



St Amand's Primary School— Information for Parents

NEWSLETTER

6 September 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to a new school year. It has been a very smooth, calm and happy start to the year. Children and staff looked refreshed and eager to begin new topics. Our new reception and all new children will be welcomed into school on **Friday 27 September at 9.05am**, so please join us for the assembly. Staff and governors would like to extend a warm welcome to all our new families whose children have joined in other year groups.

I would like to draw your attention to key events this term, details of which are given below. The Parents in Partnership Calendar, which contains all dates up to the end of Term 2, will be sent home next week.

Owls and Rabbits Information session is on Wednesday 18 September 3.15pm- 3.45pm. This is an opportunity for your child's teachers to explain class procedures, reading, homework, phonics (Owls) and for you to ask any questions.

CAFOD Harvest Celebration and Market: Friday 4 October

This Year is the 30th anniversary of the UN's Convention on the Rights of The Child. There are still children around the world who do not enjoy basic rights like water, food and education.

As in previous years, our Harvest assembly and market have been a great success. There are two beneficiaries of our charitable work. Firstly, we raise money for CAFOD; this year it is to help them to install solar water pumps in many communities. Secondly, we would like to donate tins/packets to the food banks in Wantage and Didcot once again. More information will be sent in the next few weeks.

Children representing the school at Harvest Mass in St Mary's on Sunday 6 October at 9.30am. (Date to be confirmed)

If you are parishioners of St Mary's then we would welcome your children's attendance at Mass and help in welcoming and the Offertory Procession. Please email Debbie with names so that we can arrange the rota. Children should come to Mass in school uniform. Thank you.

Parents' Engagement Evening/Cheese and Wine and PTA AGM- Wednesday 16 October from 6pm until 7.30. Cheese and Wine at 6pm before a 6.30pm start. More information will be sent in the coming weeks.

I think you will agree that the extensive work on the playground, path and carpark are a big improvement. Unfortunately we did not have enough funds to replace the paving from the gate up to school at this time. The funding for the work was obtained by the diocese from LVCAP funds. Any voluntary contributions that you make to the School Building Fund, which is currently £30 per child per year, goes a long way in assisting the governors contributions to projects such as these. In the past 6 years, we have had approximately £500,000 towards ICT hardware, a new flat roof and extensive internal refurbishment. Please consider your request for contribution when the letters are sent out later this month. Thank you very much in advance.

Driving up to school

For safety reasons, we request that you do not drive up to school and park in the car park between the hours of 8.230am – 9.30am and 2.45pm - 3.45pm. It is a busy area with children walking up to school and taxis and cars turning.

Uniform

I am pleased to say that most children have adhered to the uniform code- there are currently no visible shorts under dresses and skirts, and no bright trainers being worn to school. Please remember that brightly coloured socks should not be worn to school apart from on dressing up days. Thank you.

A reminder about gates and lateness

Debbie will record late arrivals in the office. Registration starts at 8.55am and children should be in their class by 8.55am. Debbie will close the gates at 9am and therefore any children arriving after 8.55am will be admitted through the main door and their lateness recorded. Any lateness means that children miss valuable beginning of day tasks and the start of lessons or collective worships which can be unsettling for them. Thank you for your cooperation.

Please remember that we are a “Nut Free” School. Children MUST not bring nuts of any kind or any things containing nuts or nut products, including items such as cereal bars, Nutella or chicken satay. We have children in school with severe nut allergies. Thank you for your co-operation

Best wishes

Mrs H Ellery



School Dinners

School dinners now cost £2.30 per day/£11.50 per week. Payment for school dinners MUST not be in arrears. The preferred way to pay for dinners is online via www.eduspot.co.uk. A copy of the parent user guide is attached to this email. If you have any problems accessing the site please let Debbie know. Payment can still be made by cash or cheque payable to OCC. Please send any monies to the school office in clearly marked envelopes.

Children in Reception – Yr 2 are entitled to a free hot meal under the Universal Infant Free School Meal scheme.

A copy of the current menu is attached to this newsletter.

Free School App – information, newsletters and other items are all available on the school app so please remember to download the app to your smartphone. Just go to your normal app store and search for School Jotter (white icon with a green pencil).