



'Enjoying Learning Together'

24 November 2017

Dear Parent/Carer/Governors

Thank you to everyone who came along to the parent consultation meetings this week to discuss your child's progress. It was a great opportunity to see your child's work and find out how they are getting on. I hope that any questions you had were answered and you have a clearer picture as to what they need to be doing in order to reach their full potential.

Thank you to all of you who are ensuring that your child is in school and on time every day. We know that children are poorly from time to time but they should only be kept off for ailments that are infectious and therefore easily spread to others and/or require antibiotic medication.

You can help prevent your child missing school by:

- making sure they understand the importance of good attendance and punctuality
- not letting them take time off school for minor ailments such as coughs and colds - particularly those which would not prevent you from going to work

You can only allow your child to miss school if either:

- they're too ill to come in due to infection (which includes sickness and diarrhoea)
- you've got advance permission from the school for exceptional circumstances

Our school's attendance target is 97% and it is really important to reach this in order to support children in all aspects of their learning and development.

I have seen some really lovely manners around our school recently with children showing real respect to one another, our staff and visitors. This is our expectation and something that we model in our own behaviours. I want to give Raphael in Y6 a special mention as he has demonstrated wonderful manners and shown himself to be a great role model for others.

I hope you all have a great weekend.

Stuart

YR. This week, the reception children practised getting changed for PE for the first time. They did really well and we didn't lose any socks! If your child has not yet got a PE bag in school, can you please make sure they do so by Monday? This must be left in school for the whole term.

Our new letters and sounds this week have been 'g' and 'o'.

In Maths, we have been ordering numbers, understanding what comes before and after a number to 10.

In circle-time we read '*Have you Filled a Bucket Today?*' which we used as a tool to help us to talk about the importance of using kind words with our friends. Well done Reception, another super week!

Y1. We have had a very busy week this week. We visited Bristol Museum on Wednesday and the children wrote a diary entry about what they saw on their visit. We are going to make a leaflet about the things you can see and find at Bristol Museum so keep asking the children about what they found out about the different animals and the Egyptians.

We are practising now for our school Nativity the children are very good at the songs we have learnt so far.

Y2. We have been reading about the 'Jolly Postman' and writing letters to the different characters. In Maths, we have continued to look at addition and subtraction: drawing blank number lines or using the column method to help us solve the calculation. We have also started to learn number bonds to one hundred.

We have started practising our play for the end of term so please help us with our lines/songs at home -more details coming soon!

Y3. Year 3 have been learning about some of the different mountain ranges in the U.K. As a follow up to watching a video clip on somebody having to be rescued by the mountain rescue team, the children wrote up an explanation on, 'How to be Safe When Walking up a Mountain!'

In Art, they went on to explore hot and cold colours by mixing paints with some great results.

Y4. Last week, we loved the trip to the cinema (it was in 3D!) and many thanks to the parents who came along.

This week, we've been learning about Barcelona, looking at the amazing mosaics in Park Güell and the cable cars on Mount Montserrat. We will be ending our topic on non-chronological reports by writing a report about Barcelona and some of the landmarks.

In Maths, we've been investigating subtraction as 'the difference between two numbers' using our number rods to help.

It was great to see all of you at the parents evening this week.

Y5. This week, we have immersed ourselves in an art project, creating papier mache figurines in the style of Willie Birch, the New Orleanean artist and civil rights activists. Our New Orleans topic is really gripping our imaginations and giving us challenging opportunities for writing eye witness accounts based on the research we have done in Guided Reading sessions.

Y6. Over the last two weeks, Year 6 have been doing various pieces of writing around their innovated story 'Frostbite Fredrikssen - the Yeti of Bear Island'. We have spent most of our time on a character description of this mysterious mythical beast and the writing the children have produced has been their best yet. I am really looking forward to displaying their finished pieces outside our classroom!

In PE, we have begun doing some HIIT (High Intensity Interval Training) to better understand the importance of a healthy lifestyle - the children have loved feeling more energised as a result of these sessions.

Finally, in Maths, we have conquered long division - next stop: fractions. Have a wonderful weekend ☺

Attendance Update

Data: Monday 20 – Friday 24 November 2017

Rocky the Attendance Dog		Punctuality Polar Bear	
Awarded to: NOT AWARDED – not one class reached the school target of 97%		Awarded to both: Y3 and Y4 classes with ZERO late marks recorded for the week – Brilliant! ☺	
Class	% Attendance	Late marks recorded Before close of register (L)	Late marks recorded After close of register (U)
R	78.73%	1	0
1	88.89%	4	0
2	94.92%	1	0
3	80.25%	0	0
4	93.43%	0	0
5	93.59%	4	1
6	95.88%	3	0

66 minutes late for school has been recorded this week - that is just over an hour of missed learning due solely to lateness, of course this figure does not include our Y3 and Y4 classes.

Fruit at Break time

It's great to see so many children in KS1 enjoying fruit at break time. Please can we see children in KS2 also enjoy a piece of fruit at break time, particularly as the KS2 lunch starts at 12:30pm. It's a long morning without a healthy snack to keep the children going, concentration wains as hunger kicks in, especially as some children arrive to school without having eaten breakfast (which is not recommended.)

Tulip Photography

The school photographer will be in school on Wednesday 29 November 2017, to take individual and sibling photos. If you would like a photo to include younger siblings who don't attend St. Michael's please arrive at school for 8:30am, so we can arrange these photos first.

All children must be in school uniform for their school photo. Please be aware: children who are not in uniform an attempt will be made to source items from lost property, however, if this is not possible, your child will not have their photo taken.

'Save the Children's' Christmas Jumper Day

We will be holding our Christmas Jumper Day in aid of 'Save the Children' on Wednesday 13 December 2017, to coincide with our school Christmas dinner. Everyone is invited to wear their Christmas jumper in exchange for £1.00 donation. (You may have noticed that nationally, jumper day is Friday 15 December; we wish to take part but are moving the day!)

Please don't go out and buy a jumper especially for this event, we don't want anyone to incur additional expenses at this already expensive time of the year, school jumpers are acceptable too!

School Trips and Consents

A quick reminder for you all regarding trip protocol:

Walking trips – we do not require written consent – you are, however, always informed your child has a trip and will therefore not be on the school site.

Trips using any form of transport – we do require written consent from you (parent/carer) not grandparent or extended family! The written consent can come from a known parental email account or be hand written.

NOTE: In accordance with school policy, trip admin **will not** be processed on the day of a trip – **any trip**. All trip admin (money and consent) must be received by 3:30pm the day before the trip takes place. **There are no exceptions to this rule.**

Late - children arriving late to school will be sent to another class for the duration of the trip. Please also check the times of any trips you have been notified about, with regards to providing or ordering a packed lunch.

Christmas Steps

Our annual light switch on and singing is taking place slightly later than normal this year, it will be held on Thursday 7 December 2017, at 5:30pm. For those of you who are new to school, this event is a lovely way to start the Christmas festivities. We meet at the top of the steps and sing a few carols, eat mince pies and turn the lights on! This is a popular event, attended by lots of families (unfortunately unaccompanied children are not permitted) and it would be great once again to see lots of familiar faces along with our new families!

Christingle Service

You are warmly invited to attend a Christingle Service at Holy Trinity Church in Hotwells on Sunday 10 December at 4:00pm. Holy Trinity Church is the partner church of St Stephen's (our link church) and has the same vicar as St Stephen's - Lee Barnes. www.holytrinityhotwells.org

Carols Around the Tree

As part of our festivities around Christmas, we are ending the term with our usual and very lovely 'Carols around the Tree' event, on Friday 15 December 2017 at 9:05am in the school hall, to which you are all warmly invited to.

So.....calling all parents! We are looking for some volunteers for our mince pies, tea and coffee stall at the event so we can provide refreshments whilst enjoying the atmosphere.

Donations of mince pies would also be very much appreciated. Please bring mince pies (homemade or shop bought) and leave them in Helen's office anytime during the last week of term. Thank you so much.

A Plea from Terry

If anyone has any spare or left over chicken wire you no longer require, would you mind donating it please? Terry is in need of chicken wire that is 14"square to complete a small job at school. Many thanks.

Dates for Your Diary

Mon 27 Nov	Y6: School Nurse in school to weigh and measure the children during the morning session.
Tues 28 Nov	Y5: OUT Brinsea Farm Langford: the children will return to school for 1pm, so normal dinner arrangements will apply. Consent required as a transport is being used.
Wed 29 Nov	Tulip Photography: in school for individual and sibling photos. School Uniform to be worn.
Thu 30 Nov	Open Event for Children due to start school in Reception Class in September 2018: 10:45am-11:45am
Thu 7 Dec	X14 children in Y5: OUT – London Chess Trip
Thu 7 Dec	Y6: OUT – Life Skills Trip a.m. – back in time for dinner. Consent required as transport is being used.
Thu 7 Dec	Christmas Steps – lights and singing! All the fun starts at 5:30pm Everyone welcome
Fri 8 Dec	Y3 & Y4: Last swimming session before the Christmas break Y3 & Y5: – will swim after Christmas, dates & letter to follow
Wed 13 Dec	Whole School: Christmas Dinner £2.05 for children who are not entitled to Free School Meals.
Wed 13 Dec	Christmas Jumper Day – in exchange for £1.00 donation.
Thu 14 Dec	BCH – Nativity – choir to attend during the afternoon, back by the end of the school day.
Fri 15 Dec	Carols around the Tree – in the school hall: 9:05am Everyone welcome. Mince Pies, Tea & Coffee available.
Fri 15 Dec	End of Term 2 – normal time: 3:15pm.