



South Cave CE (VC) Primary School

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Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome back to the start of a new school year and welcome to our new children, and their families, in Foundation and other pupils across the school. I hope you and your children managed to have a relaxing holiday. The children all appeared very excited to be back at school and they all seemed to settle well in their first week in their new classes with new teachers. The teachers are very positive about their classes, already saying they are enjoying their class.

We had a very busy summer in school, particularly in the main school building, as we had major plumbing works completed which took the full 6 weeks to complete. I must thank Mr Whitehead and Mr Sykes-Cook for the extra work this involved for them and the cleaners for being patient when trying to clean the classrooms. I must especially thank the Foundation/Key Stage One staff, for coming into school on many occasions during the holidays, working around the plumbing contractors, to ensure their classrooms and corridors were ready for the enjoyment of the children.

New Staff

We have welcomed some new members of staff this term:

- Mrs Tyreman as a Teaching Assistant, working mainly in Y5/6
- Mrs Ryalls as a Teaching Assistant, working mainly in Y5/6
- Miss Bennet and Miss Cattel as Mid day supervisors

They all appear to be settling very well and getting to know their way around and I welcome them all to our team!

Mrs Harker, Teaching Assistant in Class 2 Monday-Wednesday is unfortunately unwell at the moment so we currently have temporary teaching assistants covering this post. We all wish Mrs Harker a speedy recovery.

Whole School Theme Week

We began this term with an 'arts' week, each Key Stage team focused on different artists and have created wonderful displays around school to brighten up the school at the start of term. This is a great way to give the children something different to come back to school to and something that the whole school can work together on. We have further whole school theme weeks planned over the year including 'commonwealth games' week and 'night at the proms' week, I am sure the children will continue to enjoy these occasions when everyone is working on a common theme.

Primary Science Quality Mark (PSQM) We are very pleased to have been informed this week that we are one of 347 schools awarded the PSQM this September.

The Primary School Quality Mark scheme enables schools to work together to share good practice and is supported by professional development led by local experts. It encourages teacher autonomy and innovation while at the same time offering a clear framework for development in science subject leadership, teaching and learning. Gaining the award is a celebration of a commitment within a school to excellence in science teaching and learning.

Jane Turner, PSQM National Director said: *“Gaining a Primary Science Quality Award is a significant achievement for a school. The profile and quality of science teaching and learning in each awarded school is very high. Children are engaging with great science both in and outside the classroom, developing positive attitudes towards science as well as secure science understanding and skills. Science subject leaders, their colleagues, head teachers, children, parents and governors should be very proud.”*

I must thank Mrs Jones (Science Subject Leader) for working on this over the last year, she developed an ambitious action plan to raise the profile of science in our school, including things such as the summer science club where parents working within science based industries led workshops for children in an after school club, to planning a science week based on space, to developing an outdoor science area for Key Stage One pupils. She put together a portfolio of the work done in science across the school and received tremendous praise from the national assessor for her commitment to improving this area of the curriculum across the school and completing all areas on her plan within the year. She has already begun work on her plan to continue the emphasis of this subject over the coming year.

School Values

We will be reinforcing our school values, encouraging children to ‘SHINE’ again this term, with children receiving certificates during our Friday ‘Praise’ assemblies, for displaying our 5 Christian school values (as shown below).



During collective worship, we will also be looking at the British Values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs. We will also be joining in a number of national charity events this term, with the first being ‘Jeans for Genes’ on Friday 22nd September (all children invited to come in their jeans/denim and make a donation towards research for children born with genetic disorders)

Class assemblies

I am pleased to inform you that we will be continuing the parent assemblies this year. Parents appeared to appreciate this opportunity and said they enjoyed getting a small insight into the work the children had been doing. The assembly for parents will start at 9.30am, however parents are welcome to stay for a coffee (in the community room) after dropping children off at the start of the school day, rather than coming back again for 9.30.

We have the following assemblies arranged for this term:

- Wednesday 18th October – Class 5 (Mrs Dryden)
- Thursday 23rd November – Class 6 (Miss Davy)
- Wednesday 13th December – Class 8 (Miss Clark)

Church links

We will continue with our year group visits to the church, so that the children can experience an R.E. lesson from within the church. We would again like to give parents the opportunity to join their children for this session. Your child's teacher will be in touch nearer the time with arrangements

The dates for this term are:

- Thursday 30th November - Y2 'christingle workshop'
- Thursday 7th December - Y5/6 'real Christmas story' workshop

We will also continue to hold KS1 and KS2 collective worship at the church once every half term.

Unfortunately it is not possible to invite parents to this, as the church is not big enough to hold the full Key Stage pupils and staff as well as parents. However we are making you aware of the dates so that your child has appropriate clothing for a walk to the church.

Dates for these sessions are:

- Wednesday 27th September – KS 1/Foundation
- Thursday 28th September - KS2
- Wednesday 15th November - KS2
- Wednesday 22nd November - KS1

Year group information

Please see the short paragraphs below from the teachers in each year group. This is to give you a quick a flavour of what is to be covered over the next few weeks. I hope you find the following of interest....

Foundation/Year One

We hope your children have enjoyed their first week in their new classes; we are very pleased with how well they have all settled.

Our main topic this term will be 'Around the World'. We are looking forward to looking at maps and learning about different countries, foods and cultures from around the world.



We will be starting to send out homework this week. This will be sent home on a Friday and we would like it to be returned by the following Wednesday. Any homework we send home will be to support the work we have covered that week in school and we do not want it to place any unnecessary pressure on either your child or your home life.

Please see the table below for when your child will need to have their PE kit in school and for when reading books are brought home.

	Classes 1 and 2	Class 3
PE lessons	Monday and Thursday	Tuesday and Friday
Changing reading books	Tuesday	Wednesday

Thank you for your support.
Mrs Sykes-Cook, Mrs Askew and Mrs Smalley

Year Two

Welcome back to a busy Autumn Term. The children are settling in to the routine of Year 2 quickly and we are enjoying the extra space in our own 'wing'! We have 4 pegs each!!!

This term sees our Around the World topic come in to land. A huge thank you to everyone who took Barnaby Bear out on his travels, if you have not yet sent in the photos can you please do so ASAP, as we would like to add them to the map. All of you that were embarrassed by the task spare a thought for the real Barnaby who was taken out of a bag at customs much to the horror of a 14 year old and a 17 year old!! He did have a lovely holiday though!!

We have another visit from Zoolab later in the term, they are bringing a different selection of animals to help us with our Science work on living things.

Finally, another huge thank you for your support with P.E kits, home readers and homework. Any problems, pop in and see us.

Mrs Jones and Mrs Forman

Year Three/four

Welcome to Year 3/4. We hope that you all received our newsletter last week outlining our topic, PE, end-of-the-day routines, homework and home readers (if not, a copy can be found on our webpage).

In addition to our newsletter: the children picked their home readers yesterday, if they find them too difficult, please send them back to school to be changed.

Kind regards, The year 3/4 staff

Year Five/Six

We are really pleased with the way all of the children have settled in and shown superb attitudes for learning.

This term in our topic 'Proud to be Yorkshire' we will be looking at mapping skills and maps of the local area. This will hopefully lead to an exciting school trip (weather permitting). Watch this space..In addition, we will be studying The Vikings and their links to the local area.

Huge thanks must go to the PTA for their help in funding the new library books. Your children should be bringing home a reading book on a daily basis which we would encourage you to monitor. Our aim is to develop a love of reading for pleasure in all children.

Finally, please could you ensure your child is equipped with the correct PE kit: Class 9/10 Mondays and Fridays, and Class 8 Tuesdays and Fridays.

Many thanks for your support.

Mrs McNeil, Miss Clark and Miss Sheeley.

Parents Evenings

We will be holding our initial parents evenings at the end of this half term (week beginning 23rd October), these meetings are intended to be an opportunity for you to meet your child's new teacher and to find out how they have settled in their first half term and to discuss any concerns or worries that you or the teacher may have.

Friends of South Cave School (FOSCS)

If anyone is interested in joining FOSCS they will be holding their annual general meeting followed by their first meeting of the new school year on Tuesday 3rd October at 6.30pm. Although there is only a relatively small number of parents involved in the organising of events at the moment the work they do to raise money for the school to buy those extras for the children is remarkable. Last year they provided money for resources in each classroom, based on what the children had requested, as well as money to buy extra books for our 3 libraries and resources for science and maths.

They also introduced a new event at the start of this year – they planned a ‘teddy bear picnic’ for all our new Foundation children and their parents. This took place on Sunday and was very successful, allowing the parents and children to get to know each other socially. They are now planning a comedy night and bonfire night so I am sure they would welcome your support.

Holidays in term time

Just a reminder that Headteachers are no longer authorised to allow holidays during term time other than for exceptional circumstances. East Riding policy very clearly states that **‘the provision for Headteachers to authorise absence for the purpose of a family holiday is not an exceptional circumstance’**. Exceptional circumstances are:

1. Service personnel returning from a tour of duty abroad where it is evidenced the individual will not be in receipt of any leave in the near future that coincides with school holidays
2. Where an absence from school is recommended by a health professional as part of a parent or child’s rehabilitation from a medical or emotional issue
3. The death or terminal illness of a person close to the family
4. To attend a wedding or funeral of someone close to the family
5. Where there are exceptional and unforeseen circumstances that fall outside of 1-4 above, the Headteacher should consult with the principal education welfare officer. The principal education welfare officer will discuss each case with an independent Headteacher and will make a recommendation to the referring school.

You will notice that this no longer includes the ability to authorise holidays due to parents work commitments/holidays.

Shoe Box appeal

We will once again be collecting shoe box gifts for children around the world, to give them a present for Christmas. I am sure many of you will want to join in with this very worthy project. Miss Clark will be sending more information out about this very soon, but we thought you might like advance warning so that you can find a shoe-box if you would like to take part.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

J. Newby