

St. George's CE Primary School

Our School Motto - "Bringing faith and education together"

Newsletter
Wednesday 6th Sept
2017
Term 1 Issue 1



Dear Parents/Carers

Mr. D. Jones, Headteacher

A Big Welcome Back!

Welcome back! Maybe it is an age thing, on my part, but the summer holidays seem to be over before you know it. However, I hope you all enjoyed the break and that the children are refreshed and ready for the exciting challenges ahead. It can be a little daunting coming back to school after a long break and with new classes and new teachers to face but, in reality, it is remarkable how quickly the children get back into the swing of things.

For everyone today has been a gentle re-introduction into school life with pupils beginning to learn slightly new routines and class boundaries.

Over the next few weeks we will be circulating information concerning a range of issues to do with different aspects of school life. I apologise in advance if you feel there is an information overload but it will be useful material and will help you support your child.

Key Term Dates

Wednesday 6th Sept

First day of Term 1

Breakfast Club opens

Charge of £3 per child per day. Family rate of £5 per day. **Signing in now takes place in Reception.**

Thursday 7th September

PESE Assessment Tests for selected Year 6 Pupils

Friday 8th September

RE Theme Day

Monday 11th September

Oak Class start part-time schooling

Friday 15th September

Individual & Family Photos from 9am

Swimming starts for Cedar (Group 1) & Willow Class

Tuesday 19th September

Oak Class Bible Service
Music for Schools Parents Presentation

Wednesday 20th September

'Meet the Teacher'
(details to follow next week)

Thursday 21st September

Home School Association
AGM @ 5:00pm in the
School Hall

Additional Security in School!

It is our aim to make St George's Primary School safe, happy and welcoming for everyone but the overriding priority is the safety of the children and our security protocol has been devised for their benefit. Of course we can never stand still so you will have all by now encountered the new electronic school gates and although there have been a small number of 'teething issues' I believe that everyone welcomes the fact that the school site has become much more secure. The letter attached will give you a fuller explanation of the alterations. Please can I emphasise that these changes have been made to make our school site as safe as possible for your children and of course everyone who works at our school.

On the matter of security as far as possible we would ask that parents use Pupil Post or the answerphone system to deliver messages but if parents/carers do need to enter the building they should come to the Main Office entrance. You will notice that this year the school reception has now been moved into the entrance hall with the intention of office staff having visual access on entry to the school. As you will notice that space is at a premium please can I ask you for your patience whilst the new system beds in!

If you are visiting the school more formally (an appointment) please report to the administrative staff (Attendance/Receptionist), sign in the visitor's book and wear a visitor's badge. Volunteer readers/helpers must also sign in at the Main Office and wear an appropriate identification badge at all times.

If at all possible can we avoid parents wandering into school via the rear doors to pass on messages to staff. Therefore all parents/carers should make an appointment to meet with a member of staff and should follow the same procedures as above. If you have any concerns regarding security, please speak to Mrs Rye, the Deputy Head Teacher or the Bursar, Mrs Emirali.

Please can we all pass on a very 'Good Luck' message to all 19 pupils in Year 6 who will be sitting the annual PESE Assessment Tests all day tomorrow. Working in Kent for numerous years I understand totally how these pupils will be feeling and the pressure that this day brings. I know that they will all do their very, very best.

School News!

Thank you to everyone who has already paid for their school lunches in advance. For those still to pay, the amount for lunches this term is £69.30 (or £10.50 per week or **£2.10** per day). Please pay by cash or cheque (made payable to Caterlink Ltd with your child's name & class on the reverse) in an envelope clearly marked "Dinner Money" – this greatly assists the administration process (the same clear labeling procedure applies equally to swimming and all trip money). Envelopes are available outside the old school office and all payments should be posted in the postbox on the wall.

Please remember that meals must be paid for either termly or weekly in advance and we would therefore expect to have received dinner money from every child having school lunches by the end of this week. We continue to offer a very flexible lunchtime meal service, with meals freshly prepared in our own kitchen, but have to reiterate that the administration side of this service is extremely time consuming and requires the co-operation and understanding of parents/carers to ensure its smooth delivery. **Caterlink operate a zero tolerance policy on debt and meals must be paid for on the day taken as school has no funds to cover the cost.**

Also a reminder that although KS1 meals are still 'free', pupils in KS2 have to pay for their meals. If you think that you may be entitled to a free school meal there are FSM forms in the reception letter rack on the wall to complete and e-mail/send off. If you need support in completing these forms this can be done so confidentially with the office staff. I would strongly encourage all these parents who may think that they could be entitled to look into this.

Replacement Water Bottles

If your child has misplaced or requires a new water bottle, these will be available from the School Office at a cost of £1.50.

New signings

For some pupils the first day at a new school was slightly unnerving but it also felt that way for new members of staff who joined us this term. As I mentioned at the end of last term I was in the fortunate position of making all of the new signings well before the summer holidays and I am sure you will want to join me in welcoming the new staff to St George's. Firstly we say a very big 'hello' to **Miss Williams** who will be teaching in KS2 working alongside the staff and in addition we say a very formal hello to **Mrs Hall**, previously Miss Johnstone, who will teach in Hazel Class. As the Headteacher of this wonderful school I am really excited that we have such fantastic staff joining our already successful team.

For your information there have been some slight changes to the staff structure, which has further complemented our existing structure, with the appointment Mrs Baylis and Miss Brownfield as Key Stage or Phase Leaders.

So how will this affect parents/carers? To a large extent it won't. If you have an issue relating to your child's education, the 'first port of call' will remain, as always, their class teacher. We have formal parent consultations twice a year but additional meetings can be arranged through the school office if requested. If a concern remains, however, parents can approach the Phase Leaders or the Deputy Head Teacher. The Key Stage Leaders will have an oversight of the teaching and learning and will also closely monitor behaviour across their Phase. The Deputy Head Teacher will support me with the day to day running of the school, which will be invaluable as the school grows in number.

Of course I will still be available but the additional leadership capacity will improve effectiveness and ensure that matters are addressed by the appropriate personnel.

Clubs

Information regarding the club timetable for 2017-18 will be circulated in the next week or so, with the intention of clubs starting Monday 18th September. Last year we had over 20 clubs and we are hoping to have a similar, if not enhanced programme for the coming year. I would ask that once pupils sign up for a club it becomes a commitment for the term as last year a number of pupils 'backed out' of the clubs which in turn prevents other children from participating.

Medical Reminders

Finally, although we clearly wish every child to be in school for every single school day throughout the year we would like to remind parents/carers that following a bout of sickness or diarrhoea, children must not return to school until **48hrs** after their final episode of illness.

Should your child (or their siblings) contract an infectious disease (particularly chicken-pox or cold sores) please inform the school office. We have a child in school with a weakened immune system and we wish to take the necessary precautions, where possible.

Should your child have asthma, please ensure that you supply the school with an in-date inhaler ASAP. Parents/Carers will need to bring the inhaler in and complete the necessary paperwork.

Polite notice – **NO MEDICATION SHOULD BE BROUGHT INTO SCHOOL BY A PUPIL.**