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Newsletter 2– Term 1 2016-17

21st October 2016

Dear Parents and Carers

It has been a busy first term at Trinity. We are delighted at the way our new Reception children have settled into life at school and I must commend our Year 6 children on the excellent job they are doing as buddies. Our two new teachers, Mr Shiles and Miss Godwin, have also made a really positive start and we are very impressed by their professionalism and commitment.

I hope this letter will bring you up to date on things that have happened this term, clarify some aspects of school that have been unclear and let you know about up and coming events.

C. Hutton

Flood

We recently had a flood in the Key Stage 2 Boys toilets when one of the hot water pipes that feeds the hand basins split. This thankfully caused little damage but a great deal of inconvenience. Beech Class, who were ousted from their classroom for two days as a result, chose to create newspaper reports about it.

Below is an example of one of them;

Flash Flooding Hits Local School Overnight

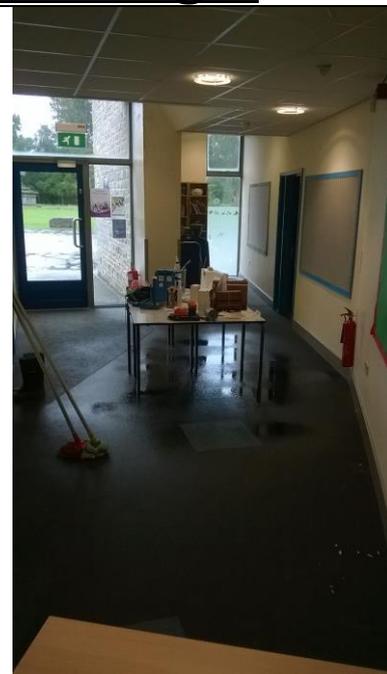
Disaster has struck Trinity Primary School (Acton Turville). Water, almost high enough to swim in has spread over Beech Class and the east-side of the school corridor. Nick Britton, the caretaker, is trying to relieve the high water level and repair the burst panels and leaking pipes.

Beech Class is now fully out of order, forcing a great capacity of students to work in a small space fit for only six students, max. It has been stated that there is no hope of the students getting back into Beech Class tomorrow. Next week is a possibility.

Lyn Cawston, the school secretary, spoke to Barry Squat today, about the incident - this is what she had to say: "I came through the door at 7:30 and Mr Hutton, the head-teacher, said to me that the hot water pipe had leaked all the way to

the year 5/6 classroom. We launched the Incident Plan and called the plumber, property services, health and safety and the insurance company. We now will have to spend a great expense on repairs, but all of it is still a work in progress." Barry also spoke to a student who has requested they remain anonymous, "I heard my friends saying there was a flood and I was very confused at first, until I saw what had happened for myself. We had to spend the day in the "Group Room", it was extremely cramped and very tiring. Nick Britton is still cleaning up the mess; the area is still a complete mess. With any luck we should see a return to normality next week.

By Josh, Fabian and Johnny of Beech Class



Corridor between Oak and Beech

Corrections, amendments and misprints

Following the publication of Newsletter 1 there are a few items that have changed or the initial information in the letter or on the website was not correct. These include;

- The School Development Plan 2016-17, Goal 3 now reads '**Improve distributed leadership and management**'.
- Confirmation that the dates for the Willow and Ash Class Nativity are Tuesday 29th and Wednesday 30th November 2016 at 2.00pm. Further information regarding tickets will be issued nearer the time.

- At the start of Term 3 Monday 2nd January 2017 is a Bank Holiday, Tuesday 3rd January 2017 is an INSET Day and children start back on Wednesday 4th January 2017.

Thank you

We really appreciate all the help and support we are lucky enough to receive from the school community. I would like to take this opportunity to highlight some of these.

Morning routines: Thank you for respecting and supporting the morning routines. We have found that having a member of staff record messages for teachers and the office in diaries in playground is an effective system. It has reduced the amount of people needing to visit the office in the morning. In asking Parents and Carers to not enter the building we are meeting safeguarding requirements and allowed teachers to focus on ensuring the children have a smooth and prompt start to the day.

Rubbish!: Thank you to Mr Porter (Willow class) and Mrs Godwin (Willow and Ash class) for helping to remove unwanted items from the school premises. Mr Porter kindly removed the unsightly pile of rubbish that was by the boiler room and Mrs Godwin kindly took two old dishwashers and one old fridge to the tip. Your help is very much appreciated.

Harvest: It was lovely to see so many Parents and Carers attending the Harvest Service. Your kind donations were delivered to the Yate and Chipping Sodbury Foodbank who were very appreciative. They have promised to write to us and tell us how much food we collected once they have processed it.

Key Stage 2 Homework Project: The quality, creativity and scope of the models bought in by the children is amazing. We know that this is in large part due to the support you give your children. Thank you so much for helping us to make learning fun, engaging and enjoyable by engaging in topic work at home.

Help at lunchtime:

Thank you to Verity (Finley's Mum) and her Mum (Finley's Nan) for helping us out by doing a volunteer shift as a Lunch Break Supervisor one day each week. It's really helped the school out.

Governors

Our Governing body consists of 13 Governors:

- 2 Parent Governors
- 1 Local Authority Governor
- 1 Staff Governor
- 1 Headteacher
- 6 Co-opted Governors
- 2 Foundation Governors (of which one is 'Ex-officio')

At the end of the last school year two of our Governors resigned from their positions- Fraser Bush (Co-opted) and Rebecca Thomson (Foundation ex-officio). I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their help and support over their time in office.

As Fraser sat on the Building and Finance Committee, held the role of Health and Safety Governor and was considered a 'Co-opted' rather than a 'Parent' Governor the Governors needed to find and appoint a replacement who had the skill set to match the role. The Governors approached Mike Hardwick, who was previously a Parent Governor, at one time the Caretaker, and with experience in Health and Safety, to fill the vacancy. This was ratified at the Full Governing Body Meeting on 27th September 2016.

The 'Ex-officio' role will now be filled by Reverend Thomson which has been confirmed by the Diocese of Gloucester who control ex-officio appointments.

School Uniform reminder

We have noticed a number of breaches of the School Uniform Policy (sent with this letter) in school recently. The most frequent occurrences are patterned instead of plain socks and tights, Trinity hoodies instead of a sweatshirt or coat, long hair that is not tied back adequately and trainers being worn. Our policy states;

We think it is important for children to wear a school uniform in order to;

- *Give them a sense of belonging*
- *Instill pride and promote the ethos of the school*
- *Ensure that they are smartly and appropriately dressed for school*
- *Reduce any form of distraction*
- *Promote equal opportunities and avoid 'one-upmanship' or social pressures*

There is an expectation that children come to school dressed smartly. Fashion items are not considered appropriate.

Please support us by respecting and reinforcing our policy.

Friends Of School (FOS)

The FOS AGM was held on 29th September 2016. This was well attended by existing and new Parents and Carers and was a great chance to celebrate another successful year of fundraising and event organising. The committee once again agreed to provide funds for the school 'wish list'.

The committee do a fantastic job and are always looking for new ideas for fundraising and events. Their contribution really does make a difference at Trinity and the money that is generated by the school community supporting events has a significant impact. Thank you FOS for all your hard work and thank you Parents and Carers supporting events.

Earlier this term the FOS Sports Partnership team sent a letter requesting some information. The information requested regarding sports of interest is very helpful to the school when we are entering and arranging events throughout the year. Many thanks for the responses received so far.

Following a review of some of our safeguarding procedures the school will be re-issuing a letter at the start of Term 2 which covers the permission for attending events and the related transportation where applicable. Many apologies for the increased administration but I feel this is necessary to ensure clarity.

Vacancies

We currently have the following vacancies;

- Lunch Break Supervisor, 12.00-1.15pm Monday to Friday, term time only (6.25 hours per week)
 - Lunch Break Supervisor, 12.00-1.15pm Wednesday term time only (1.25 hours per week)
- Both at £8.04 per hour

We also are planning to advertise for some additional administrative support. This would be for two hours a week.

Please contact the school office if you are interested in finding out more about any of the vacancies.

Secondary School Places for September 2017

A reminder to all Parents and Carers of children in Year 6. The deadline for submitting applications for secondary school places is **Monday 31st October 2016**.

South Gloucestershire Council <http://www.southglos.gov.uk/education-and-learning/schools-and-colleges/school-admissions/secondary-school-admissions/>

Wiltshire Council

<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/schoolseducationandlearning/schoolsandcolleges/schooladmissions/admissiontosecondaryschool201718.htm>

Clubs

It is great to see so many children engaging in the extra-curricular activities that are provided. The usual clubs (Sports, Film, Eco, Story) and the new clubs have proved to be very popular. A big "thank-you" to Mrs Penney and her daughter for running and organising the 'Cookery Club', Mr Shiles and Jo Luddington for 'Choir', Miss Godwin for 'Art Club' and to Mr Powell, Mrs Watts, Mrs McLaughlin and Mrs Jackson for giving up their own time to facilitate these activities.

French Club, facilitated by Madame Fuller, has been well attended and it is lovely to be able to offer a language club for our children.

Whichever day the club is on, or whoever the facilitator is, the pick-up point is the main playground. It is advisable for parents and carers to let the school know if your child is going to be picked up by someone different, or if they are to go on to Pumpkins after clubs.

Swimming review

The Government requirement on schools is that we aim to ensure that all children are able to swim at least 25 metres by the time they leave Primary school. Our current model to meet this requirement is that children in Oak and Elm Class each attend seven sessions, a one week block followed by two single sessions, during the school year. We also include children in Key Stage 2 who we know did not meet the requirement when it was their class' swimming session. Although this model has worked well over the years we feel that this is a good opportunity to review it. In 2017-18 we will still provisionally book two blocks of seven sessions at Yate but we will use a more targeted approach to who we send to the pool.

This will involve obtaining accurate information with regards to swimming ability and ensuring that those children who are not able to swim 25 metres are prioritised.

Carpark

The school carpark has one allocated disabled parking bay. This is for the use of anyone visiting the school, including dropping off or picking up children, who holds a blue badge and is therefore entitled to use a disabled parking bay. Anyone who holds a blue badge may use other spaces in the carpark if the allocated bay is already occupied.

Reminder- Parents and Carers may use the drop-off area **8.45-8.55 a.m.** stopping long enough to ensure your child or children have entered the playground. **Vehicles should not be left unattended at any time.** If you need to pass a message or drop something off then you should park on the road.

Website

We are getting to grips with our new website. There have been a few teething problems as would be expected. Our providers Brobuild are supporting us by sorting out the technical issues, which have included a delay in items moving from 'pending' to 'published', and I must apologise for the 'human error' issues, which have included loading content onto the 'draft' site instead of the 'main' site. Please do give us some feedback or let us know if you spot any mistakes. Next term we will be focussing on ensuring the class pages include the most up to date content.

Charities

Syrian Refugees

We have been contacted by Amanda Bennett, a local resident, who is involved in a resettlement programme for Syrian Refugees. Below is some information.

Amanda Bennett, Resettlement Manager, Knightstone Housing

Direct Line: 01934 526315

Mobile: 07896180074

Web: www.knightstone.co.uk

The first to families will be arriving on 29th Sept.

Family 1

Two girls ages 14 & 8 yrs.

Two Boys ages 12 & 9 Yrs.

Family 2

One Boy aged 12yrs.

Two Girls aged 10 & 6 yrs.

I am also collecting furniture as I have to fully furnish properties in readiness for families arriving. As the family do not speak English I am looking for early reading books to help learn English.

The families have been chosen as they are considered 'vulnerable'.

This resettlement program will be running until 2020 and South Gloucestershire aims to house 84 people within this period.

South Gloucestershire have information about the program on their website.

Knightstone will be delivering the service for the Syrian families.

Little bit of info about my job – I fully furnish properties which are located in South Gloucestershire, liaise with Home Office, arrange family pickups from the airport, make sure there is food in home, arrange ESOL courses and apply for to school admissions and many more tasks. I am looking for volunteers to assist in the project, all of whom will be requested to complete an enhanced DBS check. Please forward my email if anyone should wish to volunteer.

All ages of clothing would be gratefully received as there are many other children of all ages coming and what I don't use I can share with the Bristol & Bath Syrian program.

Shoe Box appeal

Mrs Madge (Willow Class mum) is once again organising the shoe box appeal. For further information please see Mrs Madge in the playground or come to the office.

Purple4Polio

On Thursday 20th October 2016 representatives from **Rotary Club of Chipping Sodbury** lead a school assembly about **Purple4Polio**. You will have already received a separate letter from them about this. In the assembly the children found out about program, the history of the disease and how we can help. The Rotary members were very impressed by the insightful questions they were asked by the children. The Rotary have left us a large number of purple crocus bulbs to plant. We aim to plant the bulbs on the grass

ground facing the field spelling out 'END POLIO'. All children will be involved in this and, when they have planted their bulb, we will mark their finger with a purple dot. This is the system used in third world countries to indicate that a child has been vaccinated. More details will follow in Term 2 and, when the planting is done, we will collect donations and pass them onto the Rotary Club. Any donations already received will be held until then and passed on.

Handwriting Expectations

At Trinity we have introduced a cursive font from Term 1, 2016-17. We will aim to use this font and style across the school when modelling writing and when teaching letter names, sound and formation in early phonics teaching.

The table below shows that the requirement for children to be able to write in a joined style begins in Year 2. We have taken the view, as have many other schools, that it is therefore sensible to introduce the cursive style from the very start so that children do not need to re-learn letter formation with joins in later years.

	Early Learning Goals (ELG) criteria related to handwriting
Reception	They handle equipment and tools effectively, including pencils for writing. (ELG-Physical Development, Moving and Handling) They write simple sentences which can be read by themselves and others. (ELG-Literacy, Writing)
	<i>Children are taught letter formation as each new sound is introduced in the daily phonics lesson.</i>
Year group	Criteria from the Writing 'Age-Related Expectations' (ARE) handwriting strand
1	I can form lower-case letters, capital letters and digits 0-9 correctly
2	I can form lower-case letters of the correct size relative to one another in my handwriting. I am starting to use some of the diagonal and horizontal strokes needed to join letters and understand which letters are best left un-joined I can write capital letters and digits of the correct size, orientation and relationship to one another and to lower case letters I am using spacing between words that reflects the size of the letters.
3	I have shown that I can join letters, deciding which letters are best left un-joined. I can write in a legible and consistent style.
4	I can write in a legible and consistent style, with increased quality and speed. In my handwriting all my down strokes of letters are parallel and letters are spaced appropriately.
5	I can write fluently and legibly with speed and a personal style.
6	I can write fluently and legibly with speed and a personal style.

The staff are meeting on Monday 31st October 2016 to discuss handwriting across the school. Once we have decided as a staff our policy in relation to handwriting we will inform the school community. In the meantime, we are trying to get the children familiar with reading the font.

Example;

