



Dear Parents,

A Happy New Year to you and your families! I hope you have had a relaxing and enjoyable holiday.

Changes

A warm welcome back to Mrs. Edmund after her maternity leave.

Welcome also to Fergus Sanghera and his family. Fergus is returning to his old class (Class Four) after a period at the Park School in Bournemouth. We are looking forward to seeing him again!

Welcome to Mrs. Martinez-Auria who is starting as a support teaching assistant in Reception this term.

The After School Club team is now complete with Play Leader Sally Crampton and Kylee Powell both full time, and part timer Melina Sorlini now joined by Katie Duncan and Adele Wills.

New Vicar

It is good to know that a new Vicar had been chosen for St Nicholas Church. Jonty Frith is married to Becky and has four school age children. He has been based in Crowborough, East Sussex and is starting in the new role this summer.



Siblings starting School

If your child was born between 1st September 2010 and 31st August 2011 he or she is able to start school in September 2015. In order that your child can be considered for entry to school during the school year 2015/2016, you must submit your application by 15th January 2015.

If you have a child who is due to start school then please ensure you have applied for a place.

It would be appreciated if you could also let us know if you have a child who is due to start so we can anticipate sibling numbers!



Energy Saving and Recycling

You may remember that we began an energy saving project last year aimed at keeping our future energy bills as low as possible. It was good to learn recently that we have reduced our energy use this year by 9%. Well done to all the children who are remembering to shut doors, turn off lights and seek to reduce the school energy use.

We have also started to recycle our food waste and some families filled in questionnaires in connection with this. Sarah George, one of the Recycling team, wanted me to thank you for your support with the project and also mentioned that...

'We selected one of the questionnaires at random to win a £5 book token and the winner is Evie Humphries in Y5.

Sarah will post the gift token to the school shortly.



Italian Theme Day



On **Thursday 15th January** we will be having an Italian themed day with an assembly and Italian meal available.

Children are invited to wear Italian mufti i.e. something green, white or red

The school meal will be: Organic Italian meatballs in a tomato sauce served with pasta with a Vegetarian option of Roasted Mediterranean vegetable lasagne. These will be followed by ice cream. The school benefits if a lot of children have a meal as the census affects our school dinner funding.

Bird Boxing Day

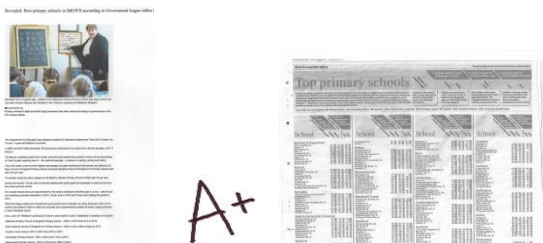


It is always interesting to hear about children's adventures during the holiday. The local birds will be grateful to Isobel Berry and her brother Mateus. Isobel was keen to make a bird house and got busy with hammer and nails! Mateus helped with the painting.



It will be interesting to see if the box is inhabited in time for the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch on 24th and 25th January and we will be doing our bit. Tania Orgill will be working this term with some children to help record birds in our patch. Luka Porter in Class Five spotted a Sparrow hawk in the field this week, and we have frequent visits from other birds of prey who are interested in the wild rabbits that live near our field.

Success at School



It is always good to read in the media about the high achievement of children at this school...and all schools! We are determined that everyone do well, and greatly value your support with this.

It is a genuine partnership and all of the reminders below are about the background support that will lead to your child being successful at school and hopefully in life.



Reading together with a child is the surest way to help them succeed at school!

Please try to ensure that your KS1 child shares a reading book with you every day. Enjoying and discussing stories builds confidence and skill.

Regular reading aloud is beneficial for KS2 children as well! Once children are independent and fluent readers the emphasis needs to be on discussing plot, motivation, character and developing the skill of reading between the lines.

Changing to term time bedtimes. Please help your child/children make the adjustment to term time bedtimes. The majority of children in the school need at least 10 hours sleep at night, with the oldest needing 9 or more. Avoiding TV and screens in the build up to bed time is really important.

Punctuality helps children succeed in their learning. All children should be settled in class by 8.50 a.m. This does mean that children need to be walking into school by 8.45 a.m. **at the latest** in order to be ready on time. Once we reach 8.50 a.m. we want lessons to start in earnest and one late arrival can affect everyone's learning.

Please adjust morning routines if traffic is causing late arrival.

Holidays in term-time

A reminder that Head teachers can no longer authorise holidays in term time except in genuinely exceptional circumstances.

Request for holidays will not automatically or necessarily be agreed unless the circumstances are genuinely exceptional.

We ask that parents help support the school by following these guidelines.



Uniform

A reminder that **all** children should wear school uniform and that **uniform and P.E. kit must be clearly labelled.**

Unnamed lost property will be displayed outside school for a period next week and then disposed of or recycled.



The children spend a good chunk of the school day outdoors. It's cold and often wet this term so children need coats every day (whatever they may say!)

- Trousers should be tailored
- Socks dark or grey without patterns or pictures
- Long hair should be tied back for safety reasons
- Studs are fine but 'dangly' earrings including hoops are not safe in school
- No nail varnish or temporary tattoos in term time please

Car Parking

We encourage children to walk to school where possible even if this is only from The George.

It is particularly important that cars are not double parked, turned or reversed outside the school.

The yellow zigzag lines outside the school are a no parking zone and should not be parked on under any circumstances.

Staff Parking Space



A notice for parents using the Breakfast Club

We would be really grateful if the staff car parking space at the front is left free for teacher use. Thank you.

School Office



Contact numbers

Could you please make sure we have your up to date contact numbers - preferably more than one - in case of sickness or emergencies in school time.

This is especially important in the winter when there is the likelihood of severe weather and we need to be able to contact you easily.

Most parents are superb at doing this but it's easy to forget.

Illness

If your child is unwell please call in before 9 o'clock on the first morning so we know that the child is safe and also the reason for their absence.

A reminder that vomiting and diarrhea must be followed by 48 hours at home to avoid contagion.



Water bottles are essential in school to keep children hydrated. Some children don't have them and end up sharing beakers and plastic cups. We sell them in the school office for £1.50.

Diary Dates

Please transfer these dates to your lovely new 2015 diaries and calendars! This especially applies to INSET Days. We rely on parents doing this in order to be prepared for what is coming up!

January 2015

Monday 6th Start of Term 3

Tuesday 13th Photography Club starts in Discovery Room

Wednesday 14th Class Five Dance Workshop

Thursday 15th Italian Lunch and mufti (Census Day)

Tuesday 20th Author Vicky Edwards Workshops

Wednesday 21st School Nurse Hand Washing Reception & Class One

Friday 23rd Class Three Assembly 9.15 a.m.
& Textile Club starts in Hall after school

Tuesday 27th Visit from Chair of Council, Martin Veal

& Orchestral Day @ Monkton Prep School

February

Tuesday 3rd 5 a side @ Bath Leisure Centre

Tuesday 10th Clare Harwood (American Student) first visit to Class Three

Friday 13th End of Term 3

Monday 23rd Start of Term 4

& Parent/ teacher interview fortnight

Tuesday 24th Class Six to BBC10 Pieces @ Bath Abbey

Wednesday 25th Class One to No 1 Royal Crescent

March

Monday 2nd Three trainee teachers from University of Vic, Catalonia start three week visit

Friday 13th Friends' Quiz Night

Please put the date in your diary and book babysitters! Should be fun!

Thursday 19th Dance Umbrella Evening @ Forum

Thursday 26th Reception and KS1 classes have 'Perform' Drama Workshops

Easter Hat Competition/ Cakes after school

Friday 27th End of Term 4

April

Tuesday 13th Start of Term 5

Wednesday 15th Class Two to Farleigh Hungerford Castle

May

Monday 4th May Day. No School

Monday 11th KS2 SATs Week. **Y6 Children must be in school**

Friday 22nd End of Term 5

Friday 29th INSET Day 5

June

Monday 1st Children start Term 6

Thursday 18th Class Five Charterhouse

Residential (back Friday 19th) *More information later*

July

Saturday 4th Summer Fair

Monday 6th French Pen pals Visit

Tuesday 7th Meet French Pen pals @ The George after school

Friday 17th End of Term 6 for children



September

Tuesday 1st & Wednesday 2nd INSET Days

Thursday 3rd Children start school