



3rd September 2019

Autumn Term



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Welcome

Welcome back to the start of a new school year. If your child is new to St. Philip's, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to our school community. I hope this newsletter continues to provide you with the information you require for the term ahead. Please feel free to discuss any issues you may have with your child's class teacher, who will be available at the end of each school day. Thank you all for your continued support. I look forward to working with you throughout the coming year.

Mr. J. Barrett
Headteacher

Staffing News

I would like to take the opportunity to welcome Mr. Taylor to St. Philip's. Mr. Taylor will take over the role vacated by Miss Chiodo and will teach Maths in year 3 and 5, and Mrs Welsh's class on a Friday. I am sure you will make Mr. Taylor feel very welcome. Unfortunately, Mrs Moore will be absent for a few weeks at the start of this term, due to an injury sustained over the summer break. Arrangements have been put in place for the coming weeks to ensure there is no disruption to our pupils at the start of the term. Finally, Mrs Clayton is due to have a medical procedure that will also result in a short absence. Mrs Clarke will take full-time responsibility for class 8 (Y3/4) during this time.

Summer Fundraising

£3500 was raised from our 'Mind and Body Workout' events during the summer term. Your incredible generosity, fabulous weather and the hard work of staff, parents and pupils, made the event a great success.

Bishop John Arnold

Bishop John will be visiting our parish and celebrating Mass on Tuesday 24th September. After the Mass, there will be a reception in our school hall, where light refreshments will be served. Our choir have been asked to sing at the Mass. It is therefore important that those children in Y5 and Y6, who have expressed an interest in joining our choir, remain fully committed to attending all sessions. Choir will start on Tuesday 10th September and will be led by Mr. Webster, our new choir leader and guitar tutor.

Nursery and Reception Places

A reminder that the deadline for Reception and Nursery applications is **15th January 2020**. Applications for Nursery must be made via the school office, whilst Reception applications are made via the local authority in which you reside. For

those with children in Y6, the deadline for applications to secondary **school is 31st October 2019**. Demand for place since 2017 have reduced slightly (although the school remains oversubscribed). Therefore, if you are aware of families who may live just outside our parish boundaries, who want their children to attend St. Philip's, it is always worthwhile for them to include the school on their application to their local authority.

Building Work update

Building work continues at the rear of the school to improve access and increase the amount of play space available to the children. Despite mixed weather, the lower playground has been re-surfaced and the new stairs accessing it are ready to use. Once all works are completed, I look forward to inviting all families to come and look at the changes that have been made.

Uniform/Sports Kit

The children look very smart and are a credit to their families. Thank you for supporting all aspects of the uniform policy, including appropriate hairstyles. Maintaining such standards is a key ingredient in a successful school. Your support is not taken for granted and is greatly appreciated.

Extra sport continues to be provided to all year groups. As we approach the winter months, these sessions will continue even in inclement weather. It is important that children have warm sports clothing/tracksuits available in school for their games sessions and any before/after school activities taking place.

PTA Nursery and Reception Disco

A reminder that a Nursery and Reception family disco will be held in the parish centre on Friday 20th September from 6:30pm-8:30pm. Our PTA have kindly helped to organise this event. If you would like to get involved, or learn more about the PTA, the first meeting of the year will be held at 7pm on 25th September in the parish centre. All parents are welcome to attend and I look forward to seeing many of you there.

Key Stage Outcomes

Outcomes from all Key Stages in 2019 will be displayed on our website over the next few weeks. Congratulations to all our former Reception, Y1, Y2 and Y6 pupils for all their hard work, determination and efforts in the last academic year.

Homework: Planners, Spelling Shed, EasiMaths, Times Tables Rock Stars

We have reviewed our school planners and the way in which home reading is recorded and celebrated. A separate letter will be distributed with the planners to provide more details.

Following trials across various year groups in the summer term, access to 'Spelling Shed' and 'Times tables Rock stars' will be made available to children in KS1 and KS2. Children will also continue to have access to Easimaths at home. Please could I encourage all families to support these programs, and the introduction of the new planners. We have seen very pleasing results from the trials we have carried out and children have really enjoyed using the new products.

Home to School Communication

From time to time, there may be issues or concerns that parents wish to discuss with their child's class teacher. If you have any concerns, we encourage parents to arrange to see the class teacher before or after school. If this is not possible, please write a note in your child's planner or if you prefer put a letter in an envelope. Staff will respond accordingly. If the matter requires a meeting with the teacher, this can be arranged through the office or again, through the planner. We discourage staff from discussing issues with parents by phone or email.

Fruit/Water

A reminder that KS2 children can bring in a piece of fruit to eat at break times. Fruit is provided for other year groups. Cereal bars, oat biscuits, fruit bars or other such snacks are not permitted in school. We have a number of children who suffer from severe allergic reactions, which can be triggered by such items. Children can only bring in a piece of fruit or fruit prepared in a tub (labelled) to eat at break. Please encourage your children to bring water in the school to drink during lessons.

When sending in treats for your child's birthday, please be advised that lollies cannot be given to the children. Please ensure that anything that is sent in is free from nuts. Try to ensure that the packaging is included so that we can check for dietary requirements. Unfortunately, we do not have the time to cut up large cakes and distribute slices to the children. Try to limit treats to things that children can hand out themselves at the end of the day.

Contact/Medical Information

Could I remind all parents of the need to keep the office updated of any changes to contact details or the medical needs of your child? Please ensure that any agreed medication, which is kept in school, is in date and renewed where necessary. **It is the responsibility of parents to ensure that medication is in date.**

Holiday Notifications

In the summer term, I received many late holiday notifications. Please give adequate time for requests to be processed. A fine can be given if adequate notice is not provided.

Morning/Evening Arrangements Reminder

Doors open at 8:35am each morning. Children **are not supervised** by the school before this point. Therefore, I would strongly discourage parents from leaving KS2 children unsupervised in the playground before this time. All foundation stage and KS1 children must be handed to a member of staff at the appropriate entrance each morning and collected from the designated points. In order to safeguard your children, no adults are permitted to enter the school via the rear doors or hall doors either in the morning or after school. If you wish to discuss something with the class teacher, please make your way to the main office. Children from F.S. to Y3 will not be released to older siblings who are still at school age. Could parents ensure that children do not go around the back of the parish centre either before or after school, or run on any of the garden areas in the playground? Once collected, children must be supervised by an appropriate adult. Could I also remind parents not to bring dogs onto the playground (either on a lead or held) at any time.

KEY DATES AND USEFUL INFORMATION (Please check the website for updates throughout the term)

September

- 20th Nur/Rec Family Disco 6:30pm – 8:30pm (further details to follow)
- 25th PTA meeting (AGM in Parish Centre) 7:00pm – 8:00pm

October

- 4th St Philip's Day – Mass 9.05 am led by Mr Cooper's class
- 18th School finishes 3.05 pm for half term
- 31st Closing date for Secondary School applications
- 29th Children return after half term (Please note that this is a Tuesday)

November

- 6th Parent's Evening
- 30th Christmas Fair – (Provisional)
- 29th Advent Assembly – 9:00am

December

- 3rd Pantomime
- 11th Nativity Play – 9:00am
- 17th & 18th Christmas Musical Evening
- 19th Christmas Dinners and class parties
- 20th School finishes 1.00 pm for Christmas Holidays