

## Newsletter: September 2019



### Head Teacher's Welcome



The evenings are drawing in, my wife has asked for the heating to be switched on and we nearly had a "wet" play last week – Autumn is well and truly on its way!

I hope that your summer was very enjoyable; certainly, the children have returned refreshed, looking very healthy and raring to go!

It has been delightful to meet so many new families over the last week and welcome many new children to school. We were also oversubscribed again for our new Reception classes and it is lovely to see all 60 children settling in.

We are all looking forward to another busy, enjoyable and successful school year – there are certainly some very exciting plans!

**Richard Culham**

### School Improvement Priorities

These are taken from both our own identified priorities and from our Ofsted

**Maths** – problem solving and reasoning (our "Next Steps" following our successful Ofsted in January)

**English** – to further improve our teaching of Phonics and reading

**Attendance** – to further improve our overall attendance figures and for Free School Meal and SEN children (from our Ofsted)

We have a tremendous team and I am confident that we will make good progress with these priorities this year.

### Attendance



Last year our school attendance was just below our target of 95% at 94.6%. Our target for this year will again be 95% and with a real concerted push I am confident that we can reach it this year! Mrs. White will again be heading up our attendance work and reporting regularly to myself, Governors and to County. If you need any advice or guidance, then please contact her or myself. There is no doubt that not taking term time holidays will make a huge difference to our overall figures!

### Uniform

I suspect that it is well known the importance that we place on the children looking well presented in their school uniforms – look smart, think smart, be smart! One of the things that I enjoy in September is how well turned out the children are. It does help to make for a successful feel to school.

In particular, I am really pleased to see very few "trainers" being worn as uniform. Can I also remind everyone that I am very happy for the children to wear trainers for playtimes and lunchtimes and then change back into proper school shoes for lessons. This should extend the life of the school shoes!

## Staff Changes



With a staff of nearly 100 there can often be departures and arrivals!

This term we welcome back **Mrs Gould** after her adventures in Australia! Mrs Gould and Miss Lilley are now job sharing in Year 3 alongside Miss Stocker.

We also “welcome” **Miss Quast** who trained with us last year. She has very successfully completed her teacher training at Exeter University collecting a prestigious “Top Student” award and now begins her teaching career alongside Mrs Messenger in Year 6.

Following Mrs Roddis’ retirement at the end of last year we welcome **Mrs Fairchild** has joined us as a LSA in YR.

Over the holidays we have appointed a new PFSA to replace Sarah Cox and once references are cleared and the DBS check completed **Tracy Millington** will be able to start. In the meantime, if you have any urgent enquiries please contact either myself or Mrs Parker.

Over the summer Mr Reed decided to pursue a new career and has started his new job. His work as an LSA and as a Sports Coach will be missed and we thank him for his contributions to our work. We have appointed an LSA, **Mrs Featherstone**, who will start in a few weeks. The sports coach side of the post will be filled soon we hope. In the meantime, our wonderful Sports team, led by Miss Neill, will cover as many clubs and fixtures as possible.

## Playground Improvements

Over the holiday our replacement Trim Trail was installed and it is already proving to be very popular with the children! You may know that this equipment is very expensive and we are extremely lucky to have our wonderful FOBs team who, over the years, have raised a tremendous amount to further improve our provision for the children.

We were also due to have the wooden fencing replaced by a brick wall to match the one at the Infant playground. This is being paid for by County, following a bit of badgering, so I'm not sure exactly when it will happen but hopefully soon! **UPDATE** – its starting tomorrow (Wednesday)

## ParentPay

I am delighted to report that 82% of you have now signed up and this will increase further as our new parents and our YR parents sign up. It is really important that everyone does sign up as a lot of our communication with you involves Parent Pay.

## Erasmus



We were lucky to be involved in an Erasmus project for the last 3 years and as a school we have benefited enormously. In particular, 14 children had the opportunity to visit either the Amalfi coast in Italy or the Algarve in Portugal. Our staff also had the chance to see educational systems in 7 other countries including Lithuania, Sweden and Italy!

This summer we heard that a further project has been approved. This one is called “No Problems, only solutions” and is a problem solving based educational opportunity. Teachers and children will have the chance to develop further their mathematical, linguistic, DT and ICT skills amongst others. A key feature of this project is the chance for 6 pupil visits to other countries over the next 2 years. The countries involved are Italy, Sweden, Spain, Portugal, France and us. Exciting times!

## September 2020 Admissions /

### Open Morning and Evening

If you have a child starting school in Reception next September 2020 or transferring to secondary school next September, then you need to go on the Somerset website at [www.somerset.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/admissions) to find the guides for the 2020 admissions process. The website will be live from Monday 16 September.

Closing date for children starting in Reception is **15 January 2020** and for secondary transfer the closing date is **31 October 2019**.

The Admissions and Entitlements Team will NOT be writing to parents this year explaining the process, parents need to go on the above link.

We are holding an 'Open Morning' for parents/carers of children looking for a school place in Reception for September 2020 and for all our current parents on **Tuesday 15 October** from 9 am – 12 noon and on **Thursday 17 October** an 'Open Evening' from 5.30 pm – 6.30 pm. This is an opportunity for parents/carers to see the school in action – all are welcome.

## Dates for your Diary

**Thurs 12 Sept:** School Vision Screening for Y1

**Mon 16 Sept:** FOBS AGM 3.30 pm

**Thurs 26 Sept:** Y5 Ancient Greek Day

**Fri 27 Sept:** Harvest assembly

**Mon 30 Sept:** Y1 Pants afternoon for parents (more info to follow)

**Tues 1 Oct:** Reception Reading meeting for parents 2.30 pm

**Tues 8 Oct:** Y4 trip to Tutankhamun Exhibition

**Tues 15 Oct:** Y1 Alien party (am)

Open Morning from 9 am – 12 noon

**Thurs 17 Oct:** Open Evening from 5.30 pm – 6.30 pm

**Fri 18 Oct:** School Disco – further details to follow

**Tues 22 – Thurs 24:** Parent Consultation meetings 3.40 pm – 6.30 pm (further information to follow)

**Mon 28 Oct – Fri 1 Nov:** Half Term

**Mon 4 Nov:** School reopens

**Mon 11 Nov:** Flu Immunisation for the whole school

**Fri 6 Dec:** School Bingo – further details to follow

**Week beginning 9 Dec:** KS1 Christmas Nativity (further details to follow on exact days and time)

**Tues 10 Dec:** Reception and Pre-School Christmas performance (morning – exact time to be confirmed – further information to follow)

**Thurs 12 Dec:** Reception and Pre-School Christmas performance 2 pm (further details to follow)

**Thurs 12 Dec:** Y4 last swimming session

**Tue 17 Dec:** Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper day

**Thurs 19 Dec:** Last day of term

KS1 pantomime trip at the Octagon (am)

KS2 Carol service (2 pm – venue to be confirmed)

**Mon 6 Jan 2020:** School reopens