

Newsletter No 1: Term 1

September 2019

Dear Parent / Carers,

Welcome back to a new school year! We have had a great start to term 1. There has been a lovely atmosphere – the children seemed very excited to return to school which was very pleasing to see. I hope your child has been coming home talking about their new class and the exciting learning they will be doing this year.

Next week we will be hosting 'Meet the teacher' meetings after school. This will provide an opportunity to come and listen to the teacher explain about the new class routines, learning planned and home-learning opportunities. Please try to make it but if work commitments do not allow for this, you will be able to find the information on the school website under parent letters by the end of next week.

Meet the Teacher Y1/2 : Tuesday 10th September @3.30pm Small Hall. *(There will be a film for the children run in a classroom while the meeting takes place for the Y1/2 meeting)*

Meet the Teacher Y3/4 : Wednesday 11th September @ 3.30pm in Small Hall.

Meet the Teacher Y5/6 : Thursday 12th September @ 3.30pm in Small Hall

Maintenance and building work over the summer period

Over the Summer break we have been busy. I am pleased to say that all children in KS2 now have their own locker to put their bags and PE kit during the day. These have freed up space for more group working spaces around school to enable volunteers and support staff to work with the children who need it. We have also re-painted a couple of classrooms over the summer break to refresh them and had to fix an issue with damp in another classroom.

The play equipment on the KS1 playground is the next job to tackle. We will be replacing the equipment and wet pour (flooring) in October. Until then, please be aware that the area is roped off and encourage your children to stay away from this area at the start and end of the school day.

Year 6 Residential Trip

Our Year 6 children will be going on residential trip to Greatwood Camp in Somerset. They will be off on Monday 14th October – Friday 18th October. The cost of this trip inclusive of activities, food and accommodation is £275. If your child is not signed up to go and they now wish to – we can take them provided the school receives payment in full by **Friday 13th September**. The trip is always lots of fun and really builds solid relationships between staff and children for Year 6. Unfortunately, due to school budgets being so tight, we are unable to reduce the cost of the trip any further. Children not attending will be completing project work in school during the week.

Please let the office know if you or anyone on house or changed their mobile number.

It is important that our records are kept up-to-date in case your child is sick or we need to contact you.

Don't forget, school begins at 8.45am!

Did you know you can text us as well as ring us about your child's absence before 9.30am? Please state the full name of your child, their class name or teacher and reason for absence in your text.

Our text number is **07786 208896**



Principal: Mrs Debbie Coker

Chair of Local Board: Mrs Trish Dodds



Value of the Term : Perseverance

We will be focussing on a question each week linked to our term's theme. These are introduced in Monday's Collective Worship and then discussed again during Wednesdays' Class based Collective Worship.

9/9/19: What does perseverance mean to you?

16/9/19: What helps you to stay focussed on a task?

23/9/19: Think of a time when you felt worried about starting a new challenge – what helped you achieve it?

30/9/19: What ways can you encourage others to keep persevering?

7/10/19 : Thinking of others who have kept going against all the odds. What do you admire about them?

14/10/19: What can we learn about perseverance from the story of Jeremiah?

21/10/19: (Harvest Celebration) How can we make sure that we are thankful for all that we have?

We will be doing our usual collection of long- life food products and toiletries for the Fishponds Foodbank during the last week of Term 1.

Our values for the rest of the year we will be:

Term 2- Generosity

Term 3- Justice

Term 4- Patience

Term 5- Trust

Term 6- Courage

We welcome people of all faiths to come in and share their knowledge and experiences of taking part in the major festivals. During term 1 we are covering Yom Kippur / Sukkot, The conferring of Guru Granth Sahib and Diwali. If you know someone who might like to come in and share pictures, stories or just give a short talk to a class or group of classes, please talk with Mrs Watts (Parrot fish Class teacher in Y2) our RE leader or email the school office.



Courageous Advocacy

Last term our Year 5 and 6 children took part in various fundraising activities as part of their school topic. You might remember them taking part in a sponsored fun run, selling popcorn and snacks at the school performances or running a cake sale. Our School Council also helped raise funds supporting the cake sale as well. As a school we were hoping to reach a £300 target and send this across to Claire Hodgeson who runs the charity 'Go Mad' in the Dominican Republic. I am pleased to let you know that we raised even more and were able to send across £500 ! Thank you to you all who supported these fund raising events. Go Mad has also received a donation from another group as well and I am pleased to say that they have been able to fund a school bus for both villages to enable the children to attend Secondary school.

It is so important for our children to realise that if they are passionate about a cause, they can have a voice and do something about it! We call this 'Courageous Advocacy' and we hope to encourage our children to make a difference in more ways about issues around our world and local community.

Open Days for prospective families.

We are hosting a selection open day tours to show off our lovely school to prospective families. For families with children who will be 4 years old between Sept 20-Aug 21 we are hosting Nursery Tours @ 9.30am and 1.30pm on October 2nd. (Please note that the nursery will not have any children in at the 1.30pm visit)

For families who have children who will be 5 between Sept 20 – Aug 21 we are offering Reception Tours @ 9.30am, 1,30pm and 4.40pm on Thursday 3rd October 2019.

Places can be booked via the school website or via the school office. Please share your positive recommendations about our school with the local community.



School Dinner Money

It always takes a while to get back into the routines of school in a new Academic year – we understand that! So, a few reminders regarding School Dinner Money:

School Dinners are £2.10 per day and MUST be paid before the child has their meal.

Payment can be made via School Gateway and we would actively encourage this payment system.

We also accept cash or cheques, but this needs to be in a marked envelope and posted into the secure box in the School Reception area. Again, paid in advance.

If you need any help or advice regarding using the School Gateway system, please ask at the Office.

If you think your child may be entitled to Free School Meals, please ask at the school office where the ladies will be more than happy to explain the criteria and let you have an application form. Applications can also be made online via

www.bristol.gov.uk/fsm

The School does have a Policy regarding the process if Dinner Money payments are not received and fall into arrears. Please help us not to have to use this Policy and if you wish to discuss payments at any time, please call at the School Office before the issue gets too big to manage.



Schoolgateway

Attendance

The school doors open at 8.40am each morning and remain open until 8.50am to allow the free flow of children into the classrooms. Children should come through the external doors- any questions or notes can be passed to the adults supervising the doors or alternatively please pop to the school office and share them there. Registers close at 8.55am and any child not in the classroom at this time is officially late. Please support our school by getting your children into school on time and not booking holidays or appointments during term time. We are working to get our school attendance up to 96%. Last year our attendance was 95.4% which was a 1% increase on the year before, but we need to do even better this year !

Dates for your diaries , with best wishes from Debbie Coker (Principal)

Monday 2 nd and Tuesday 3 rd Sept	INSET training for Staff school closed.
Wednesday 4th September	Start of Term 1 for children in Y1-6. Children to arrive between 8.40- 8.50am for school. Early Year s home visits begin.
Tuesday 10 th September	Year 1 and 2 Meet parent info evening @3.30pm Small Hall
Wednesday 11 th September	Year 3 and 4 Parent info evening @ 3.30pm Small Hall
Thursday 12 th September	Year 5 and 6 Parent info evening @ 3.30pm Small Hall
Thursday 26 th September	European Day of Languages Theme Day
Tuesday 1 st October	Going Deeper Resilience Theme Day
Wednesday 2 nd October	Nursery Open Day for prospective families 9.30am and 1.30pm
Thursday 3 rd October	Reception Open Day for prospective families 9.30am, 1.30pm, 4.30pm.
Friday 4 th October	INSET training (School Closed to children)
Monday 7 th October	Phonics Meeting for Reception Parents
Monday 14 th October– Friday 18 th	Year 6 Residential Trip to Greatwood Camp.
Wednesday 23 rd October	Year 2 leading Harvest Festival at the church.
Thursday 24 th October	Stay and Play session for Reception parents
Friday 25 th October	Year 6 Assembly to parents (Y6 camp)
Friday 25 th October	Last day of Term 1
Monday 4 th November	INSET training School Closed to children.
Tuesday 5 th November	First day of Term 2

