



Education News November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

This past month has just flown by with school events and meetings.

It's been lovely to be able to see many of you in Annual Review meetings and appreciate your understanding as we try to develop Person Centred Reviews (PCR) online. Last year, we did simpler reviews but feel we need to try to administer Person Centred meetings as online meetings are becoming the new normal and the information gleaned is key for future planning. We have both attended Person Centred Approaches training this month and this only strengthened our belief in the value of it to build the correct pathways for our young people.

There have also been online PEP and transition meetings. Student transitions to adult placements are again proving to be difficult this year. Please be assured that we are doing all we can to facilitate these transitions and encouraging regular meetings, however bringing together the correct people from LAs and CCGs is challenging. According to the Code of Practice, all transitions should be finalised by March 31st or 5 months prior to a Young Person's leaving date and this is our expectation from our external partners.

Despite these frustrations, our young people are the reason we do what we do and November has been a busy month in classes. We have participated in some national themed events, COP26, Anti bullying week and Remembrance Day. Also, following a student request we had an inflatable planetarium visit the school so we could all experience outer space.

COP26 fitted in perfectly with our new project to become an Eco school, and Helen set our students the challenge to do 26 different activities to help the planet during the COP conference. Our students rose to the challenge and completed activities such as litter picks, recycling, switching unnecessary electrical items off etc.. The eco theme is continuing onto Christmas, our real, potted trees arrived today and each class will be decorating one using recycled materials as decorations. We are hoping that you will join us in the judging and following the competition closing date on December 8th, we will

send you photos of the entries and ask you to pick your favourite. After Christmas, our trees will be moved to the polytunnel where we plan to cultivate them ready to be used again in Christmas 2022.

This year's theme for antibullying week was 'one kind word' Every student was nominated by a peer or staff and celebrated in assembly. It was delightful to read how kind we are to each other. This work was then shared with our directors so they could appreciate our Young People.

Our Regional Lead, Simon Brown has been in for his regular monthly visit and this month did a Learning Walk as a snapshot of teaching and learning at PVS. It was a very useful and informative activity and helped us to recognise our strengths and what we still need to develop in relation to the deep dives of Ofsted inspections. Simon's focus was on reading which has been a key area of development and it was pleasing that our work on reading profiles and logs has been recognised as strong practice.

We are delighted that we have created a new library, which is now open and stocked with a new reading scheme. The library does not simply house books, but sensory stories, access to stories online etc.. We can't wait to use our new room and share the magic of books with our students. In the longer term, we plan to have a position as student librarian and work with Swanage library to help train to this role.



This Christmas we are having to make our plans with regards to Covid guidelines, so we are very sorry but we will be unable to invite you onsite for a full school event. However, we are still celebrating Christmas starting with the Swanage Christmas market on Saturday, where our students' business, Palletability will be selling their products. Following this on Monday, we have the Christmas light switch on and carol service in the garden (complete with fake snow), our eco Christmas tree competition, the traditional

school Christmas lunch (sadly in class groups rather than together as a school) an online sensory play, Trot to Camelot and the final online Christmas assembly full of surprises (although we're still not sure how we beat the students and staff as dancing elves from 2020) Again Christmas will look different but we are determined to sprinkle the Christmas sparkles over our classes. We will miss your company but hope that later this school year we will welcome you back for some school events.

Best wishes

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