



Slindon Church of England Primary School Special Edition– August 2020

Hello everyone!

I thought I'd write you a special newsletter for the summer holidays, so that I can tell you about all the exciting things we have planned for when we all come back together in a few weeks time. It will be so good to be back together! We'll be able to say 'Here We Are!', which is actually the name of the book that we'll all be using for the first couple of weeks. It's a really cool book– I know you'll love it. The exciting things that I have to tell you about are really, really, really, really, really ever so exciting!

The first thing I need to tell you is that we have a school dog! Yay! Her name is Ivy. She is so cute, as you can see from the photo (there's more on page 2).

She is a Labrador and when you come to school in September, she will be nearly 4 months old. She is really calm and friendly, but she is still a baby and needs to learn how to behave in a school. So whilst she'll be at school everyday, she will stay in my office and in her crate and won't be allowed to go around the school on her own. This is partly because she tries to steal everything! But also because she will be going to 'dog school' once a week and until we know she can be as well-behaved as all of the children at our school, she'll always be with me.



I'm also really excited to tell you about all the new people who will be working at our school in September! I have written all about them on pages 3 and 4, and they have kindly sent photos, so you can see them. They may be a little nervous as they will be new– perhaps you feel a little nervous at coming back to school too? Don't worry, after one day you won't feel nervous anymore!

Lastly I've written a few other bits for you to know on pages 5 and 6. I CANNOT WAIT to see you very soon– I hope you're as excited as me!

Love from Miss Cooper and Ivy and everybody at school xx

All about Ivy The School Dog

Ivy is our new school dog! You are going to love her so much and she is going to love all of you! Ivy lives with me (Miss Cooper) but will come to school most days, unless I have an important meeting to go to. We picked up Ivy when she was 9 weeks old at the beginning of the summer holidays and have been settling her in and teaching her lots of things at home– she has already grown so much! She is very young, so she has lots of learning to do. But Miss Cooper and Ivy will be going to ‘dog school’ every week, so that Miss Cooper can learn how to help Ivy be the best school dog ever! But for now, she’s learning how to spend little bits of time in her crate and will stay in Miss Cooper’s office. She’ll come and see you when she’s made some progress with her training and when she’s on a lead. In the meantime we need to help Ivy feel that she is loved and is safe. That way, she’ll learn, just like we do when we know we’re loved and safe!



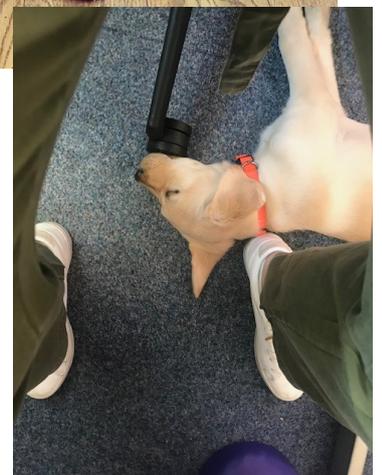
Do I lay down on the bed or put it over me?



Ivy had a lovely cooling bed when it was really hot...until she tried to eat it and broke it! But she loved her cooling coat.



After her first bath (because she fell in her own poo and ran around the garden covered in poo!)



New staff who will be at our school this year



Mr Joe Coyle will be joining us in September. Mr Coyle has just finished his degree in Physical Education at Chichester University. Mr Coyle is thinking about training to be a teacher and so of course he came to the best school in the South to see what a wonderful job being a teacher would be! Mr Coyle is going to help us with PE, learning outside and he will be the Teaching Assistant in Acorn Class in the afternoons. Mr Coyle has been a lifeguard, a football coach and he loves all sports. He can't wait to meet you all in a few weeks time!



Mrs Emmajane Merret is a qualified teacher who will be joining Catkin Class as a Teaching Assistant. Mrs Merret has been a manager in pre-schools and is also thinking about returning to work as a teacher in a school, now that her children are a bit older. Mrs Merret has so much experience working with children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 and will love working alongside Mrs Mayne, with Mrs Souadi and Mrs Willis. Mrs Merret can't wait to meet you all in September!



Mrs Eileen Opie will be joining us in September as our new SENCO. She will work with different children throughout the school and will work with the teachers and other visitors to help us in making sure all children are having fun in their learning. Mrs Opie is an experienced SENCO and enjoys working with parents, as well as the staff and children at our school. Fun fact; Mrs Opie and Miss Cooper have both broken their legs skiing– which means we are both either really good or really bad skiers!



We are so pleased to have Mr Rob Mayne working with us again in September! Mr Mayne worked with Chestnut Class during my first year at our school. All of the children loved his sessions and the staff love him as he is a wonderful human being! Mr Mayne will be working with Acorn Class this time, every Friday morning. He will write his own letter to you and all our families to introduce himself and say what he will be doing in Acorn Class. Mr Mayne is a veteran—which means he served in the military— he spent 12 years in the British Army with the Royal Engineers. I wonder if he could train Ivy to be as good as a military dog?!



I know that I already wrote you a letter before the summer about the new teachers in Catkin Class for September. Mrs Souadi (with Honey the Cat) will be the teacher on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and Mrs Willis will be the teacher on a Thursday and Friday. Mrs Souadi will not be bringing Honey into school, otherwise I think Ivy might chase her!

Fun fact; Miss Cooper worked with Mrs Souadi and Mrs Willis in Abu Dhabi, where it's super hot and there's lots of desert. Mrs Souadi is also Miss Cooper's cousin!



Mr Patrick Reeve is not actually new, but he started working as our Premises Manager not long before the schools had to close, so I thought I'd include him here. Perhaps you didn't see him in those short weeks and I'm not sure your adults at home would have seen him. Mr Reeve has been working ever so hard and he is also really good at whittling wood— I bet that's something he'd love to do with you this year!

How are you feeling about coming back to school? Perhaps you have missed it so much that you can't wait to get back! Or perhaps you've been away for so long that you've forgotten what it's like and are feeling a little nervous? However you are feeling is perfectly normal and okay. But I really think that once you come back, you will be so pleased to see your friends and your teachers (who have missed you so much!) Things are only a little bit different and we are doing all the right things at school to make sure that it feels back to normal.



Would you believe that after the summer holidays , every year in September, the teachers always feel a little nervous? Sometimes they worry that they've forgotten how to teach! But it only takes an hour or so and they remember what great teachers they are. I have written some helpful information for you below for each class to know the important bits. And I have written a long letter to your adults at home (with no fun pictures of Ivy or anything), because they are the ones who have to remember it all! But it helps if you do too!



Everybody except the new Reception children will come to school on Friday 4th September. Each class will arrive at different times and I will be right there at the gate, with other staff to welcome you and see you in.

You need to wear your school uniform and a big smile and we will be ready to welcome you back!

Children in Catkin Class

On Friday 4th September (your first day) , you will come to school at 9 o'clock. You will have Mrs Willis in your class as your teacher. Mrs Mayne will still be there with you and you will also have Mrs Merret, your new teaching assistant (Mrs Mayne and Mrs Merret will be there everyday). It will just be the children in Year 1 and Year 2 on your first day, so you can get to know the new adults in your class. Mrs Willis has planned lovely things for you to do, you are going to have the best day!

When you come back on Monday after the weekend, you will meet your other new teacher Mrs Souadi and a few new Reception children will start that day too. I know you will be so kind to them and make them feel very welcome.

Your class is very special as you are the only class who will come into the school through the playground (like you always did). The adults have to keep 2-metres apart but you can say goodbye to them when you're ready in the playground and come into class. Then the fun starts! Your classroom looks the same as it did but it's been painted and your teachers have made it look lovely!

Children in Acorn Class

On Friday 4th September (your first day) , you will come to school at 9.15 through the main front door. You can say goodbye to your family in the car park at the front of the school and come on in! Miss Heater is so excited about seeing you all again! Mrs Redman has missed you all too, she will be with you in the morning. In the afternoon you will have Mr Coyle with you as your teaching assistant. I bet Miss Heater and Mr Coyle have a lovely game for you to play outside in the afternoon.

Your classroom looks mostly the same but we have arranged the tables in rows. When I first heard of that idea, I didn't like it. BUT it looks so cool and all the children who have been in schools over the summer term have loved sitting in rows!

When you come to school from Monday 7th September, you are the only class who will carry on coming in through the front door (that means you'll probably get a sneaky peak at Ivy first thing– I expect she'll be waiting to see you from behind the baby gate on my office door!) You will come in a little earlier at 8.45 and settle at your table om your classroom.

You are going to love all the exciting things planned for Acorn Class this year– especially working with Mr Mayne on a Friday morning! He does such cool things and it's always outside. Miss Heater and Mr Coyle will also want to join in with you.

Children in Chestnut Class

On Friday 4th September (your first day) , you will come to school at 9.30 through the main front door (I thought you'd like a little bit of a lie-in!). You can say goodbye to your family just as you get to the car park gate and then come through the car park and the main front door. Mrs Tully and Miss Hawkes have missed you and can't wait to welcome you all back– especially the Year 5 children who they haven't seen for a long time!

Your classroom is also arranged with the tables in rows. The Year 6's loved the different layout of the class when they spent the last 5 weeks of the summer term in school.

When you come to school from Monday 7th September, you are the only class who will come through the school gates on your own and walk through the Glade door, into your classroom. You will come into your class from 8.40am and settle into some independent learning or read a fantastic book while Mrs Tully prepares the day's teaching.

We have big plans for you all this year– now you are the oldest children in the school!

PE for all classes

All classes will have PE on a Tuesday this year. You will also now come to school ready for PE (so we won't be changing at school anymore). You'll need to keep an eye on the weather, if it's colder wear tracksuit bottoms or leggings and if it's warmer wear your shorts. You can still wear your PE T-shirt and your school jumper. You are going to love PE with your teachers and Mr Coyle this year!

PS– There might be a few tennis balls missing from the PE shed (somebody with 4 legs likes them!)

