

Headteacher Newsletter – January 2018 Vol 2

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The dark and gloomy mornings are making it hard for us all to get up at the moment and head for school or work with sunshine in our hearts. Please do not allow this to be a reason for lateness. I am aware that many of the children will be reluctant to whizz around having breakfast and getting into uniforms promptly whilst it is still dark outside. However, children arriving after the school bell has gone at 8.55am puts the start of their school day a step behind the rest of their class and adds further anxiety to the child. As the mornings get lighter, the children will be better motivated. Please don't worry if your child is struggling in this respect at the moment or is tearful when you leave them. I promise it will get better and the children are happy and enjoy school once Mums and Dads are not in sight. Be assured that your child's class teacher would contact you if they were concerned.

Thank you to those parents who came to the Year 1 Learning Support meeting. As you may already know, Reception Class, Year 1 and Year 2 children split for Phonic sessions daily. This means that we have five adults and all children in the three classes are split into five groups according to ability and need for support. Following on from the meeting, I attach a link which may be useful to Reception parents and those parents who have children in Year 1 who are developing their understanding of phonetic blending.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3d8yosbMy5w>

Please can I take this opportunity to remind all parents of the importance of supporting learning at home in all year groups. This includes reading, spelling and times tables.

Dates for diary

- 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 Yrs. R, 2 and 5
- 5-7.2.18** Book Fair @ 3.20pm. All welcome
- 5.2.18** KS2 New Age Kurling tournament
- 5-8.2.18** YR Balance Bikeability
- 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** Y4 Forest School
- 26.2.18** Fairtrade Fortnight starts
- 1.3.18** World Book Day (dress up)
- 1.3.18** Y5 Chichester Planetarium visit
- 8.3.18** Lent Penitential service
- 19.3.18** Parent Teacher Consultations 2-4pm
- 20.3.18** Parent teacher Consultations 8.30-10.30am
- 21.3.18** Parent Teacher Consultations 4-6.30pm

General info:

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

BBC2 500 words competition: This is now open for children to submit their stories. Closing date is February 22nd. Please take a look at the link:
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/4h26FXFQ4KfM/V7VVSbJxY3g/500-words-2018>

Website information: Under the 'school life' tab and 'curriculum', you will find copies of homework grids, curriculum plans, spellings and end of year expectation booklets.

Books to shout about: We have again entered the West Sussex Library Service competition. We receive several copies of different picture books which all classes read across the school. Each class then votes for the book they like best and explain why they like it. The overall winner is then decided and the Library Service are informed. All those schools that enter do the same and the overall winner for West Sussex is announced on World Book Day on March 1st.

New families: We have a number of new families who have joined our school community over the last few months. Please make an effort to seek them out and say hello whilst waiting for the end of the day collection or drop off times.

Travelling Book Fair:

The Book Fair will be held after school in the school hall on Monday 5th, Tuesday, 6th and Wednesday 7th February. All are welcome to attend. This event raises a large amount for new books for our school library. If you are able to help man the Book Fair on any or all of the three sessions, please let the office know. It runs from 3.20-3.50pm on each of the three days.

Thursday 1st March is World Book Day.and the children are invited to come into school dressed up as a book character. Year 5 have their Planetarium trip that day and will therefore need to be in school uniform. We will also be holding a Class Book Swap and a 10p book sale on that day. More information will follow via a letter.

NSPCC:

I have copied the link to the NSPCC video clip for children. The clip is a song about children understanding that it is important (especially in today's digital age) to have a clear understanding of what parts of your body should be kept private and not exposed to others. It is suitable for Reception Class upwards.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-lL07JOGU5o>

Forest School:

The first Forest School session of the Spring Term will take place on Wednesday. The sessions will again be led by our qualified Forest School provider, Stuart. All risk assessments are carried out and detailed learning activities planned for.
Please make sure you send your child dressed warmly and appropriately for these sessions. They need layers on for warmth and if possible, waterproof trousers and jackets. It can get cold when the children are in the woods for a number of hours and thus the impact of the learning is stunted if the children aren't warm enough.

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	148
Brotherton	176
Warenne	196
Fitzalan	262

Macmillan:

Thank you to all those who bought Christmas badges from the display in the Reception Entrance in December. The amount raised was £87. Thank you to Mrs Carter for organising the sale.

Big Garden Birdwatch:

Please take a look at the link and if you are interested, sign up as a family to the bird watch. Some classes will be taking time out to spend in the allotment and making a tally of the birds they spot.

https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch/?channel=paidsearch&gclid=EAlaIqobChMIpKeHq_Dw2AIvorvtCh2ebAjPEAAAYASAEGlfrfD_BwE

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.

Ash Wednesday:

This takes place during half term. Bishop Richard will be presiding over the Ash Wednesday Mass in the Cathedral on Wednesday 14th February at 8pm. All are welcome. We will be focusing on Lent after half term and, in the lead up to Easter, the children will make Lenten promises and bring home CAFOD collection boxes. Key Stage 2 children will attend the Lent Penitential Service where reconciliation will be offered. A lunchtime Rosary club will run and, in the week before the Easter break, all classes will deliver their part of the Easter story to the rest of the school through liturgy which will include drama, dance and prayer.