



Packington

Church of England Primary School

September 2014

Newsletter

DEAR ALL,

On behalf of the staff can I welcome all our new families to our school community and say welcome back to the new academic year to everyone else. We have had a super first few days with lots of exciting changes, including the introduction of "Our Year of Courage" and a new House System. The School Council have also reviewed and re-written our school motto, which now reads: "Together we can achieve more.... with Jesus as our guiding light." The pupils are now designing a sign to display the motto in the hall. Please do enjoy reading about our new activities and news as well as all the events we have planned. Should you be unsure of anything then please do come and ask.

'New Term Pack' ~

Over the next few days you will receive various documents as well as some permission slips for signing. Please return them as soon as you can so that our records are kept up-to-date:-

Village Visits / Photographs / Internet Access / Home School Agreement / Helping in School etc

Welcome to Packington

We would like to welcome all our new pupils this term in the Foundation Stage:

Bailey Baker, Jacob Brown, Olivia Dallow, Tom Dallow, Florentyna Dring, Emma Griffiths, Reuben Keller, Abbie Mayles, William McLean, Elliot Nash, Isabella Robinson, Ella Rodrigues Orme, Joseph Tebbett, Henry Worrow-Goodin

Introducing "Our Year of Courage"

This year will be "Our Year of Courage", encouraging pupils to become courageous learners, to try new ideas and to take risks in order to push themselves and learn without limits. Our work will once again link subjects and themes throughout the year including PSHE, Art, Science, Philosophy and R.E. Each term will have a specific theme as follows:

**Autumn - What is courage?
Spring - Making a Difference
Summer - A Leap of Faith**

Throughout the year we will also organise several themed weeks and workshops. This half term we will explore how courage is depicted in art. In November we will study the courage of those who served in the First World War and the courage of forgiveness and reconciliation as we commemorate the centenary of the commencement of the war.

I have attached a copy of the slides used in our introductory assembly for those of you who were unable to attend with further details of our plans.

Super SATs/ End of KS2 Results

We are pleased to announce our 2014 SATS results and once again all pupils met or bettered national expectations in English, Reading, Writing and Maths (Level 4 or above). Assessments also indicate that 100% of pupils made the expected 2 levels progress from KS1 to KS2 and many pupils made more than expected progress (3 levels or above from KS1 to KS2). We were particularly happy with our writing results where 53% of pupils made the three levels/ more than expected progress.

	Level 4 and above	Level 5
English (TA)	100%	66%
Reading	100% (85%)	46% (44%)
Writing (TA)	100% (83%)	40% (30%)
Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling	80% (73%)	46% (47%)
Maths	100% (84%)	40% (41%)
Science (TA)	100%	27%
Cohort Size	15	
% of SEND in cohort	27% (7.7%)	

(National results 2013 in brackets)

Our KS1 pupils also performed well with results above those locally and nationally at Level 2 and above at Level 3.

	2+	2b+	3+
Reading	100%(89%)	77%(79%)	38.5%(29%)
Writing	100%(85%)	77%(67%)	23%(15%)
Maths	100%(91.%)	77%(78%)	38.5%(23%)
Speaking & Listening	100%	-	46%
Science	100%	-	46.%

(National results 2013 in brackets)

Well done to all our pupils!

PSA - AGM

Our parents group, The PSA, work hard to provide social events for pupils and parents and also raise valuable funds to pay for additional resources and activities. The pupils and staff really appreciate what they do for the school. Their first meeting, including the AGM, is on **Thursday at 7.30 pm** in the hall. Everyone is welcome so please come along.

House System

Following a request by the pupils we have introduced a "House System". The children have voted for the names of the houses and last week the Head Boy and Girl used the 'sorting hat' to place the children into either **Babelake, Normanton, Bridge or Mill House**. The pupils will sit in their houses for collective worship and each house will work together at sports day and special house days. Each house also has two house leaders from Year 6 to encourage them to work together and two members of staff to provide support. Houses will collect points for achievements, good behaviour and attitudes and each half term there will be a reward for the house with the most points.

The houses will meet for the first time next week so that they can design their own logo and/ or house song and already the pupils are discussing their ideas with a variety of raps and 'Mo bot' type actions being suggested. We will put the logos on display when they are completed.

TOGETHER WE CAN ACHIEVE MORE – with Jesus as our guiding light!

NEWS HEADLINES

***LIFE EDUCATION** ~ The Life Education Bus will visit on 26th September. A different programme of activities is organised for each year group and this supports our PSHE and Science work. Please look out for details.

***HARVEST FESTIVAL** ~ We are currently putting together our plans for our Harvest Festival which will take place on Friday 10th October at 9.15 am in the Church. More details will be with you shortly.

*** SURF'S UP FOR OUR VISIT TO BUDE** ~ As I write this letter the Eagles are excitedly embarking on their week long residential visit to Bude. We wish them a great time. Let's hope the Indian summer arrives in time!

***INDIVIDUAL PHOTOGRAPHS** ~The school photographer will visit school on 1st October to take individual photographs of pupils. So remember smart uniforms, combs and a winning smile! Further details to follow.

***CROSS COUNTRY** ~The first Unity Cross country is on Saturday 4th October at Bosworth Country Park. It is a great event and pupils from Reception upwards can run. We do need younger runners so please look out for the letter with more information.

21st Day

This year we will continue our "21st day" programme which involves children bringing home all the work carried out on a particular day in school to share with parents. The work will be placed in a folder; it may be written work, art work or a photograph of a practical activity ~ whatever has taken place. Our first 21st day will take place on 25th Sept. We hope you will enjoy finding out what your children have been doing at school.

Please remember to send the folder back to school ASAP ready for the next instalment!

Keep Our School Healthy

Remember healthy snacks only at break please!

"Yes" to fruit, veg, cereal bars, cheese!

"No" to crisps and sweets!



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

11th Sept ~ PSA AGM – 7.30 pm – in the school hall
15th Sept ~ Reading workshop for Parents
19th Sept ~ PSA Film Night
23rd Sept ~ Open the Book visit
W/c 22nd Sept ~ Most clubs start – please check individual start dates on the clubs letter coming soon
26th Sept ~ Life Education Bus Visit
1st Oct ~ School Photographs
4th Oct ~ Cross Country at Bosworth Country Park
8th Oct ~ Open the Book visit
10th Oct ~Harvest Festival
13th & 14th Oct ~ Parent Interviews
W/c 13th Oct ~ Art Workshops on the theme of courage
29th Oct ~ Open the Book visit
31st Oct ~Final date to apply for Secondary Schools (Yr6)
1st Nov ~ Packington Cross Country
W/c 3rd Nov ~ RE Week
14th Nov ~ Children in Need
W/c 18th Nov ~ National Anti-bullying Week
20th Nov ~ Eagles Class Assembly 9.15 am
5th Dec ~ Christingle Making/ Christmas Creative Time
7th Dec ~ Christingle Service in Church- 4pm
10th/11th Dec ~ KS2 Christmas Concert
12th Dec~ Christmas Party
16th/17th Dec ~ KS1 Nativity
18th Dec~ Whole School visit to the Pantomime
19th Dec ~ Carol Service in Church/ End of Term

Education Guides

A guide for parents of pupils moving to Secondary Education can be downloaded from <http://www.leics.gov.uk/yourguides.htm>

Some Reminders about Keeping Safe

Photographs ~ during the year we hold various events which parents may wish to record in some form either by photographs or video footage. Please remember that if you video or photograph groups of children at school functions the pictures you take are for family viewing only and must not be put on social media websites.

Parking ~ at the beginning and end of the day please park with consideration for others. Mill Street is always a problem and it is important that you do not use the verges as part of the road and the school gates are kept free from parked vehicles. Please remember that you can always park at the recreation ground behind the church and use Church Walk.

Parents picking children up from KS1 should enter school via Church Walk and walk around the front of the school to the Robins door and then exit via the path near the hall back to the playground.

AT THE START AND END OF THE DAY:
Please use the gate on Church Walk when bringing and collecting your children. Parents and Children should not walk through the school car park at any time. IT IS DANGEROUS!

We also request that you drive with care around the local roads. Many families walk, cycle or scoot to school with some older children travelling to and from school independently so please be cautious especially where there are no footpaths.

Jewellery ~ The wearing of jewellery is not allowed in school ~ it is not appropriate, can be a hazard and may be costly if lost. **Please note that this includes any fashion bands and bracelets. (Studs, sleepers and watches may be worn but pupils will be asked to remove them, or cover earrings for P.E and swimming.)** Many thanks for your support on this.

Hair ~ Long hair should be tied back at all times both for hygiene and safety reasons but on a more simple level children find it difficult to work if they constantly have to move hair out of their eyes or can't see properly.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO LABEL ALL ITEMS OF CLOTHING WITH YOUR CHILDS NAME!

It really helps us, and helps your child keep their belongings safe!

READING WORKSHOP FOR PARENTS OF RECEPTION PUPILS

Monday 15th September 6 pm-The Eagles Classroom

This workshop will cover how we teach reading at Packington and how you can help your child. This workshop is suitable for all parents of our Reception pupils and any parents of pupils in Year 1 who may have missed last year's event. The workshops have been well received by parents over the last few years so please put the date in your diary.

Please remember we have an open door policy so should you have any concerns please contact your child's class teacher or myself. You can contact us either in school, by phone (01530 412425) or e-mail (headteacher@packington.leics.sch.uk). Remember if you are coming into school please report to the school office.