



13th November 2020

Staffing update

Ms Bagnall, our Assistant Headteacher, begins her maternity leave on Monday 30th November, which means her last day will be the Friday before. We will be sad to say goodbye to Ms Bagnall but wish her all the very best as she prepares for the arrival of her second child.

Over recent weeks, Mr Shore has been getting to know Golden Eagles Class. He now knows each individual child well and is fully integrated into the life of the school as a valued and respected member of the team. He will teach the children Monday – Wednesday and Mrs Detzler will continue to teach each Thursday and Friday.

Our leadership structure will also be changing in Ms Bagnall's absence. Both Mrs Wilson and Mrs Detzler will take on the role of Assistant Headteacher on a shared basis bringing their extensive knowledge and expertise to the role. Both members of staff know the school well and are incredibly well equipped to support the smooth daily running of the school. They will also be taking on the role of deputy safeguarding leaders alongside myself who will be the designated safeguarding leader.

Mr Riches' days at Iron Acton will also be changing and our leadership time at Iron Acton will be as follows:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Headteacher	Mr Riches		Mr Riches		Mr Riches (pm only)
Assistant Headteachers	Mrs Wilson	Mrs Wilson	Mrs Detzler (pm only)	Mrs Detzler	Mrs Detzler

You can see here that we have plenty of leadership capacity and we will continue to work closely together as a team over the coming months to ensure the smooth and effective running of the school.

Photos of each member of staff are available on our school website should you be unfamiliar with the names you have seen above: <https://www.ironactonprimaryschool.co.uk/about/staff/>

Anti-bullying week

The national anti-bullying week will take place next week. We think it is incredibly important to equip children with the skills they need to deal with bullying should it ever arise either whilst at primary school or beyond.

We will be holding an anti-bullying assembly to make it clear to children what bullying (including cyber bullying) is and what they can do about it. We plan to display posters around the school to raise the profile of the week and to remind children who they can speak to if they have any problems.

We are also asking you to do two things:

1. On Monday please encourage your child to wear odd socks to school; teachers will be joining in too! This is part of the national initiative and is a great way to help celebrate what makes everyone unique.
2. Take a look at the information pack for parents <https://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/anti-bullying-week/parents-and-carers> and discuss this with your child.

On Friday 20th November, we will also be utilising resources from the NSPCC Speak Out, Stay Safe programme. This is a tried and tested programme which is delivered in an age appropriate way to schools around the country. It focuses on helping children to understand abuse in all its forms and how to recognise signs of abuse; that abuse is never a child's fault and that they have the right to be safe; where to get help and the sources of help available to them, including the Childline service.

Online safety

Miss Abley has organised a parent information session all about online safety. This will take place on Thursday 26th November at 6.30pm; it will be held remotely and run by the South Gloucestershire learning and development team. Any parent or family member from both schools in the federation are invited to attend, no matter how old your child may be.

The session will give you the chance to reflect on the ever-increasingly important situation regarding online safety and how you can help to keep your child safe whilst online. This is an incredibly important aspect of the current safeguarding agenda and we cannot emphasise just how important it is for us all to keep up to date with online safety developments.

Vision and values

This term we are continuing to explore our vision 'Courage to Care' and to look at what it means to each one of us, those around us and the world itself. We have used the theme of Compassion to focus on how our actions help others, particularly when so many around the world may be struggling to cope due to the pandemic.

This has linked well with our fundraising for various organisations, including The Royal British Legion and Children in Need. We thank you for your contributions towards the work of these charities.

Face coverings

Whilst all non-essential visits to school are not currently taking place, any external visitors that do come to school are required to wear a face covering if they enter the building. This is also true of prospective parents for whom visits will recommence once the current lockdown ends.

For children, the guidance for primary schools is very clear – they do not need to wear coverings. We fully support this and do not encourage any face coverings being worn in school by children at all. If your child wishes to wear a face covering on the way in and out of school they are welcome to do so.

Parents are welcome to wear a face covering when dropping off or picking up but this is your choice and it is not something we will be recommending or enforcing. We would like to remind all parents not to enter the school building at this time. If you need to contact the office, please try to do this by phone or email in the first instance.

Financial support available – Comfort and Joy project

Have your finances been impacted negatively due to the pandemic or for any other reason? Are you concerned about making ends meet over the coming months? If so, this project may be for you.

Father Malcolm and the church in Iron Acton along with Acton Aid have put together a 'Comfort and Joy' appeal which is designed to support families who may be struggling financially. If you have been impacted by the pandemic and you are worried that you may not be able to afford the basics over the coming months we urge you to make the most of this appeal.

We are able to offer you a voucher for one of our local supermarkets to help you get by. If this would make a huge difference to you, please come and speak confidentially to Mr Riches or Mrs Parry, who will be able to help you. If you know of another family at school who this may apply to please urge them to contact us too.

Friends – PTA

Thank you to 'Friends' for organising the pumpkin trail which we hope many families were able to enjoy.

The next event is Bag2School. This is an opportunity for you to get rid of any old clothes and shoes that you no longer need. Please place them in a bag from home (**bags will not be sent home this year**) and send them to school on Thursday 19th November. They can be placed in the bus shelter at the bottom of the hill ready for collection at the start of the day.

Curriculum sharing

As you will be aware, the children have been learning about many areas of the curriculum through a new enquiry based approach this year. We would like to invite you to share in celebrating the children's' learning later this term.

Each class will record and share their learning using Google Classrooms and this will be available to families with children in Falcons, Buzzards and Golden Eagles Classes. We will make sure to let you know once this is ready to view.

Acts of collective worship

Our daily collective worship (sometimes referred to as assemblies) are currently being held remotely. This is either led by myself, Father Malcolm or Ms Bagnall. Mrs Lyall (our singing expert) also gives the teachers a list of songs they can practise each week for singing assembly. This is all working well but we are keen to hold some live collective worship soon. Towards the end of term, we will be inviting Barn Owls and Falcons Classes into the hall each Monday morning for a more normal experience of collective worship whilst we stream through to Buzzards and Golden Eagles Classes. We hope this will give the children the opportunity to feel they are coming together as a school – this is something which we are very much missing out on at the moment.

Blonde Angels shoebox appeal

We are supporting the Bristol based Blonde Angels homeless project once again this year. Please see the picture below for a screen shot of their Facebook page appeal with suggested items you can donate. You can provide the items suggested in either a shoebox or a bag. These must be brought **to school by Thursday 10th December**, when one of our parents will collect them and take them to the drop off point; there will be a collection point outside the school front door. If you need any more information please speak to Rachael Green (parent to Megan and Oscar in Falcons Class). You can also visit the Facebook page by typing Blonde Angel Street Team in the search bar to find out more.

Talent Show

This week, we all enjoyed the Talent Show organised by Year 6 in support of The Blue Cross. One of the event organiser's wrote this piece for the newsletter:

IRON ACTON HAS GOT TALENT!

Loads of children from Iron Acton primary school signed up with all their talent to compete in the school's annual talent show, prepared by the year sixes. "It was a lot of hard work," Kiara, chief organizer and one of the 7 judges says, "But it was a sensation and I really enjoyed it." Pola, Kiara's best friend and the other chief judge states that it was really fun and an incredible experience. Due to 2-metre restriction rules, the show was held outside this year, with the classes keeping 2 metres away from each other. There was plenty of talent and it was tough competition but in the end the judges decided that Sophie Blanch, a year 5 who did an incredible dance to 'Fight song' by Rachel Platem should come first. "I am so happy to come 1st" she says, "I never expected to get 7 tens!"

Well done to everyone who organised this event and huge congratulations to everyone who took part and shared their amazing talents.

Sharing Christmas Spirit

& cheer for the homeless!

CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS
BAGS / SHOEBOXES

CHOCOS SCARF
SWEETS GLOVES
WARM SOCKS SMALL TORCH
BOXERS BATTERIES
CARD DECORATION

PLEASE LABEL MALE OR FEMALE



DROP OFF DATES
DECEMBER 11TH / 12TH / 13TH

DROP OFF POINTS
YATE / BRADLEY STOKE & BRISTOL

BLONDE ANGEL
STREET TEAM



Dates for your diary

Event	Date and time	Information
Anti-bullying week	16.11.20	Children will take part in a range of activities to help them to deal with bullying. Don't forget to wear odd socks on Monday 16 th November!
Bag to School collection	19.11.20	Money raised goes to the PTA. Please use any bag you have at home and bring to the bus shelter.
Flu immunisations	30.11.20	
Christmas lunch	09.12.20	You can sign your child up for this using Parent Pay in the normal way.
Nativity services	08.12.20 09.12.20	A decision will be made nearer the time about how this will be shared with families.
Blonde Angel homeless project deadline	10.12.20	All donations to be brought to school by this date.
Christingle service	1.12.20, 2.00pm	
Church Christingle service	13.12.20, 4.00pm	Details to be confirmed. All are welcome.
Class Christmas parties	16.12.20, pm	Children may bring a change of clothes into school to change into at lunchtime.
Christmas jumper day	18.12.20	More details to follow. 'Friends' aim to hold a swap shop prior to the event.
Final day of Term 2	18.12.20, 3.15pm	
Church carol services	20.12.20, 4.00pm & 6.30pm	Details to be confirmed. All are welcome.
Church crib service	24.12.20, 4.00pm	Details to be confirmed. All are welcome.
First day of Term 3	04.01.20, 8.55am	

Please note: these dates may be changed or cancelled if necessary. We will try to provide as much notice as possible if this is the case.