Attendance of 80%** for the year equals 38 days that a child has been absent, **that is over 7 weeks of school missed.**

Together we can... "Soar on wings like eagles, Run and not grow weary, Walk and not be faint." Isaiah 40:31

Did you know that there are **175 days** per year when your child does not have to attend school? These days can be used to:

- Spend time together
- Go on family visits
- Go on holiday
- Go shopping
- Go on days out
- Attend routine appointments

Requests for Leave in term time will only be authorised in exceptional circumstances.

By law, only the head teacher can authorise your child's absence. It is important to keep the school informed if your child is going to be absent as soon as possible at the start of the day.

Notices for Term 3

Term 3 Class Topic Webs are now available to download from the School Website.

<https://www.coombebissett.wilts.sch.uk/our-learning/oak-reception-yr1>

<https://www.coombebissett.wilts.sch.uk/our-learning/elm-year-1-2>

<https://www.coombebissett.wilts.sch.uk/our-learning/fir-year-3-4>

<https://www.coombebissett.wilts.sch.uk/our-learning/ash-year-5-6>

Nut Free School – Please remember we are a nut-free school and ensure that all packed lunches are totally free of products containing nuts – paying particular notice to certain cereal or muesli bars that often contain nuts.

Swimming Lessons - Fir Class will commence swimming lessons on Tuesday 10th January for 10 weeks, please remember to send you child to school with a bag containing their swimming kit & a towel.

Wiltshire Air Ambulance Visit – Friday 13th January, a representative from Wiltshire Air Ambulance will be providing first aid education and training for all classes next Friday. They will be with us all day therefore there will be no Celebration worship. Please can children come to school wearing something yellow and/or green (appropriate for basic first aid training) and also bring a suggested donation of £2 for the charity.

Ash Class Change of PE Day - Please remember that Ash Class has changed their PE Days from Wednesday and Thursday to Wednesday and Friday from this term.

Rewards this Week

A Reminder about Team Points & Green Cards

- **Team Points** are awarded for a pupil's school work
- **Green Cards** are based on school values (this term's is commitment)

Each week's Team Point scores will be added to those of preceding weeks to make a cumulative score over the whole year.

Team Point Totals for this week:

As this is a short week, Team Points and Green Cards will be added to next week's total

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Attendance figures for each class for the last week of last term (w/c 12th December):

Ash class – 85.3%

Fir class – 82.2%

Elm class – 87.2%

Oak class – 70%