

Headteacher Newsletter – September v2 2018

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

Tel: 01903 882115 Email:office@st-philips.w-sussex.sch.uk

Website: www.stphilipsarundel.org.uk

We are now a few weeks in to the new academic year and for certain year groups the transition is quite a tough one. Year 1 children (and parents) in particular can find this move from the Early Years Curriculum to National Curriculum a tricky one. I promise that things will settle as the term progresses. Parental anxiety can filter through to children so please keep any concerns you have concealed from your child. Children adapt far better and faster than we do as adults.

Just a reminder, that the homework grid has lots of choices. Some activities are more challenging than others so pick the easier options at this point (walk in the woods, making a sandwich etc) and as the term goes on, your child will manage the other activities better. We are not expecting children who are still learning letter sounds to be able to write a paragraph.

Parent Teacher Consultations take place before half term. This is a really important time to learn about the expectation for the year group your child is in. It is only a 5 minute slot so if you have more lengthy discussions in mind then please book in to see the class teacher before that date. If one or two parents go over their 5 minute slot it has huge knock on effects for all the other parent's appointment times. Please be mindful of this.

Diocesan Grandparent Week takes place next week and as such, we will be hosting a grandparent tea next Thursday. This is always very popular so sadly parents are not able to attend due to lack of space. We would be very grateful though for some volunteer parents to help serve the teas and coffees. Year 6 children will also be helpers but we need some parents too. Please let the office know if you can help. Many thanks.

Dates for your diary:

4.10.18 Grandparents tea (afternoon)

8.10.18 YrsR-5 Flu vaccinations

9.10.18 Wear something purple day

10.10.18 Y5 Forest School

10.10.18 Y3 Butser Trip

10.10.18 Y6 Deanery Sports Day SPH

12.10.18 Y6 Midnight Gang theatre workshop

in school

15.10.18 Parent/Teacher Consultation 2-4.30pm

16.10.18 Parent/Teacher Consultations 8.30-10.30am

17.10.18 Parent/Teacher Consultations 3.30-6.30pm

18.10.18 Cinema Night (Greatest Showman)

Harvest Festival:

Thank you for the many donations of non perishable food sent in so far for the Harvest Festival. You can continue to send items in to school until Monday. Many families have been very generous.

We celebrated Harvest Festival on Tuesday morning when Miss Robinson taught the children harvest songs and we thanked God for the food and farmers around the world.

The Harvest hampers will be packed up and distributed early next week. Thank you also to Sean Michael's granddad for making plaited bread!

General info:

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

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.

Water bottles: Please make sure every child has a water bottle in school daily. This must be labelled and contain only water (not squash).

Uniform: Summer uniforms can be worn until October half term. A reminder that school socks must be red, white, blue, grey or black.

Spelling: Spelling tests will take place weekly in Years 1-6. Check book bags for lists and the Curriculum Overviews will also have top up lists.

Coats: Please make sure children bring coats (labelled) to school (I know many of them are reluctant to do so!)

Open day: Our Open day for new reception starters 2019 will be on Wednesday October 31st. Please spread the word to families who have a child applying for a school place next September. Flyers will be available in the school office in the next week or so.

Guitar lessons: Friday October 12th NOT Wednesday 10th Oct.

Allotment produce:

Some of you many have spotted our impressive crop of vegetables that was harvested from the school allotment. This will be distributed for Harvest and some used for the RHS 'Big Soup Share' in October.

Year 6 will be undertaking an allotment tidy up on Friday 5th October at 2pm. Any parent or grandparent who is able to come along and help will be most welcome. Please bring spades and forks to turn over the soil.

Year 6 applications to SPH:

Canon Tim will sign Supplementary Information Forms for applicants for St Philip Howard High School for September 2019 on **Sunday 14th October** after both Sunday Masses in the sacristy at the Cathedral.

DIOCESAN PASTORAL PLAN:

Bishop Richard invites all parishioners to a meeting on Friday 12th October at St Philip Howard Catholic School, Barnham 7-9pm where he will present his Pastoral Plan for the Diocese. This is an important moment in the life of our local church and you are encouraged to make every effort to attend. You can view his message and prayer to launch the plan, on the diocesan website at <https://www.dabnet.org/News/View/250>.

Before School Clubs:

Please can you make sure children arrive before or on time for an 8am start for morning clubs. Having a number of children arriving from 8 until 8.20am means that office staff are having to answer the door bell numerous times whilst also needing to answer the telephone and organise the set up for the school day. Thank you in advance.

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	293
Warene	302
Fitzalan	311

Purple day:

Please note the day change to 9th (not 10th as previously advised).

Wear something purple, alongside school uniform and donate £1 for World Mental Health Awareness Day. Purple socks, shoes, hair band, hat, scarf, arm band etc.

Reading Buddies:

A number of our long standing reading buddies have retired this summer and so we are in need of parents, grandparents or members of the community to come and hear readers in school. We request that you are willing to have a DBS carried out and can commit to an hour or more each week. If you do have time or know of someone who may be interested, then please contact the school office. Thank you.

Different teachers teach reading in different ways. Books are changed weekly but it is important that the reading books are supported by trips to the library or books from home. Children will become very 'narrow' readers if they only read reading scheme books. Early readers need breadth of reading (as well as moving up through the scheme) to enable them to be fluent and to have a good understanding of what they are reading.

Attendance:

Please take time to read an important letter that will be sent home this week regarding holidays in term time. You will all be aware of the importance of children being in school and the message that holidays booked in term time gives to our children. In the school year, based on a 24hour clock, only 15% of the time is spent in school. This leaves 85% of time to book holidays and events. The Leadership team and governors have put attendance as a high priority this year and there will be zero tolerance on holidays booked in term time. All holidays will be considered unauthorised regardless of how much cheaper it may be or how long it has been since your last family holiday. The school will refer unauthorised holidays to WSCC for fixed penalty fines. The letter sent home outlines the school's policy and procedures. Please support us in giving your children the best education and the greatest understanding of how important attendance is by only booking holidays out of term time.

School Angel:

Remember to go through <https://www.schoolangel.org.uk/st-philips-catholic-primary-school.html> when ordering online. This can be, for example, Amazon, John Lewis, flights and supermarket shopping etc. The school gains funds through your spending!