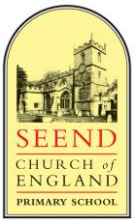


Seend Church of England Primary School Newsletter

September 2016



Many, many thanks

A very big thank you to Justine and Shaun Cooper Sarah Langsford, Marie Mattock (plus her father) Debbie Holley, Laura Awdry, Sarah Hill, Helen Tylee, Dennis Phelan, Sallie-Anne and Paul Bown and Gary Gray – for their parts in improving Holly and Oak Class area. I am sure you will agree there is a huge improvement to both areas. Obviously the work is not finished but hopefully the work so far will inspire some others of you to come forward for an hour here and there to get the job finished.



Some polite reminders:

1) If you haven't already done so can I please remind you to put names in children's clothing? You would not believe the number of pairs of trousers, pants (!) jumpers etc. we scoop up at the end of the week.

2) Last year we had a big focus on punctuality and explained the need for all children to be sat at their desk and ready to work by 8:45 each morning. Let's start this year as we mean to go on and ensure that this is always the case.

3) All children, whether having a school dinner or a packed lunch, should bring a drink to have with their meal (no fizzy drinks please). Only water should be provided for drinking at any other time during the school day and this should be provided in a clearly named bottle with a sports top to prevent spillages. Children can refill these if needed, during the day. Bottles are available to buy from the office.

4) With the introduction of universal free school meals for all Rec, year 1 and 2 children, it is even more important that your children can use a knife and fork correctly to cut their food as you can imagine how long it could take 50+ infant children to eat if they all needed help!

5) To avoid congestion in the cloakroom between Oak and Chestnut, please say goodbye to your children in the hall or outside before coming in to the hall – it encourages their independence too in organising their bags, coats etc.

6) P.E. kits should be in school every day due to occasional timetable variations.

Welcome!

We have 4 new members of staff to welcome to the team; Mrs Lucia Hugill is our new year 5/6 teacher in Sycamore Class. Mrs Hugill has moved from Durham during the holidays but has already spent many hours in and out of the classroom getting things ready for a smooth start. Secondly we welcome Mrs Sue Cook as a Teaching Assistant in the mornings in Early Years. Many of you will know Sue already due to her involvement with the local scouts and she has also been volunteering 1 morning a week in Oak Class so I am sure it will not take her long to settle in as she already knows the routines and staff. We welcome Julie Mansfield as a replacement MDSA (dinner lady!) now that Lexi Lemon has left. And finally we welcome (back) Fiona Roger who previously worked as a reading advocate but now takes up a temporary position in the afternoons as a TA in Early Years.

Dates

Please see the separate sheet with this newsletter for a list of dates for the coming year. Other events and activities will be added but all the main ones are included. To try to avoid too many texts and emails, please note that we will not send reminders for all of these events so if it is important to you that you attend, please make a note of it in your diary.



More Thanks

Huge thanks to Lynette Smith and Zak Beckwith for their **VERY**, generous donation of £1000 to be spent how we see fit. After much deliberation half has been spent on a couple of additional iPads for Chestnut Class and the other half on a new Religious Education resource that can be used in all classes.

Before and after school care

If you haven't signed up for the breakfast club (Early Birds) or the after School Club (Night Owls) then please log on to parentmail to do so or pop in to see Gill in the office.



There is plenty of room in both. Also there is space in some of the extra-curricular activities after school. Thinking about these things back in July might have been too far in advance but the time is here now so don't miss out. All clubs and after school provision start next week.

Congratulations

A huge well done to the year 6 children who have now left and gone on to Secondary School. 83% of pupils reached the expected standard (the new measure for 2016) in all 3 areas together (maths, reading and writing) compared to the national statistic of 53%. This was the highest level across all the Melksham Schools. The children also made much better than national progress in reading and maths. Well done to everyone concerned.



School applications

It is that time of year again when you have to think a year in advance and apply for your child's primary / secondary school place for September 2017. For Secondary School all applications need to be in by 31st October 2016. For primary places the deadline is Jan 15th 2017. Apply [here](#).



Being Green

Don't forget we have a printer cartridge recycling facility in school. The bags are available in the main entrance and the school gets between 50p-£1 for each cartridge recycled. We also have the clothing recycling bank in the carpark – bags available from the office (or use any plastic bag.). Finally, any unwanted dvds, cds and Wii games can be sent in too as we can recycle these for a small profit.



Summer Reading Challenge

A huge thank you to those parents who have supported their children with the summer reading challenge. The 6 week break can cause a real slump in reading ability so the commitment from parents to help prevent this is great. The challenge finishes on Saturday 10th September so it is not too late to finish reading the last book or 2. Please send in your child's certificate (nothing else from the challenge please) as these will be handed out during a formal presentation on 16th September. A winner from each class will also be chosen to receive a BFG related prize.



Vehicle matters

New parents may not be aware that directly outside the front of the school should be kept clear in the mornings for the bus. Please do not use the school car park as this is for staff and visitors only. There is a voluntary one way system for entering and leaving School Road; please enter from the top end and leave from the bottom end, joining the road that would take you to Trowbridge or Devizes. This helps eliminate some of the congestion outside! Once children are settled at school, all parents are encouraged to car share or use the Seend Shuttle in an attempt to cut down the number of cars outside the school.



Informal meeting

It has been a while since I held one but with a batch of new parents on the scene I thought it might be useful to have one of my informal coffee mornings where parents can ask questions about the day to day running of the school, iron out any queries / misconceptions, discuss any policies we have etc. I have set aside Tuesday 20th September from 9:00 – 10:00 in the staffroom as a chance for any parent / carer (new or old) to find out more about the whys and wherefores of Seend School. Existing parents would be a great help here to give their insight. I would also like to get ideas from you as to how the grounds can be developed further now we have the path around the field. I do hope you can join me for a cuppa and a biscuit.



ParentMail



All new parents in any of the classes should next week receive notification by email or text, prompting them to register for ParentMail. ParentMail is the main way we communicate with you. It allows us to quickly send emails and texts whilst allowing you to electronically order and pay for lunches, trips, clubs etc. If you have any problem logging on to the system, or do not receive the notification to register by the middle of next week then please see Gill in the office.

Gill has also asked me to send an impassioned plea requesting that all parents who use the electronic ordering system to please order accurately! One reason we decided to go with the electronic ordering was to cut down on admin time in the office. If Gill has to go and manually correct dinner orders, it kind of defeats the purpose! Many thanks for your co-operation with this.

Harvest festival

The service will be in church on 20th October at 10:00. We are once again collecting tins, packets, jars and boxes of food (nothing fresh please) for Melksham Food Bank. Please send your children in with their contributions in a named bag on that morning. If you would like to help with the walking to church – your help would be much appreciated. Just wait in the playground ready for a 9:40 departure. Thank you.



Class meetings

Please check the dates on the accompanying sheet for the class meetings. This is an ideal opportunity to find out about the expectations of your child in the new year group, their homework, any testing arrangements etc. so please do your very best to come. If it was as simple as sending out a sheet, then believe me the staff would do this, but you can't ask a sheet of paper questions can you?! Whilst I appreciate parents are busy, the staff are not in a position to offer several repeats of this meeting so if you can attend then please do.

Friends of Seend School

The first meeting of the fundraising group FoSS takes place on Tuesday 13th September from 19:00 – 20:00 in Chestnut Class. It would be great to see some of the new parents come along and hopefully bring some new ideas. It would also be a great way to get to know some of the other parents. I am confident the next school disco and the Christmas Fete will be on the agenda!

Times Tables Support

Learning times tables, and being able to answer multiplication questions in a random order is often a difficult process yet it is expected. There is an App called Maths Rockx which might help some of your children (appropriate for use from yr 2-6). It is not a free App (costs £7.99!) so do look at it carefully before you decide if it is going to help. There is an option to buy each individual table separately so you might want to do a trial run! Let me know how you / they get on if you do use it.

Date	Time	Event
02/09/16	15:10 – 15:30	Cleaning Seend Shuttle – all help needed.
13/09/16	19:00 – 20:00	Friends of Seend School fundraising meeting
14/09/16	18:00 - 19:00	Holly Class meeting for new parents
20/09/16	09:00 – 10:00	Informal meeting
16/09/16	14:30 – 15:00	Goldbook (including reading challenge & flower show certificates)
28/09/16	17:00, 17:45 & 18:30	Class meeting in Oak(5:00), Chestnut (5:45) & Sycamore (6:30)
14/10/16	14:30-15:00	Goldbook Celebration Assembly
17/10/16	15:30-17:30	Parents' Consultation Evening
19/10/16	1700 – 19:30	Parents' Consultation Evening
15/10/16	10:00 – 11:00	Harvest festival in Seend Church
21/10/16		Training Day - School closed to pupils
31/10/16		Term 2 Starts
14/11 – 18/11/16		Anti-bullying Week
02/12/16	18:00 – 20:00	Christmas Fayre
08/12/16	18:00 – 19:00	Christingle Service in Church
09/12/16	14:30 - 15:00	Goldbook Celebration Assembly
09/12/16	14:00 and 18:30	Infant Nativity performance
18/12/16		Christmas themed mufti day.
18/12/16	14:30 – 15:00	Carol Service
03 and 04/01/17		Training Days – School Closed for Pupils
05/01/17		Term 3 Starts
13/01/17	14.30 – 15:00	Goldbook Celebration Assembly
10/02/17	14.30 – 15:00	Goldbook Celebration Assembly
10/02/17		Last Day of term 3
20/02/17		Training Day – School closed to pupils
24/02/17		Term 4 Starts
27/02 – 03/03/17		Activity Week
10/03/17	14:30 – 15:00	Goldbook Celebration Assembly
03/04/17	15:30 – 17:30	Parents' Consultation Evening
05/04/17	17:00 – 19:30	Parents' Consultation Evening
06/04/17	10:00 – 11:00	Easter Service
07/04/17	14:30 – 15:30	Goldbook Celebration Assembly
07/04/17		Last day of term 4
24/04/17		Term 5 Starts
W/c 08/05/17		SATS week Year 6's
19/05/17	09:15 – 11:15	Sponsored Walk
26/05/17	14:30 – 15:00	Goldbook Celebration Assembly
26/05/17		Last Day of Term 5
05/06/17		Training Day – School closed to pupils
06/06/17		Term 6 starts
16/06/17	14:30 – 15:00	Goldbook Celebration Assembly
23/06/17	13:00 – 15:00	Sports' Day
30/06/17	13:00 – 15:00	Reserve Sports' day
06/07/17	09.15 – 09:45	Holly & Oak Class Work in Progress concert
10/07/17	18:00 – 18:45	New Reception Parents Induction
11/07/17	13:15 – 14:45	New reception class visit
12/07/17	1:30 and 6: 30	KS2 Performances
14/07/17	14:30 – 15:00	Goldbook Celebration Assembly
19/07/17	10:30 – 12:00	Class swap and new reception class visit
20/07/17	10:00 – 11:00	Y6 Leavers' Service in Church
21/07/17		Activity Day / Mufti Day & Last Day of term 6
01 and 04/09/17		Training Days – School closed to pupils

Please see above for a set of preliminary dates of events throughout the year. Further events will be added as and when they are organized!

Dates and times are subject to change but this will be kept to a minimum to avoid disruption.