



# Quinton Church Primary School Spring 1 Update 2016

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the spring term! Here's hoping that the snow stays away and that the milder weather returns!

Hopefully you all managed to have a fun Christmas and that the New Year brings you health and happiness.

This term is incredibly short but that doesn't mean we don't have a lot on.

The children were welcomed back to school with a pantomime which informed their work for the rest of that week. They really enjoyed it (oh yes they did!) and were massively inspired.

Dr Jenny Watson from King Edward's Five Ways has been into school to work alongside children in science workshops. They all had a fantastic time and we plan to utilise her expertise more in the future.

You may have noticed that there are extra teachers in some classes. As promised, we have managed to deploy teachers from different areas within the school to work more closely with children in class. We shall review this every half term with teachers being placed where the need is (i.e. where children at risk of underachieving are identified and where a short term intervention is required). Please note that although extra teachers are employed to work with individual children this may be liable to change depending on the needs of the school. If a teacher is poorly at any point then rather than buy in a supply teacher, which can be unsettling to the children, we shall use a known member of staff.

A big thank you to those parents and children that were able to attend our Education Sunday service at Christchurch last week. It's always good to celebrate the achievements of the children but also it's right that we take time to recognise the hard work of our school staff. Many of our team are in school by 7.30am each day and do not leave until 6pm. Even then this isn't the end for them as they are usually marking and preparing lessons until much later in the evening. Weekends are also taken up with planning and getting ready for the following week – and although the holidays are generous please know that a lot of that time is spent in school sorting rooms out, planning events and trips and generally analysing assessments so that they know how to individualise their planning for each learner. Teachers are leaving the profession in droves at the moment because of the demands of the job, not least because at every turn we are castigated for not doing a good enough job. We are very lucky here at Quinton as the staff are genuinely passionate about what they do and work very hard to ensure your children receive the very best we can offer. We have come a long way in the last 12 months and we really appreciate all the support that parents and governors have given us. We shall continue to go from strength to strength so a BIG THANK YOU to all the Quinton team for all their efforts.

**Prayer.** Once each half term church members, parents and staff meet in Christ Church to pray for the school. The next prayer meeting is Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2.45pm - 3.30. Everyone is welcome.



### Parents Evening

The last week of half term is our usual Parent's Evening where you will be invited in to meet with your class teacher and have a quick perusal through the books. There will be chairs outside the classroom for you to sit on whilst you wait as the hall will be out of action as there are clubs taking place on both nights. However, as you are aware, the corridor space is very limited so we ask that you do not arrive too early for your appointment as this will mean a lot of people on top of each other. If you have no alternative but to bring siblings along, can we ask that you ensure they are supervised appropriately. Last time we had lots of children running around the hall, kicking balls, climbing on apparatus etc. and obviously this could pose some health and safety issues. Thanks in advance for your support with this.

### Coffee Afternoon

As requested we will have this term's coffee afternoon at 2.15pm on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February. Please feel free to come along and have a coffee and a biscuit with myself, Mrs Plews and a few of the governors. This is an informal opportunity to discuss any concerns or issues that you may have or just to tell us that you are pleased with the way things are going for your child.

Next term the meeting will take place after school so that any parents that work can also attend.

### Dates for the Diary

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> January – Literacy morning

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> January – Year 6 visit to the Electric Theatre

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February – Parent's Evening

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February – Parent's Evening

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February – Coffee Afternoon

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February – Children break up for half term

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February – Children return to school

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February – PFTA quiz night (details to follow)

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March – World Book Day – children to dress up as in previous years. Parents will also be invited in (so please feel free to dress up also). Details to follow.

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March – 100% Attendance Assembly

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March – Children break for Easter