

Headteacher Newsletter – May 2017

St Philip's Catholic Primary School, London Road, Arundel BN18 9BA

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Welcome back to the Summer Term. There are signs of new life all around us and I am delighted to say that it is not just limited to the trees, plants and lambs. Mrs Bridges is expecting her first child. As a staff, we are very pleased for her. She will continue to teach Year 1 class until the end of this term and start her maternity leave in October. I am aware that this is the time of year when children and parents start to think ahead to September and who the class teacher will be in each of the classes. The school budget has just been finalised this week and still needs to be approved by Governors. The school leadership team are now in a better position to plan the placing of staff for September 2017. There will be some changes to teachers in year groups and some physical movement of classrooms around the school building. Once all the aspects have been finalised, I will share the plans with all parents. I know there will be speculation but I can promise you that no final decisions have been made as yet. Whatever the plan and layout, every child will continue to have access to the highest quality provision, care and education at our school. The 'South East in Bloom' judges will be visiting our school on June 14th. The children, in their Growing Club sessions, will be planting vegetables, making hanging baskets and planting free standing pots to surround the base of the cross that was erected in the school playground as a result of a School Council request. We welcome any donations of bedding plants in the colours red, white and blue at any point forward until June. These will be added to the planting schedule. Many thanks in advance. Please keep Year 6 pupils in your thoughts and prayers next week as they sit their KS2 tests.

Dates for diary

6.5.17 MacMillan fundraiser - Choir singing at St Nicholas Church, Arundel
8.5.17 SATs Week (KS2)
9.5.17 School Council Meeting
10.5.17 Y1 Growing Club
10.5.17 Y5 Forest School
11.5.17 Celebration Assembly with RE Ambassadors
16.5.17 Y4 Deanery PE Activity Day at SPH
17.5.17 Y2 Growing Club
18.5.17 Imam Idris visiting from Worthing Mosque
22.5.17 Y6 Bikeability week
22.5.17 Yellow School Photos - (class and team photos)
23.5.17 Music in May Concert 7pm-9pm
24.5.17 Y3 Growing Club
24.5.17 YR Forest School
25.5.17 PC Bishop visiting YR and Y2
27.5.17 Half Term
5.6.17 INSET DAY
7.6.17 Y1 Forest School
9.6.17 Y5 Night in the Museum
12.6.17 Meeting for new Reception Class parents 7pm
14.6.17 Y6 Forest School
21.6.17 Y3 Forest School
30.6.17 Y2 Forest School
3.7.17 Sports morning
5.7.17 Domino Day
7.7.17 KS2 Swimming gala
18.7.17 Y6 Buffet and presentation 6pm

General info:

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

Allotment tidy up: Thank you to the families who came along over the Easter break. A good start made but still plenty to do this term.

Sainsbury's vouchers: We are again collecting Active Kids Vouchers from Sainsbury's. The collection box is in the main entrance. These vouchers support our school budget by enabling us to order sports, outdoor and cookery equipment. We would be extremely grateful for your vouchers.

Science Week: Thank you to those who have offered their scientific expertise for our Science week (6th June). We will be in touch.

Missio Collection Boxes: Thank you for returning the Lenten boxes. If you still have any at home, please return asap.

Punctuality award winners: The punctuality award was given to Y6 and Y2 this week. They had 0 children who arrived after the 8.55am register. Well done!

Breakfast club Y6 SATs: We look forward to welcoming all Y6 children on Monday –Thursday at 8.30am next week for a continental breakfast.

DIY SOS:

The BBC team will be in school on Friday 12th May to film Mandy Worne (a past parent) delivering a workshop with our Y6 children. It will be part of the same programme that will show the team renovating Mandy's home to adapt it for her wheelchair after a cycling accident left her wheel chair bound, almost two years ago. We will of course tell parents when the programme will be aired on television.

Sunflowers:

Glyn-Jones Estate Agents are running a competition across schools to see which school can grow the tallest sunflower. Every child in the school, including our new Reception Class, will be given a pot with a sunflower seed planted. They need to keep the sunflower at home and nurture it until the end of the Summer Term. We will then ask for measurements. The closing date is 8th September and the tallest measurements we send will be verified by the judges.

Forest School area:

Thank you to Stuart Slade, who is our Forest School leader, for replacing log seats in our Forest School area. Some of the seats had been vandalised by people outside of our school and Stuart has kindly covered the cost to replace them.

Message from Deana Short (parent):

Please sponsor our team 'Egg & Soldier's' in this year's Spirit FM Jailbreak.

The Sussex Snowdrop Trust provides care at home for children with life threatening or terminal illnesses and support for their families. We would be grateful for your donations however big or small as it will help such a unique charity. Jailbreak is being held on Sunday 7th May. We will be taken to a secret location and will have to make our way back to the 'hideout'. We are not allowed to use mobile phones or have any money. We will need to use our wit and powers of persuasion to blag some free transport! Oh and I forgot to mention we will be handcuffed in pairs.

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/DeanaMShort>

Free upright piano and stool:

Contact Jackie 07789 037969

(Eastergate resident who is downsizing)

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.

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	213
Brotherton	252
Warenne	166
Fitzalan	157

Online Safety:

Last week I attended a conference held at Sussex Police Headquarters on the topic of how to keep primary school aged children safe on the internet. The police reminded us that it is illegal to take, send or receive pictures of any persons under the age of 18 who are exposing themselves. As the safeguarding lead in our school, I have strict guidelines to adhere to if I am made aware of any pictures sent, received or taken of children who are naked. These range from contacting parents to contacting Social Care and the police. 'Sexting' is not just an adult or Secondary school fad as we may presume, there are many cases of primary school children also being coerced into it or sending a 'silly' picture to their friends as a 'laugh'. <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/share-aware/> shows a couple of short clips to demonstrate this.

Please be vigilant with your children's devices (some children have up to three devices – gaming station, I pad, phone and laptop). As parents you need to check the activity on these devices frequently. If you do not know your child's password then ask them. You should have unrestricted access at all times to their internet activity. If your child refuses to give you their password or keeps changing it then please remove the device from their possession. It is not okay in today's society to say that 'I don't understand how all this modern technology works!' It is your job as a parent to keep your child safe from all harm, including internet harm whilst in your care Please ask for help if you need it.

Musical.ly app is aged 13+ and many of our children are using it. Please check and remove.

MacMillan Fundraising concert:

The school choir will be singing at St. Nicholas' church on Saturday evening as part of a large Macmillan fundraising event. Thank you to Miss Robinson for her time and commitment and to the children and parents for supporting this worthy cause and exciting event. Please be at school for a 6pm rehearsal on Saturday.

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!