

Headteacher Newsletter – January 2017 v2

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I thought it may be useful to outline the school policy on homework for those parents who are new to the school or those parents who are unsure. Homework is NOT compulsory from the school's point of view or mandatory from the Department for Education's view. However, recommended guidelines suggest:

- Reading for 10 minutes per day or at least 3 times per week
- Practise weekly spellings
- Times tables practise (Yrs3-6) (short bursts)

In addition to this, we also send out a homework grid each term (classes 1-6) with the expectation that children will chose **one activity per week** to complete. I understand that some children will be keener than others to complete their homework grid task and in some households the 'homework grid battle' rages strongly each weekend. Please know that we are not going to sanction your child for not completing homework but we may try to encourage them.

The key purpose of homework is to

- complement and reinforce classroom learning
- foster good lifelong learning and study habits
- provide an opportunity for children to become responsible for their own learning
- develop time management
- and importantly support partnerships with parents by involving families in their children's learning

A Homework Club has been suggested but this would simply be an extra lesson added on to the school day (which is already very busy) and not serve the purpose of what the homework is sent home for. I am very happy to chat individually to families who would like support and would remind you that homework is always set over a weekend and should take no more than an hour.

Dates for diary

27.1.17 Holocaust memorial @ Arundel Baptist Church 2-3pm

28.1.17 Allotment tidy up 9.30-12 (POSTPONED)

1.2.17 Forest School Y5

1.2.17 Arundel library trip YR and Y1

6.2.17-10.2.17 Book Fair week

8.2.17 Forest School Y6

13.2.17 Y4 trip Fishbourne Roman Palace

15.2.17 Y3 Butser trip

15.2.17 Forest School YR

16.2.17 Y5 Planetarium trip

16.2.17 Cinema Night

17.2.17 Break up for half term

General info:

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

Cinema: Our next Cinema Night will be on Thursday February 16th for all classes. The film chosen is 'Storks' and the cost remains at £3 per child to include a drink and a biscuit or popcorn. More information will be sent via School Money.

Playing Field: The field is out of action this week and next week as contractors are excavating some of the sloping bank and putting in paved steps and hand rails from the top bank to the flat field surface.

Academy: A letter inviting parent to consult re academy status will be sent home soon. Please take a few moments to read this and either reply to the online survey or wait until the meeting on Wednesday 1st March.

Camel trek: The sponsored walk in aid of raising funds for a camel (for an Ethiopian family) will take place during the afternoon of Friday 17th February. Check bags for a letter and sponsor form (KS2). All parents are invited to participate and support the 5k walk. Reception and KS1 children will do a separate fund raiser (TBC). The target is £400.

Writing comp winners: Well done to Y3 children who entered a writing competition. Seven of our children's entries were chosen to be published in an anthology. Congratulations to Alice, Matilda, Daisy, Brian, Beau, Annabel and Ned.

Hockey: Congratulations too to Isaac in Year 6 who has been selected from all of West and East Sussex to join the Sussex Under 13s championship squad.

Avisford Hilton Hotel:

The hotel has kindly awarded us a grant of £500 to spend on Reading books in Reception and Key Stage 1. Our coloured reading band books are used very regularly and are in need of an update. We are in the process of ordering sets for each of the book band colours and ask that you help your child to look after the books when they are brought home.

World Book Day:

Thursday March 2nd is World Book Day. The children are invited to come into school dressed as a book character. Reception Class has a specific theme of Fairytales and Year 6 has a theme of Macbeth.

Children will also be invited to take pictures of themselves and their book shelves at home and send them into the office. Their 'shelfies' will then be put into a PowerPoint presentation for the assembly that day.

We will also be running a second hand book stall that day and would be grateful for any pre loved book donations (particularly books which would interest boys).

Each teacher will offer a 'story telling' session at the end of the day and children can choose a session to attend.

Finally, children are invited to bring a book in to school

Book bags:

Please check your child's book bag regularly and empty them of any, letters, drawings, leaflets or general bits and bobs. Could you also ensure that reading books are put back into the book bag after you have read with your child. It seems that our stock is depleting and some children are storing piles of reading books at home or they have become part of book shelves in bedrooms. Please sort through your books at home and return any school reading books to the office. You also need to check that your child is bringing home their reading books and not leaving them in their tray at school.

Hot meals:

Reception and KS1 parents, please look out for a reply slip regarding hot school meals. The school is charged per hot meal so we need to be very accurate in our ordering. Please complete the days your child will NOT have a hot meal and we can ensure our ordering is accurate and avoids wasted food and cost. If your child has a hot lunch every day, then please tick to indicate this. Thank you.

Tesco award:

We have been awarded second prize in the Tesco Groundwork bid and as such, will receive £2,000 to spend on the Reception Class outdoor area. I will discuss with Mrs Tipping the best ways to use the funding effectively and I will keep parents informed. Thank you to all those who voted in store, during the month of December.

School Angel:

Click on the link, type in school name and then 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>

Flights and holidays can be booked via this too!

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	391
Brotherton	353
Warenne	388
Fitzalan	309

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.

Barn dance:

To be held by the Parish in the Cathedral Centre on Friday 10th February.

Tickets are £10 for adults, £5 for under 18s and primary school aged children are free.

It includes a hot supper and starts at 7pm.

Tickets are available from St. Nicholas' office and the Cathedral Office.

In school faith day:

On Friday 31st March there will be a day of reflection held within the school day. This will involve several different workshops taking place and children being given the opportunity to have some quiet time to take part in craft events and activities that will develop their spiritual journey and relationship with faith.

The day will be run by teachers and other adults within the school but if you have any suggestions of something you could share during the day then please let me know.