

# Headteacher Newsletter – January 2017

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You will have all received, by now, your child's Curriculum Topic Overview, spelling lists and homework grids. Hopefully, these will be helpful in sharing with you what the children will be learning over the next term. Sometimes, it's good to know the topic so you can link family days out to your child's learning – a visit to a lighthouse, trip to a Roman villa, a theatre production based on a relevant book or fairy tale. All of these experiences not only enhance the children's learning but also give families an opportunity to spend dedicated time together (a rare occurrence for many who have long working hour commitments).

If when reading the overviews, you recognise that you (or someone you know) have some expertise in the topic area, then please mention this to me or the class teacher – we would love to use your skills and knowledge! We already have a number of Emergency Service employees who are willing to come in and talk to Year 1 as part of their '999' topic.

As many of you know, we always try to use the school's most valuable resource (teachers) in the most effective and creative way to improve children's learning. You will know that Year 5 are split for Maths and English three times per week and taught by Mrs Foster and Mrs Bridges. In Year 6 and Year 5 Mrs Fairlie and Mrs Bridges run an extra-curricular, small maths group and all classes are split three times per week across the whole school for 15 minute maths (ability grouped). Reception and Year 1 children also are grouped for Phonics. As of next week, we will be grouping Year 1 and Year 2 for Literacy each day. Some children will be taught by Mr Gall and others by Miss Loydell. We will review the impact at half term but know parents will support and trust us as we try different approaches towards ensuring each child has the greatest learning opportunity here at school.

## Dates for diary

17.1.17 Y1 Phonics meeting 2.45-3.15  
17.1.17 Y3 Music concert trip 9.30-12.30  
18.1.17 Arundel Library trip Y6,Y5,Y4  
18.1.17 Forest School Y3  
25.1.17 Arundel library trip Y2 and Y3  
25.1.17 Forest School Y4  
27.1.17 Holocaust memorial @ Arundel Baptist Church 2-3pm  
28.1.17 Allotment tidy up 9.30-12  
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

## Spelling workshop for parents:

Thank you to Mrs Bridges and Mrs Tipping, our English leaders, who led the Spelling workshop on Wednesday evening. It was wonderful to see so many parents, keen to support their children's learning. I know others who were unable to attend have requested information from the meeting and this is available on the school website under 'documents' tab.

## General info:

**Website:** All information is regularly updated on the school website [www.stphilipsarundel.org.uk](http://www.stphilipsarundel.org.uk)

**Allotment tidy up:** This will be taking place on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> January. All families are welcome to come along and help to weed, dig and clear the growing beds. Whilst the children can surface weed during their Growing Club sessions, every so often the allotment needs adult attention in turning over the soil etc. Bring your own gloves and tools and I will provide tea and coffee. Grandparents welcome too.

**Tesco:** If you went into any of the Tesco stores during December and put in a blue token to support our bid for the outside classroom in Reception, thank you. We are waiting for the results but we know we will receive either £1,000, £3,000 or £5,000 for equipment.

**Multisense project:** This week, researchers from Sussex University have been in school testing the children on a variety of activities linked to memory associated learning. Classes 2-5 were given optional questions on a laptop and were asked to select an answer. 3,000 children will be included in the project and once this is complete, we will have the results. Whilst it does not directly impact on our children, it is great experience for them to be part of a large research project.

**PE kits:** Please be reminded that all children must have their full PE kit in school every day. Please ensure children return their PE kit to school if they have used it for an After School club.

**Academy update:**

Over the next few weeks you will receive a letter asking you to either give your views in an online survey or attend a meeting regarding St. Philip's joining a Catholic Multi Academy Trust. This consultation is the next step in assessing whether we, as a school, would like to become part of the 'Bosco CET'. As mentioned before, it is the Bishop's view that schools should contemplate joining in Deanery clusters to form a MAT (multi academy trust). The letter will explain further what this would mean and the possible benefits to our children. We would be joining the Bosco CET, which will be established initially on April 1<sup>st</sup> with St. Philip Howard and St. Marys, Worthing. We obviously would not be joining at this point but need to decide if we would like to join in future times (12-18 months or more).

**Students:**

We have a third year teacher training student in school this term. She is based in Year 2 but will also be teaching Science in Year 1. Her name is Miss Johns. We have a number of other adults in school who are volunteering their time within the classroom:

Mrs Austin YR

Mrs Smith YR

Mrs Sene Y6

Mr Grainger will be returning to Year 5 later this term too to complete his PGCE training. All volunteers and students are DBS checked and supervised by teaching staff.

**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	218
Brotherton	275
Warenne	258
Fitzalan	167

**Premises Officer:**

We are still in need of a Premises Officer (caretaker) who can work six hours per week and a few extra hours during the holidays. The timings can be flexible and would suit a grandparent, a neighbour etc. who would like to earn some extra money whilst also being part of a warm, welcoming school environment. Do you know of anyone? Please see the office for more details.

**Dogs:**

Many of our families have dogs and, as lovely as they are, to a small four, five or six year old, they can look big, fierce and intimidating. I know that parents would not bring dogs to school who were not friendly but could I ask that if you are walking to school and bringing your dog, that you wait a distance away from the entrance gates and do not allow your dog on a loose lead. It can be very congested at the end of the school day and having to navigate bikes, buggies, parents stopping for a chat and dogs, can be too much for some. Thank you for your understanding.

**Admissions:**

Proposed changes to our admissions policy 2018-19 - We are proposing to make some alterations to our admission arrangements for 2018-19. Please look at the school website for further information. If you have any comments then please send them to the office by 24<sup>th</sup> January 2017.

**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!

**Facebook:**

Please go onto our school website

[www.stphilipsarundel.org.uk](http://www.stphilipsarundel.org.uk) and click on the Facebook icon. Click the 'like' button on the page to ensure you receive updates.

**Cafod:**

The children had a talk about World Gifts from Cafod, this week. This was in response to Aoife in Year 4 asking if, as a school, we could raise £400 to buy a camel for a family in Ethiopia. Aoife, along with her parents, are planning a sponsored walk, during school time, for KS2 children which will take place during this term. KS1 and Reception will be able to go along and support the older children and they will carry out a simple fund raising event (cake sale, pyjama day etc.) to add to the fund.

For more information about how camels are used, go to:

[https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/?gclid=CLWBhpu\\_vNECFe0A0wod98gMyg](https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/?gclid=CLWBhpu_vNECFe0A0wod98gMyg)