

Newsletter No 3: Term 1

October 2018

Dear Parent/ Carers,

Thank you to those of you who have sent in food and toiletry donations to school for our Harvest Appeal. I will be taking them up to the foodbank on Friday after school so please make sure that any last minute donations have been sent in by then. It is good to help out our community.

Staffing News

Congratulations to Mrs Sadler (Marlin class) who has announced that she is expecting her second baby in February. Mrs Brown (partner teacher in Marlin) has brought forward her decision to have a change of career to leave at the same time as Mrs Sadler. We wish to thank her for doing this as this means we can appoint a full time class teacher to replace them both. Interviews for this and Miss Whittaker's (Y1) maternity leave will take place later this week.

Events coming up....

Anti – bullying week is coming up after half term and will be starting off with 'Odd Sock day' on Tuesday 6th November. Children are asked to come in odd socks for the day as a way of reminding us all that differences are a good thing. This will help stimulate some great discussions about respect and tolerance of others.

Remembrance Day will be remembered on November 12th in school. We will hold a special assembly with the children with a focus on our value of peace. As part of this there will be a short time of silence to help us remember those that lost their lives. Poppies will be sold on the gate at the start of school each day for those who wish to donate.

Children In Need – Friday 16th November. As a school we will be supporting this charity by donating money for wearing spots or yellow on the day. Suggested donation is a £1. The school office will also be selling small 'Children in Need Items' (badges, bands etc.) during the week – all items are £1 each.

Warm and weather friendly clothing

Please ensure that your children wear a coat and waterproof shoes to school as we endeavour to play outside as much as possible.

Again, the children will be taking part in Sports sessions outside so please make sure they bring appropriate PE clothing for cold weather. (Joggers (black/navy) and a sweatshirt (navy/black)



Church of England Academy

Principal: Mrs Debbie Coker

Chair of Local Board: Mrs Trish Dodds



Value of the term: Peace

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.

5/11/18: How can we make sure our school is a peaceful place without bullying?

12/11/18: What are your wishes / prayers for peace?

19/11/18: Where is your peaceful place?

26/11/18: Which situations in our world need peacemakers today?

3/12/18: What do you find helps you calm and find peace?

10/12/18: How can we help people less fortunate than ourselves this Christmas?

Keep an eye out for our 'Peace' home learning sheet coming out on email to help you discuss this value at home.

Date reminder ... 31st October is closing date for Secondary school applications. This has to be completed online with Bristol. No application – no place!

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.

Dear Parent /Carers

Message from our Chair of the Local Board

The first term of the school year is nearly over. Children and staff are settled in and all working hard together. It is a pleasure to see everyone engaged in learning. I am sure you enjoy seeing the photos of year group activities on Twitter.

I want keep you updated on our progress following the Ofsted Inspection. This term the post Ofsted Action Plan has been agreed with the Local Board and the Trust. The plan focuses on the areas for further improvement which you can read on Page 2 of the Ofsted Report. A small task group has been set up to oversee the progress and impact of the plan. This group reports to the Local Board. Each of our three committees has a monitoring plan which includes visits to school and meetings with the leaders.

Improving attendance is a key area, and for this we need your support. It is the expectation that children attend school every day that the school is open. If your child is ill or there is an emergency, please call the school as soon as possible on that day. Punctuality needs to improve as well. Lateness disrupts learning and it is embarrassing for a child to walk into the classroom once everyone is settled.

Many children have a good attendance record - we need this for everyone.

I will update you regularly during the year.

Trish Dodds

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***



Our Friends of Fishponds Academy group of parents need your help to volunteer to help them run upcoming events to raise money for our school.

Friday November 16th is The Festival of Light 6-8pm

Can you help?

- Serving Food and drink
- Helping with craft activity
- Setting out or clearing up
- Provide entertainment for roughly 20 minutes (*are you part of a group willing to perform?*)

Friday 7th December is The Children's Disco (Rec / KS1 4-5pm or KS2 5.30-6.30pm).

Can you help supervise or serve drinks at this event?

Can you help with the admin prior to the event?

Can you help tidy up and clean down afterwards?

Donations of prizes needed for our Christmas Raffle

If we are unable to find enough volunteers for these events then unfortunately they will not be held. This will be a shame as they are great fun for the children.

If you can help with any of the above then please contact us via Classlist or message us at friendsoffishpondsacademy@gmail.com. Many thanks in advance The Friend of Fishponds Academy (FOFA)



Notice of Change to Dinner Money from November 5th 2018

Dinner money will be £2.10 per meal after half term. Payments are made via the school office or preferably through our online payment system 'School Gateway'

Birthday Treats- In order to make sure that we are mindful of potential allergies and intolerances within our children and staff. We ask that if a family feels that they wish to provide a treat to celebrate their child's birthday, to ensure that the treat is a small wrapped piece of chocolate or chocolate bar (with clear labelling about ingredients). No cakes or homemade goodies please. Thanks for helping us make sure our children are safe.

Active and Engaging Learning !

Take a look at what we have been getting up to in school over the last few weeks – better still, ask your child to tell you what they have been learning! From experimenting with erosion in Science, cooking and selling chocolate products as part of our enterprise project. There has been collaborating outside and in to create Art work. We should also celebrate our 'Inclusivity in Religious Education Award' gained this term and celebrate the singing of Year 3 and 4 at 'The Big Sing' community event.



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

Thursday 25 th October	Y2 Harvest celebration to KS1 and parents at All Saints Church, Fishponds. All parents welcome. 10 am.
Friday 26 th October	Last day of term 1 (Non uniform day to raise funds for Friends of Fishponds fund). Reception Parents – Stay & Play. October 31st Last day for Secondary Applications!
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. Tues 6 th 'Odd sock day!'
Thurs 8 th & Friday 9 th November	6pm on Thursday and 10am of Friday New Reception parent tour.
Monday 12 th November	Remembrance Day reflection in collective worship (poppies on sale on the gate)
Friday 16 th November	Children In Need Day. (Children can wear spots or yellow and donate to the charity) Friends of Fishponds Academy Festival of Light 6pm -8pm
Tues 27 th & Thurs 29 th November	Parents' Evenings (bookable online – info to follow after half term)
Friday 30 th November	INSET Day training for staff (SCHOOL CLOSED)
Monday 3 rd December	Reception Open day for new starters. 10 am.