



St Paul's C.E. First School
Newsletter ~ Friday 8th September 2017
Tel. 01902 790253 Email: office@st-pauls-coven.staffs.sch.uk

School News

Welcome back to all of our families, we hope you all had a fantastic summer holiday. We would also like to welcome all of our new families in Nursery and Reception. Miss Jones, Mrs Clemson, Mrs Ashley, Mrs Beason, Mrs Payton and Mrs Edge have been really pleased with how well our new children have begun to settle into their school routines.

Across school the children have all settled well into their new classes. It has been lovely to hear about all of their summer adventures and to see their enthusiasm for the coming academic year.

Each year group has begun their new topics and you should receive a class timetable, class newsletter and Big Picture giving you information about what your child will be doing this half term. Parents will notice that the structure of the school day has changed slightly with lunchtime moving for most of the children to 12:15. This has enabled us to maximise morning learning time when the children are at their most alert and ready to learn. On Tuesday Miss Roberts spoke to the children about changes to lunchtime designed to improve the lunchtime experience. Nursery, Reception and Year 1 now share their lunchtime in the first sitting and Years 2, 3 and 4 the second. We are trying to create a dining experience for the children so that they see lunchtime as a social time to engage with their peers over lunch and not just something to rush through. All children eat together regardless of whether they bring in sandwiches from home or have school dinners and all leave together when they have finished their meals. Miss Roberts and Mrs Rowe are running a competition for children to come up with a name and design a logo for the new 'restaurant'. Further details of this will be sent out next week so please look out for them.

Finally our new afternoon Nursery provision has started off successfully and we look forward to welcoming more children as the academic year progresses. Any parents who think they may be eligible for the free 30 hours of nursery care over the year are asked to speak to Mrs Payton our Nursery Manager.

Before and After School Club

We would like to remind those parents that require Before or After School Club to please book sessions in advance so that we can staff each session accordingly. Parents were also advised last term that from September 2017 **all** payments need to be made in advance and that any ad-hoc sessions to be paid for on the day.

Roald Dahl Week

We will be having another Roald Dahl themed week from Monday 11th September to commemorate his 101st birthday on the 13th September and to launch our new whole school Reading Challenge which is based around the theme of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. The children will be invited to dress up for this on Friday 15th September. They will be able to choose any character from any of his books.

Summer Reading Challenge



Well done to all of the children that took part in this year's Summer Reading Challenge organised by Brewood Library. Those children who had finished their challenge brought their certificates in this week so that we could celebrate their success in our Celebrate and Praise assembly on Friday. We are aware that the challenge doesn't officially finish until Monday 11th September so if any of our children have yet to receive their certificates they can bring them in next week and will be able to show them next Friday.

Playtime Snacks in Key Stage 2

All children in Key Stage 1 are provided with a piece of fruit each day but those children in Key Stage 2 are not eligible for this Government initiative. If children in Years 3 and 4 wish to bring a snack in for playtime then we would ask that this is fruit and not snacks such as biscuits, cake or crisps since we are keen to promote healthy eating.

School Visits

Mrs Rowe in the kitchen would like to remind parents of children in Reception and Key Stage 1 that if their child is going on a school visit they are able to provide packed lunches since these children receive free school meals. In order for her to cater for this she would require notice in advance of the trip. This information will be added to future school visit letters but for those trips that have already been booked, if any parents require their child to have a packed lunch then please let the class teacher know as soon as possible.

Earrings

Please be aware that all earrings must be removed before P.E. lessons as a safety requirement. It is preferable that the earrings are not worn on P.E. days and you should have received a class timetable and class newsletter for your child advising you of these days. If your child needs to keep the earrings in for most of the day then they must be able to remove them by themselves for P.E. since staff are not able to do this for them.

Lunchtime skills

Children who have school dinners are all provided with knives and forks but unfortunately some children across school are finding using them correctly a bit of a challenge. The lunchtime staff are trying to encourage and demonstrate to the children how to correctly use a knife and fork but this is not always possible so we would like to ask parents to help their child to also develop this life skill at home.

Laches Wood

Parents of children in Year 4 are reminded that next year's residential trip to Laches Wood is **Monday 26th March to Wednesday 28th March 2018**. Further details about this will be given to parents on Thursday 21st September at a meeting held in the school hall at 2:30pm. Parentpay has been set up for parents wishing to begin making payments as soon as possible. The deposit of £40 will need to be made by 30th October to secure a place for you child.

Please note that these are the correct dates for the trip.

Viking Day

We are pleased to announce that a Viking Day has been organised for Year 4 on the 29th September. This is a very interactive day where we welcome a 'Viking' into school to work with Year 4 to enhance their topic on The Vikings. We would like the children to dress up as Vikings for this event and parents should have received a letter with further details about this event this week.

Father Malcolm

As many of our families may know Father Malcolm is retiring and moving away from Coven to go back up to the North East. He has worked closely with the school for many years and has helped to develop our close links as a church school so we will greatly miss him both around school and as a member of our community. On Friday 29th September at 7:30pm there will be a service at St. Paul's Church which will be his last and we would like to invite our families to attend to say thank you and goodbye to such an important member of our community.

School Photographs

This year individual photographs will be taken of the children on Monday 9th October.

Year 2 Trip to Warwick Castle

Year 2 are visiting Warwick Castle on Monday 18th September to enhance their topic on Towers, Tunnels and Turrets. Parents should have received a letter giving further details about this trip earlier in the week. Thank you those parents who have returned their consent forms and we would like to advise you that Parentpay is now set up for payments.

Prayer of the Week



Dear Lord

We thank you for Jesus sent to bring light and hope to the world. Please show us how we can bring hope to those who feel they are living in darkness.

Amen

WORSHIP

HOPE

Our worship value for this half term is Hope and this week in worship the children have been learning about the Christian belief that Jesus is the hope and light of the world.

Diary Dates

September

Monday 11th September - Roald Dahl Week with a dressing up as a character day on Friday 15th September.

Monday 18th September - Year 2 trip to Warwick Castle

Thursday 21st September - Y4 Parents meeting for Laches Wood Visit in the school hall at 2:30pm

Friday 29th September - Y4 Viking Day

October

Monday 9th October - Individual School Photographs

Tuesday 17th October - Parents Evening

Friday 20th October - Finish for Half Term

Monday 30th October - School closed for staff training

Tuesday 31st October - Children return to school

Term Dates and INSET Days for September 2017 to July 2018

Autumn Term 2017

Term starts: Tuesday 5 September

Half Term: Monday 23 October - Friday 27 October

Term ends: Tuesday 19 December

Holiday: Wednesday 20 December - Tuesday 2 January

Spring Term 2018

Term starts: Wednesday 3 January

Half Term: Monday 19 February - Friday 23 February

Term ends: Thursday 29 March

Holiday: Friday 30 March - Wednesday 11 April

Easter Sunday: Sunday 1 April

Summer Term 2018

Term starts: Thursday 12 April

May Day: Monday 7 May

Half Term: Monday 28 May - Friday 1 June

Term ends: Friday 20 July

Holiday: Monday 23 July - Friday 31 August

INSET Days 2017-18

Monday 4th September 2017

Monday 30th October 2017

Friday 16th February 2018

Thursday 12th April 2018

Friday 13th April 2018