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## Newsletter 3– Term 2 2016-17

**14<sup>th</sup> December 2016**

Dear Parents and Carers

This term has taken us from fireworks to festivities. Willow and Ash Classes enjoyed their sewing workshops and the products of all that hard work looked fabulous on the walls. Many thanks to the adults who came and supported. We have been lead through the twentieth century in Beech Class service with some of the children giving very convincing portrayals of historical figures.

The 'Sleepy Shepherd' was a storming success and the children have enjoyed their Christmas Services at St Mary's Church. This week all classes are going to church again for 'Experience Christmas'. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to extend our RE curriculum and engage with the church community. We are very grateful to Reverend Thomson and the team of parishioners for facilitating it.

We also know how to have fun at Christmas and most classrooms seem to be little factories at the moment churning out various Christmas crafts. I must take this opportunity to thank the David family for printing the Christmas cards with the children's designs on. It is a very kind gesture and has helped the FOS raise some more funds for Trinity.

I think the children are all ready for a break now.

I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year. We look forward to seeing you on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2017 for the start of Term 3.

C. Hutton

### **French & PE**

We are delighted to let you know that, from the start of Term 3, Madame Fuller (Clubs4Kids) will be in school every Thursday afternoon. She will work with each Key Stage 2 class during the afternoon, initially focussing on some basic French to assess the level of each class. As the term and the year progresses she will develop the sessions to match with class topics and to meet the expectations of the National Curriculum. The clubs will also both move to a Thursday.

There will also be a change to the PE days in Key Stage 2. From the start of Term 3 Mr Jenkins (SoGlo) will work with each Key Stage 2 class on a Thursday afternoon. Key Stage 2 Games will continue on a Friday afternoon. The Key Stage 2 SoGlo Multiskills club will move to a Thursday 3.30-4.30pm.

The model for a Thursday afternoon for Elm, Oak and Beech class will be three 45 minute sessions as follows;

- French with Madame Fuller
- PE with Mr Jenkins
- PSHE/ RE\* with Mrs Heath

*\*The class teachers will work with Mrs Heath to plan the aspects of the curriculum that will best suit a 45 minute session.*

This model will also facilitate Mr Shiles, Mr Powell and Mrs Watts to be out of class at the same time.

### **Clubs**

We will aim to issue a 'Clubs Letter' for Term 3 and 4 in the first week of next term. This will have the information about clubs that will be run by school staff. Please be aware that French and SoGlo operate their own booking and payment systems and that, from the start of next term, there will be some changes to days. From the start of Term 3;

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• SoGlo<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➢ KS1 Tuesday 3.30- 4.30pm</li><li>➢ KS2 Thursday 3.30- 4.30pm</li></ul></li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• French<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➢ KS1 Thursday 3.30- 4.15pm</li><li>➢ KS2 Thursday 12.25-12.55pm.</li></ul></li></ul> |
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### **E-Safety- Date for diaries**

On Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2017 there will be an E-Safety Presentation for Parents and Carers in the hall after school which will last approximately one hour. The presentation will be facilitated by one of the Teaching and Learning Advisers from South Gloucestershire. We have organised this in order to give Parents and Carers an opportunity to consider the benefits and risks associated with the technology that is available to children. As a school we want to ensure that we are supporting the children to become safe and responsible digital citizens.

Please put the date in your diary.

### **Website**

You will see from the 'Vacancies' section in this letter that we are currently recruiting a member of staff to provide support with the school website. We aim to get the successful applicant in place as soon as possible in Term 3 and, having a person dedicated to uploading content and managing the calendar on a weekly basis, will really help us develop our website into a reliable and up to date source of information for all users.

### **Vacancies**

We currently have the following vacancies;

- 2 x Lunch Break Supervisor, 12.00-1.15pm Monday to Friday, term time only (Hay 13- 6.25 hours per week @ £7.65 per hour)
- 1 x Clerical Assistant (School website) 2 hours per week-day and time negotiable (Hay 12- £8.04-£8.39 per hour)

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

### **Purple4Polio**

We have now planted all of the purple crocus bulbs on the mound next to the bridge and tunnel. We are hoping that they will spell out 'POLIO' in due course. The children have worked in groups to complete the planting and should all have come home with a 'purple pinkie', symbolic of the system used in third world countries to indicate that a child has been vaccinated against polio. Many thanks to Mrs Elliott for helping out with the planting.

If you are able to give a voluntary donation of £1 to the **Purple4Polio** charity we will collect donations and pass them onto the **Rotary Club of Chipping Sodbury**.

### **Friends Of School (FOS)**

Many thanks to the FOS for supporting the Nativity teas, organising the Christmas Raffle and facilitating the 'Mince Pies & Mulled Wine' and Carol Service. The continued support has a hugely positive impact on the school.

Look out for events coming up in the New Year.

### **Primary School Places for September 2017**

A reminder to all Parents and Carers of children due to start school in September 2017. The deadline for submitting applications for primary school places is **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2017**.

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

Wiltshire Council <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/schools-learning-admissions-applying>

### **Dinner money**

If you have recently received a text reminding you that you owe some dinner money please could you pay this to the office by Thursday morning (15/12/16)? This will enable Mrs Neal and Mrs Cawston to sort and bank money and cheques before the end of term.

School meals cost £2 a day and should always be paid in advance.

Term 3 is 5 weeks and 3 days long meaning a school meal every day would equate to £56.

### **Attendance**

*'At Trinity CE Primary School pupils' learning is at the heart of everything we do, but children cannot learn if they are absent. Absence from school has a proven negative effect on individual pupil progress, class learning and attitudes to school.'* (Attendance Policy)

This week, to celebrate good attendance, we have given out Bronze attendance certificates to all children who have managed to have 100% attendance so far this school year. The children have also been rewarded with a treat. Attendance of 95% and above is considered 'very good' and meets our school target.

We have also issued letters to the Parents and Carers of children whose attendance has dropped below 90% and separate letters to those children who have had three or more 'broken weeks' so far this school year.

*Research shows that above all else, broken weeks have the largest impact on children's attainment as they often miss a key lesson during the week.*

The purpose of this is to draw attention to attendance dropping below the expected level and to offer support to families with difficulties with attendance. We know that a large proportion of absence is due to illness, including observing the '48 hour rule' in cases of sickness and stomach upsets. We are also aware that an absence of 6 and a half days or more in the period analysed (13 weeks/ 65 days) would take total attendance below 90% but an absence 6 and a half days across the whole school year (38 weeks/ 190 days) would give a total attendance in excess of 95%. We can access all historical attendance data too and easily identify when a low absence is not a usual occurrence.

A big concern for us is when we begin to see a pattern of absence e.g. several Mondays of school missed or frequent absence on days when a class has PE. It is often in these cases where there is an underlying issue that we can address by working with the family.

We have also noted a large number of children arriving after 8.55am. Punctuality is extremely important in order to give the children the best start to the day. Arriving in class late can be very unsettling and is incredibly disruptive for the children who are already engaged in their learning and for the staff who then have to take time to explain work. Whilst an occasional late arrival can be excused for circumstances beyond your control I would encourage all Parents and Carers to arrive at school between 8.45 and 8.55am to allow your children time to socialise before the bell goes and have a prompt and purposeful start to the day. It would be unfair to penalise children for arriving late as it is the Parents responsibility to ensure they arrive on time. If you are having difficulties with punctuality and you require support from the school, please contact the office.

### **Morning routines**

In the last newsletter we stated;

*In asking Parents and Carers to not enter the building we are meeting safeguarding requirements and allowing teachers to focus on ensuring the children have a smooth and prompt start to the day.*

The over-whelming majority of Parents and Carers are respecting this but there are still a few who are not. There are mechanisms in place for the relay of messages and staff are available to collect any children who may be upset from the playground and take them to class. If your child is having difficulties with separation in the morning please make an appointment to see us about it. We have successfully put systems in place for children who have been finding the mornings difficult and we are happy to support in any way.

### **Carpark**

In the last newsletter we issued guidelines for the use of the carpark.

***Reminder- Parents and Carers may use the drop-off area 8.45-8.55am 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.***

Whilst most users are respecting the guidelines there are still times when a dangerous queue of vehicles, including the school bus, stretches out of the gates in the morning due to unattended vehicles in the drop-off area. Once again I would urge all Parents and Carers dropping off in the morning to observe the guidelines in the interests of safety.

When there is a delay in the carpark I would ask you to be patient and not let your children get out of the car until you can stop safely adjacent to the footpath. The adult on duty will endeavour to get any blockage cleared as quickly as possible.

