

Slindon Church of England Primary School

Newsletter Autumn 1– September 2018



DEAR PARENTS/CARERS

Welcome! Welcome back to all our existing families and welcome to all of our new families who have joined us for the first time. I hope you all had an enjoyable summer and made the most of the beautiful weather we had. I popped into school over the summer holidays and it is definitely no fun without the children! It was lovely to see them all so happy to be back last week. Our new Reception children have been a joy to spend time with – not one tear! We miss all the children who left us last term for their new secondary schools this year, but we have proudly waved them off and look forward to hearing all of their successes in the future.

Success is indeed how we finished last year and I cannot write the first letter of the academic year without congratulating the staff and children on their dedication, perseverance and unwavering determination to achieve our best. I'd like to direct you to have a look at the academic performance on our website where you will see the astonishing results that we achieved last year and the increase we have made in getting closer to national averages in the statutory assessments.

But what is more important to me is that you understand how we achieved those results. We were probably one of very few schools who didn't hold 'SATs booster groups' - a common occurrence throughout the country, where children come into school early in the morning, or stay in at lunchtimes or after school to practice SATs papers.

Instead we empowered each other as staff, raised our expectations of the children and shared in their joy when they saw how they could more than meet those expectations. We motivated the children without increasing their anxiety or stress by showing them how fun, interesting and meaningful our curriculum is. We went out into the forest and learnt to make fires, gut fish and make toast over an open fire. We had snowball fights and ran competitive races. The children went on residential and day trips and attended a multitude of sporting events around the county.

Later this half term I'd like to share further with you our vision, ethos and mission statement for our school. However for the moment, we are asking a lot of information from you as we ensure that we meet the requirements of the GDPR and give you the usual plethora of information needed to start a new school year. We appreciate that there are lots of forms and letters to complete but are grateful for your prompt returns. As we settle into the new school year, I look forward to communicating and working in partnership with you as we journey through another exciting year at Slindon Church of England Primary School.

Kindest regards,

Lucy Cooper

Headteacher

DATES TO REMEMBER THIS TERM...

- **Friday 14th September 2018**

Swimming begins for children in Years 1-6. The last swimming session of the Autumn term will be Friday 7th December 2018. Please see further information on page 3.

- **Thursday 13th September 2018**

‘Chance to Shine’ 6 weeks of cricket enrichment begins on Thursday afternoons for children in KS2 (Years 3-6).

- **Tuesday 18th September 2018**

‘Owls About Town’ visiting the school. Andy and his team will bring in a collection of Owls to enrich the learning across the school, but particularly for Catkin class who will be reading ‘Owl Babies’. We’re very excited!

- **Friday 21st September 2018**

Jeans for Genes Day– wear your Jeans to school for a £1 donation to www.jeansforgenesday.org (wear your normal school uniform on the top!)

WELCOME TO NEW STAFF!

As we began our Child Protection and Safeguarding training on the first INSET day of the year, we saw how much we have grown and are pleased to welcome a number of new staff this year.

Miss Rachel Attwood joins us as the permanent, full-time teacher in Acorn Class. Miss Attwood has relocated to the area with her fiancé, from Hampshire. She has been in school over the summer making her class look beautiful! Miss Attwood is supported by two existing teaching assistants; Mrs Anita Redman and Miss Laura Murray, who both know the routines and daily life of the school day well.

Mrs Morag Mayne joins us as Teaching Assistant in Catkin Class to work alongside Mrs Val Stapleton who joined us in the Summer term. Both of these full-time teaching assistants have considerable experience working within the Early Years and KS1 curriculum.

Miss Claire Hawkes joins us as teaching assistant in Chestnut Class, alongside Mrs Francis. Miss Hawkes worked with us at times over the last year in Catkin and Acorn Classes and we are pleased that she is staying to support us in Chestnut class this year.

After communicating our heartfelt thanks at the end of the year to Tony Elkin who has stepped down as Chair of Governors, we welcome Mr Phil Johnson as Chair. Phil is new to the school but has considerable experience as a headteacher and local authority adviser.

Now, if only some keen children had asked if they could contribute to the school newsletter within their first few days of school last week....oh they did! So huge thanks to Robyn, Daisy and Lilija who have produced our ‘Who’s who’ guide to all of the staff at the school– thanks girls!

Secondary Transfer Information

Please look out for the Secondary transfer information being sent home today for parents/ carers of children in Year 6. We will add any information about transition events for local secondary schools to the parents section of the website. The deadline for secondary school applications is Wednesday 31st October 2018.

ROAD SAFETY



This summer I have met with the local community to discuss how we can make the roads safer, increase the visibility of the school and ensure that our school community and the wider community work together for the benefit of the safety of us all.

We are very fortunate that the Coronation Hall committee allow us to use their car park to park in at the beginning and end of the day. I'd like to ask that we all remain considerate to each other and our neighbours when parking. Please do not block the entrance and exit to the Coronation Hall car park and please follow the high way code with regard to parking near junctions. Lastly, please do not park on the approach to the school drive or on the corner of the school drive and Meadsway.

Please do let me know if you encounter any problems or issues. I will endeavour to keep an eye on things as usual over the next term.

The first job of the School Council will be to run a 'poster competition', where the winning posters will be displayed outside of the school. Look out for more information on this as the winning posters are announced!

YOUR PFA NEEDS YOU!

Today our wonderful team that constitute the PFA have met to make plans for the year. They are very keen to recruit new members and as a small school, we need all the fundraising support we can get.

Look out for an invitation for a PFA 'get together' where you can find out how you can get involved. I very much hope that we can build on the fantastic PFA that we have started.



Find PFA information on facebook;

Slindon primary school PFA



DATES TO REMEMBER THIS TERM...

- **Wednesday 3rd October 2018**

Phonics Workshop in Catkins class from 9.00-9.30am. This is an opportunity to come in and see how we teach phonics and is open to parents of children in any class. Miss Cooper will present information at 9.20 in the Glade about how you can support your child at home.

- **Thursday 4th October 2018**

Flu Vaccinations (nasal spray) for children in Reception to Year 5

Permission slips need to be returned by Friday 14th September if you would like your child to be vaccinated.

- **Tuesday 16th October 2018**

EYFS (Reception) 6-week meetings 1pm-3.30pm in the Library

Mrs Clarke will write separately to invite Reception parents/ carers to hear about how your child has settled into school.

- **Thursday 18th October 2018**

Harvest Festival Service at St Mary's Church

2.15pm— All families welcome. Please collect your child from the church at 3pm.

ATTENDANCE

This year we are introducing a number of new initiatives to increase attendance and punctuality.

Amos the Bear

Amos the attendance Bear proved a huge hit with the children in last weeks assembly . He is indeed the softest bear you have ever squeezed and comes with a most stylish and varied wardrobe including PE kit, school uniform and an 'OfSTED ready' smart suit.

The class with the best attendance each week will win Amos to look after in their class. The first winners were Chestnut class and they were incredibly excited and proud to be the first hosts!

The Big Breakfast

All children whose attendance is above 95% will have the opportunity to be entered into a draw and be invited to a special breakfast to celebrate their attendance record for the previous half term. Any children with 100% attendance will immediately earn their place at this most prestigious event!

The big breakfast will take place during the first week of each half term , based on the previous half term's attendance. The first big breakfast will take place after the half term holiday, during the week beginning Monday 29th October.

There are only 190 days in the school year which means that there are 175 non-school days left for holidays, treats and shopping. We really appreciate your support in ensuring that our children do not unnecessarily miss school. If your child accrues 10 or more unauthorised absences (5 or more days) then a referral can be made to West Sussex County Council to consider what further action is appropriate.

If your child is absent from school, please ensure that you phone to let us know the reason for their absence before 9.30am. It is important that we know that both our children and families are safe when a child is unexpectedly absent from school.



CURRICULUM ENRICHMENT– SWIMMING

This week we will begin our weekly swimming sessions at Felpham Swimming Pool. We take the whole school swimming by coach– a separate letter will go out today with further details.

This term (until the 7th of December), all of the children from Year 1 to Year 6 will go swimming every Friday afternoon. We leave promptly after lunch and return in time for our celebration assembly at the end of the day.

When we swim, the pool is closed to the public and it is a wonderful opportunity for us to use both pools. The younger children develop confidence in the water and as the children progress they become proficient swimmers under the instruction of the qualified swimming coaches.

We cannot continue to take the children swimming in this way if we do not have a number of regular volunteers to accompany us, who hold a DBS certificate. Please let Mrs Cooper know if you would like to be volunteer and if you would like to know more about obtaining a DBS certificate.

All children must have their swimming costume and a towel in a named swimming bag. Please dress younger children in clothes so that they can easily manage to dress and undress themselves independently.

Swimming is not an activity that children can ‘opt in/ out’ of. **This year, a letter will be sent home if your child is not equipped for their swimming lesson on more than one occasion.**

CURRICULUM ENRICHMENT– CRICKET COACHING

As we make the most of the last of the fine weather, we are pleased to have the opportunity to work with Alan Smith from Sussex County Cricket Club and participate in their six week ‘Chance to Shine’ programme this half term.

As we know, cricket was invented and first played in Slindon (according to local legend) and so we are keen to keep up the tradition!

Alan will be working alongside the staff to provide specialist cricket coaching for Key Stage 2 (Acorn and Chestnut Classes) this half term.

Therefore we ask that the children have their PE kits here on a Thursday as well as Wednesday (which is PE day for all classes). He will also be introducing the children to

‘Table Cricket’ over the lunch break to allow the children more opportunities to use our much-loved table tennis table.

Later in the year we will take part in a series of cricket competitions so this is a great opportunity to practise our skills!

We prefer that PE kits are brought into school on Monday and not taken home until Friday. PE and sporting activities such as this are an integral part of our curriculum.

This year, a letter will be sent home if your child is not equipped for their PE lesson on more than one occasion.





Vacancy

11 1/4 hours per week
term time only 11.30am-1.45pm

No experience required as training will be provided.

Uniform supplied

We will need to apply for an Enhanced DBS
so ID will be requested

For more information please call

Rachael: 07867 202 887



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CHURCH OF
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Headteacher: Miss Lucy Cooper



Not sure what's going on at school?



Keep an eye on our school website, including the school calendar where you can find all the information you need.

www.slindonprimary.co.uk

Make sure we have your correct email addresses and telephone numbers so that we can communicate with you as necessary.