

Newsletter No 2: Term 1

Sept 2020

Dear Parent / Carers,

We are now a few weeks into term and I am glad to say that our new routines are beginning to feel easier to follow. Thank you for supporting the school with managing the staggered drop offs and pick ups. It has been good to allow everyone to keep distanced and move on and off site quickly. The recommended social distance for adults is 2 meters so try to keep this kind of space between yourselves and others when waiting to enter the site or moving through the site.

Since our last newsletter we have also welcomed our Reception and Nursery children onto site for their transition visits. They have been absolutely brilliant and have really settled into life at Fishponds very quickly. I popped in for a socially distanced visit and found some very enthusiastic, friendly and kind children. What a lovely bunch they are!

Phonics Meeting for Year 1 and Year 2 parent /carers

As you are aware, Year 1 children normally sit a phonics test in the summer each year. Last year due to Covid this could not take place and therefore the Government has asked schools to run a phonics assessment for Year 2 children as well as Year 1. Come along to the meeting to find out all about what to expect in terms of phonics for your child in Year 1 and 2. Tips will also be shared for supporting early reading. The meeting will take place on Zoom @ 4pm on Tuesday 22nd September 2020 (Next Tuesday!) Zoom is free to use and can be used on any SMART phone or device with internet access.

Coming soon....Reception Phonics Information Meeting for parent /carers

Tuesday, 29th September 2020, 4pm for half an hour.

School Dinners

There is great news! We have been in discussions with our school meal provider Sodexo and we are going to start providing a limited hot meal menu. The menu will be emailed out to you all once confirmed by Sodexo, but we are expecting the hot meal offer to start from Monday, 28th September. All meals will continue to be served and eaten within the classroom. Allergies have been taken into account in the choices that are on offer. School meals cost £2.30 and are payable on School Gateway unless your child is in receipt of Universal or Free School Meals.

Some sad news but an exciting opportunity

After working with our school for the last 3 or so years, Mr Harrold (our Sports Coach from Premier Sport) is moving on. We have been so fortunate to have him for as long as we have and we have certainly benefitted greatly from his service. As a result of Mr Harrold's work many of our children have grown to love sport, develop competitive sporting skills and improved their fitness. Mr Harrold will be working for Bristol Rovers teaching Post 16 children and as a coach for their up and coming footballers. Despite huge excitement about his new role, he says the news is bittersweet as he loves being at our school so much. Mr Harrold, you will be sorely missed but we wish you all the best for the future. Mr Harrold's last day will be Friday 9th October. We are currently in discussions with Premier Sport in order to find a replacement sports coach to replace Mr Harrold.

PE Kit

Your child can wear their PE kit on the days they do PE. This should be navy blue, black or grey bottoms (plain), House coloured T shirt and a navy jumper (this could be their school jumper). Children can wear trainers on this day. PE will always take place outside as PE is not allowed to take place inside as this could increase spread of Covid. Thank you for supporting this school in dressing your child for PE on their PE days.



Church of England Academy

Principal: Mrs Debbie Coker

Chair of Local Board: Mrs Trish Dodds



Value of the Term : Hope

Our Whole School Collective Worship sessions will take place on Tuesdays on Zoom as even though we are all back in school we are unable to gather together physically. Each week we will focus on one of the questions below.

Questions of the Week:

- Week 3: Our school's vision is all about 'love'. How should we behave towards one another in our school, in our local community of Fishponds and towards our world?
- Week 4: What are your dreams for the future? How will you keep going when things look like they are not going to plan?
- Week 5: How can thinking and talking positively about things make a difference to the end result?
- Week 6: Seeds are amazing things – small but powerful. Why does this give us hope?
- Week 7: How does the story of the Prodigal Son show Christians what God is like?
- Week 8: How can we provide hope by sharing what we have? (Harvest)

During our last week of term we will be collecting items for the Fishponds Foodbank as part of our Harvest learning. Our Thursday Collective Worship times focus on celebrating our diversity through learning about other faith celebrations. For the time being singing assemblies will not be taking place.

Have your family circumstances changed since your child was last in school?

We recognise that your family circumstances may have changed. Maybe there has been bereavement, relationship breakdown or other circumstance change.

Please let one of the Pastoral / Safeguarding team know as soon as possible so that we can support you and your child in the best way possible.

Please call the school on 0117 9030491 and ask to speak to Michelle Cahill (our Family Link Worker) as soon as you are able so we can put support in place.

Is your child starting school in September 2021?

We are hosting virtual Open evenings for our prospective Reception children on :

Thursday, 1st October 2020 @ 6pm on Zoom
Wednesday, 21st October 2020@ 6pm on Zoom
Tuesday, 8th December 2020 @ 6pm on Zoom.

Each Zoom meeting will contain information about our school and our Reception phase of learning as well as an introduction to our team. There will also be a video tour of the school included within the zoom.

We are hoping to be able to offer a small number of on site visits after school has closed to the children. These will need to be booked via the school office and are for one adult per family only. Face masks/ coverings will need to worn for these visits. I am really sorry that we are unable to offer our usual group tours to family groups and children at this time.



Home-learning

As a school we subscribe to a number of home learning sites. Log in details for these can be found in your child's communication book.

We have reviewed our Home Learning recently and teachers will be sharing this with the children over the next few days. You will receive a letter next Thursday outlining the changes. Miss Goodman will be running a meeting for parent /carers over Zoom all about home-learning on October 6th @ 4pm for half an hour.

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

Tuesday 22 nd September	KS1 Phonics meeting via Zoom
Friday 25 th September	INSET training for staff. School closed.
Tuesday 29 th September	EYFS Phonics meeting via Zoom
Thursday 1 st October	EYFS open evening for prospective families (Times tbc)
Tuesday 6 th October	Seesaw Parent Workshop via Zoom
Thursday 22 nd October	Year 2 leading Harvest Festival (Location/time tbc)
Friday 23 rd October	Last day of Term 1
Monday 2 nd November	INSET training School Closed to children.
Tuesday 3 rd November	First day of Term 2