

Newsletter No 2: Term 1

October 2018

Dear Parent/ Carers,

There is plenty to celebrate and share as we look back over the last few weeks. The children have been very busy and there is a lovely buzz of learning around wherever I turn! There are lots of photographs of the exciting experiences our children are having on our Twitter feed. The Twitter Feed is embedded on the home page of the school website and you don't have to have an account to view it, just scroll down!

Our new Reception children have started to do whole days now and our Year 6 children have done a wonderful job of helping the children during lunch times.

KS1 were visited by the RSPB charity and spent time outside observing wildlife in the school grounds.

Year 3 have been carrying out experiments with flowers and watching them turn different colours. Ask them to explain why this happens! Year 4 have started swimming on Fridays and have been learning about the Cocoa bean. They have even created Art using chocolate.

Year 5 /6 were visited by the Science Explorer Dome. Lots of wow moments watching various substances reacting together creating smoke and bubbles.

Teacher run clubs have also started for Term 1. Children have been learning the recorder, learning calming techniques in Mindfulness club and solving Maths puzzles in Maths club. If you want to find out if your child can join one of the above or want to find out what other enrichment clubs are coming up, pop into the office and ask for the clubs letter. These clubs are all free but numbers are limited.

We are making progress with our plans post Ofsted to make sure that our school enables all to flourish. Further information about what we are working on will follow shortly.



Church of England Academy

Principal: Mrs Debbie Coker

Chair of Local Board: Mrs Trish Dodds



Value of the term: Respect

As you know, we place our values at the core of our Academy. We focus on a different question each week in our collective worship sessions.

24/9/18: What can we do to make sure that everybody in the world is treated fairly?

1/10/18: Special places- How do you make sure that special places are respected?

8/10/18: Why is it important to think before we speak?

15/10/18: How can we show respect for someone's opinion even when we don't agree with it?

22/10/18: Think back over this term. What have you changed or acted upon as a result of our work on respect?

Harvest is coming...

We are collecting long life, in date, products for the Fishponds Foodbank to help them replenish supplies for our community. If you are able to please send in contributions to the school office in the last week of term.

Ideas for things to bring in:

Tins of vegetables, fruit, tomatoes, pasta, cereals, tins of meat, custard, packets of biscuits, toilet roll, toothpaste, deodorant, shower gel, tea, coffee, sugar and juice .

New Starter Open Days...

If you know of any families with children who will turn 5 between Sept 1st 2019 and Aug 31st 2020 then please share this information with them and encourage them to visit and explore why we love our school so much.

Our parent tours for new starters are taking place on :

Thursday, 8th November @6pm

Friday, 9th November @10am

Monday, 3rd December @10am.



Tours will consist of a short welcome talk from myself (Principal) and then a tour of the school. Tours normally last for an hour.

Remember that all applications must be made to Bristol City Council via their online admissions system by January 15th 2019. Our admissions criteria can be found on our website.

School Gateway... Online Payments for School Dinners

You can now make payments for school dinners using credit or debit cards via our online payment system – School Gateway.

If you have a smartphone, download the School Gateway app from the app store (Android and iPhone).

You will be able to send messages to the school for FREE – and this will also save the school money when we need to send you text messages.

If you do not have a smartphone, you can visit the website www.schoolgateway.com and click on the 'New User'. You will receive a message with a PIN number. Use this PIN to login.

Any problems, please come into the school office where the ladies will be more than willing to help you set this up.



We need your help!



Can you spare a few hours of your week to help come and read with some of our younger children?

We would love to hear from you if you are able to volunteer regularly to help our children in any way you can.

Please speak with your child's class teacher or email the school directly on: fishpondsceaacademy@bristol-schools.uk and we will arrange for you to come in and meet with myself or one of the team at your convenience to find out more about how you can help. All of our volunteers will need to follow the school's safeguarding procedures and uphold the school's values at all times.



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

Year 6 Residential – Greatwood Camp

Over 40 of our Year 6 spent the week (17th-21st Sept) away in Somerset at their residential trip. A brilliant time was had by all and there were a lot of 'firsts' achieved. For some of our group, it was their first visit to the coast and the first time they had spent time around a camp fire. Thanks to all the staff who gave up their time to enable the trip to take place. Apparently the food was so good, the children asked if the cooks could come back to school with them! Such a worthwhile experience.

Our current Year 5's will be visiting the same place next year but this time in early October 2019 to enable Secondary school visits to take place more easily. Costs are approximately £270 per child for the 5 days and we would love it if every child was able to go along. I am hoping that having advance warning will make this easier to plan for.



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

Monday 8 th October	Phonics Meeting for parents of Reception children @3.30pm in Reception classrooms
Tuesday 16 th October	Individual Photo day.
Monday 23 rd October – Thurs 25 th	Bring in your harvest donations for Foodbank. Please drop contributions to the school office or send in with your child.
Thursday 25 th October	Y2 Harvest celebration to KS1 and parents at All Saints Church, Fishponds. All parents welcome.
Friday 26 th October	Last day of term 1 (Non uniform day to raise funds for Friends of Fishponds fund)
Monday 5 th November	School closed for INSET training
Tuesday 6th November	Term 2 begins @8.45am
Tues 6 th -9 th November	Anti Bullying week
Thurs 8 th , Friday 9 th November	6pm on Thursday and 10am of Friday New Reception parent tour.
Tues 27 th Thurs 29 th November	Parents' Evenings
Friday 30 th November	School closed for INSET training