

Headteacher Newsletter – January 2018

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A very Happy New Year to all of our families and thank you very much for the many cards, kind words and gifts staff received before the Christmas holiday. The Spring Term is always a busy one where children have now established themselves into their new classrooms and the hard work begins in earnest. We started this week with a whole school gathering to celebrate The Epiphany. We talked about the gifts that the Wise Men brought for Jesus to honour him and then we thought about the gifts that we can bring. The children, as ever, were very confident in their responses of kindness, love, generosity, time, prayer and charity. They were reminded that however small they are in age, small deeds can lead to a huge impact. This is true for us all, no matter what age or our circumstance.

Seek God for the future:-

Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.

Proverbs 3:5-6

Dates for diary

- 15.1.18** Clubs start this week
- 15.1.18** Y1 Phonic workshop
- 15.1.18** After school Indoor Athletics meeting at Angmering School for some of Yrs 4, 5 & 6.
- 16.1.18** Y3 trip to Music concert at Chichester Festival Theatre.
- 25.1.18** Headteacher Drop in Session 1.30-3.15pm
- 26.1.18** Cross Country Finals
- 26.1.18** Y5 War Horse workshop at TLA
- 29.1.18** Y2 Gymnastics comp TLA
- 31.1.18** Forest School Y6
- 2.2.18** Fire Rescue visit YR, 2 and 5
- 5.2.18** KS2 New Age Kurling tournament
- 5.2.18** Balance bikeability (YR) (Mon, Tues Weds, Thurs)
- 5.2.18** Hockey Y5/6 Gifted and talented TLA
- 7.2.18** Forest School Y5
- 8.2.18** Cinema Night – Captain Underpants
- 9.2.18** Pastor Hugo Assembly
- 9.2.18** Break up for half term

- 19.2.18** INSET day

- 20.2.18** School starts back
- 21.2.18** Year 4 Forest School
- 26.1.18** Fairtrade Fortnight starts

General info:

Website: All information is regularly updated on the school website www.stphilipsarundel.org.uk

Curriculum plans and homework grids: These have been sent home via email this week. They can also be found on the school website: <http://www.stphilipsarundel.org.uk/school-life/the-curriculum> School Life-curriculum and then scroll to the bottom of the page.

PE kits: Please ensure all children have their PE kit in school at all times.
All children should have the following:

- PE T-shirt (**house colour**)
- Navy** shorts
- Navy** jogging bottoms
- White, black or navy** trainers
- Black** plimsolls

No pink, sparkly or luminous trainers please. PE kit is starting to look extremely 'bitty' with grey joggers, some children with no shorts, some without standard PE T-shirts. PE is a mandatory part of the curriculum and as such, just like with school uniform, children are expected to look smart. I will be asking the office to ring parents of children who do not have the correct kit. Many thanks in advance for your support with this.

Children before and after school:

Could I ask that parents keep their children with them before and after school please. Many children, especially Year 1 children, are racing around, running up the banks and in some instances, knocking others over or injuring themselves. I have spoken to the children.

If your child is 'scooting' or cycling to school, can you please ask them to dismount at the front gate. Some smaller children are whizzing down the ramp at the front of the school and straight into families waiting at the bottom of the steps. Well done if you are walking, cycling or scooting to school!

Gymnastics coach:

Year 1 and Year 2 children will have a Gymnastics coach coming into school each Wednesday for this half term. The coach will work alongside the class teacher each week. We hope to put a small team together for the Gymnastics competition for Year 2 at the end of January. There were several children this week who did not have a PE kit in school so were unable to take part.

Extra-Curricular Clubs:

You will now know which clubs your child has been accepted for. Hopefully they will have got their first choices but unfortunately in a couple of instances some clubs were oversubscribed.

I am aware that sending the club letter offers out before Christmas, meant that there was an added cost implication just before Christmas, when we are all a little tight for money. This was done so that the office staff have a full week to get the replies in, sort numbers, collate registers and inform parents thus enabling clubs to start the second week back. With 24 clubs running, you will appreciate that if we sent the offer letter out after the Christmas break, clubs would not start until the third week in.

Houses:

We have 4 House teams. These names are taken from the school crest (which belongs to the Duke) which is split into 4 quadrants and are the families from the Duke of Norfolk's Coat of Arms.

House point scores for this week:

Houses	Weekly scores
Howard	267
Brotherton	182
Warenne	141
Fitzalan	233

Times tables:

Just a reminder that the Times tables challenge continues this term for KS2 children. They are tested on Wednesdays. Booklets are available on the school website if your child has mislaid their practise booklets.

Reading:

Thank you for continuing to hear your child read over the Christmas holiday. If this slipped whilst families were visiting and fun was being had, then please make sure the children start the New Year with fresh conviction to read at least 4 times per week (preferably every day). For all classes, Reception to Year 6, the importance of regular reading is paramount. You will see improvements very rapidly if you commit to the challenge of daily reading with your child/children.

School Angel:

This is a website that raises funds for our school through online shopping. It is extremely simple to use. You need to simply click on the link. They will then offer a wide selection of shops including Amazon, John Lewis, Sainsbury's, Next, Boots, Clarks and many more.

Click on the logo and this will take you to the website as usual and you can shop as normal. We will receive a percentage of your spend at no cost to you.

It is easy to do but it is a case of remembering to do it!

<http://www.schoolangel.org.uk/st-philips-catholic-primary-school.html>

Booking holidays or your weekly grocery online shopping is a perfect way to use this website.

Facebook:

Please go onto our school website

www.stphilipsarundel.org.uk and click on the Facebook icon.

Click the 'like' button on the page to ensure you receive updates.

Christmas Bazaar:

Thank you to everyone who supported the Bazaar either through preparing beforehand, setting up on the day, manning a stall or attending and spending money. Over £975 was taken at the event. The earlier start of 2.45 worked well from the point of view of congestion and numbers in the hall but I recognise that the logistics of getting children out of school and to parents via the main entrance before the end of the school day was challenging!

We will put a plan in place for next year to ensure this is run far more smoothly and speedily.