

Thursday 6th October 2016 Number 3 Term 1



Nurture, Inspire, Achieve

Dear Parents/Carers

IMPORTANT NOTICE-Please read the change of INSET dates on the term dates below. The INSET day will now be **Thursday 4th May** and the school will be open on 5th June 2017 instead. Please change the dates on your calendars!



REMEMBER Staff run Clubs, e.g. for Y2 and KS2 please note that there will be no staff run clubs on 13th and 18th October because teachers will be holding Parents' Evenings! The same will be true for KS2 staff run clubs on 15th and 16th November.

Mayoral Visit

We are looking forward to a visit by the Mayor on 7th October. Due to his tight schedule he will only have time to look round the junior site. We hope the children will come up with some interesting questions to ask him whilst he is here!



WAS YOUR CHILD BORN BETWEEN 1st SEPTEMBER 2012 AND 31st AUGUST 2013?

If they were, you need to be putting your child's name down at the school you wish them to attend in September 2017. If you know of friends with nursery age children please check they have applied online to the local authority. Even if you have older children at this school you must still apply for a reception place using the online Bristol form at www.bristol.gov.uk/schooladmissions by midnight on 15th January 2017. Offer letters will be sent out on 18th April 2017.

Sweets and birthdays

We are a healthy eating school and we do NOT allow sweets in school. This includes for birthday treats as well. We prefer it if parents do not send birthday cakes or sweets at all on children's birthdays but keep these to have at home. If you really feel you must bring something then please send BISCUITS only. Don't be surprised if sweets are handed back to you.



Harvest Festival 19th October

We will be collecting food for the Easton food bank for Harvest this year. If you would like to send a donation we are collecting the following items:

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| * Long life fruit juice | * Biscuits |
| * Tinned soup | * Rice |
| * Tinned fruit | * Tinned rice pudding |
| * Long life milk | * Sugar |
| * Custard | * Toiletries |

Please don't send any donations until Monday 17th October as we don't have much storage space in school. Thank you.



The Bristol Post usually come early to take a photo of new reception children so please make sure you have filled in your slip saying whether you give permission or not for your child to appear in the paper. Pupils are not normally named on this occasion.

dates to Remember

Repeat of the **New Reception Parent/Carer Curriculum Meeting** for those who missed the meeting. 10th October at 3.20pm

Reception READING Meeting 12th Oct, 3.30pm
Reception and KS1 Parents' Evenings 13/18th October -details below

KS2 Parents' Evenings 15th November 3.30-6pm and 16th November 4.30-7pm. Details to follow.

Y4 Camp Meeting –repeated meeting- 12th October 3.30pm and 5pm in Falcon

Y1 and Y2 Friends' Lego evening- 10th October 3.30pm.

Y6 secondary school transfer meeting on 6th October TODAY at 3.30pm in Salamander Class.

KS2 Reading Meeting at the juniors- 20th October 6pm.

Boys' football-17th October at St Ursula's.

Girls' football-30th November at Oasis Brislington

Y3/4 Mixed football- 9th November

School Open Day 10th November- details to follow.



Friends' Events:

AGM 13th October 9am in the junior library- calling all parents in both KS1 and KS2 (infant and junior sites). We always need new members to keep joining the Friends' Group and get involved in organising social and fund raising events. We will be looking for new people to help by taking up positions in the group to ensure it runs smoothly. Support is always on hand. Meetings are held during and after school on the infant and junior sites and pre-schoolers are welcome.



School Swim team News.

The first Percy Smith Swimming Gala of the year will be at 7.30pm on 12th October. The children are extremely busy preparing for this.

Term Dates 2016-2017

Changes in red.



Term 1

Friday 2nd Sept 2016 to

Friday 21st October 2016 inclusive

Term 2

(Monday 31st October closed for INSET)

Tues 1st November to Friday 16th December

Term 3

Tues 3rd January 2017 to Thurs 9th February 2017

(Friday 10th school closed for INSET)

Term 4

Mon 20th February 2017 to Friday 7th April 2017

Term 5

Mon 24th April 2017 to Friday 26th May 2017

(Thursday 4th May is now an INSET day as the school will be closed for polling).

Term 6

Monday 5th June 2017 to Thursday 20th July 2017

(Note: Monday 5th June the school is now open NOT an INSET day)

(Friday 21st July closed- INSET)



Reminder- 'Holidays in term time are not normally authorised.'

'Penalty Notices (fines) may be used where absence is unauthorised,' Education Welfare Service.

Several fines were issued last year for unauthorised holidays. Holidays need to be taken in school holidays not during term time. Please follow the school policy on the website and make sure you fill in a leave of absence form.

If you have an exceptional reason for needing to take your child out of school during term time you will need to fill in a leave of absence form from the office stating the exceptional reason e.g. to see a terminally ill grandparent or attend a close relative's wedding. These will be kept as evidence should a penalty notice or court case ensue.

Please note requests for taking children out of school for exceptional reasons must be made in advance of taking children out. Leave of absence cannot be authorised after you return and therefore will be marked as unauthorised. 4 days (8 half days) of unauthorised absences can mean a penalty notice (fine) is issued. Currently this is £60 per child, per adult. For example 2 parents taking 2 children could mean a fine of £240.

Improvements to the school

Infant Site

Continuing with the building works to the school you may have noticed the brand new floor in the infant hall. To keep it looking nice please don't take buggies into the hall. Thank you to those parents who have always been thoughtful about this in the past and parked buggies outside in the corridor.

The infant site has also had new boys' and girls' toilets put in over the summer.

Junior Site

On the junior site we are delighted with the improvements we have been able to make for our pre-school children by remodelling the old music room and making a super space, including a new external door for better access to outdoor play.

This has been part of our on-going plan to improve a part of the premises that many parents (and staff!) never knew existed i.e. the old, nearly derelict annex which was used by the LA many years ago to store records and then to house pupils from the secondary school. It fell into disrepair when it was abandoned in the 1980s as no-one had the funds to keep it up.

Governors, the school business manager, Mrs Buckley and caretakers have worked tirelessly since I came to the junior site to work our way round the whole junior building moving things around so we could finally reach the annex and start to improve that space. This summer we were excited to be able to get in to start work on the annex for the first time with new toilets being put in before the space was rented to the after school club, Oasis. We are now getting quotes to put in a new kitchen and eventually we will be able to decorate and rent the space out as this is how we plan to raise money to be able to make improvements to the upstairs of this building which will be the next phase of development.

I know there is still a long way to go and that there is much work to do in the annex but thank you for bearing with us and thank you to the parents who have been commenting on how lovely all the improvements have been. After years and years of neglect I feel we are starting to get the primary school your children deserve.



Class Assemblies:

Junior Site

Tuesday 11th October 2.45pm Tawny Owl - Middle Hall

Tuesday 11th October 2.45pm Springbok - Upper Hall



Please note class assemblies are NOT suitable for pre-schoolers as we want the children performing to be heard. We do run a crèche with school staff and are always on the lookout for volunteers to help in crèche. Thanks.



EYFS and KS1 Parents' Evenings are on the 13th October 3.30-6.30pm and 18th October 3.30-5.30pm. Lists go up on classroom doors for you to write children's names on for appointments. (Please use children's names rather than parent names so teachers know which books to get ready). These are short 5-10 minute appointments so please be prepared to leave promptly. If you need additional time to discuss any further issues please arrange to meet teachers on another evening after school. These meetings are not suitable for children and there are no crèche facilities. Thank you.

KS2 Parents' Evenings 15th November 3.30-6pm and 16th November 4.30-7pm. Details to follow.

Senco Meetings: Mrs Cole or Ms Phillips will be available to talk to parents about their children's progress, if they have special needs. For KS1 Ms Phillips will be available at the infant site on 18th October from 3.30 – 5.00pm and for KS2 Mrs Cole will be available at the junior site on 16th November from 3.30 – 5.30pm. To pick a 10 minute slot please call the office when you have your appointment time for parents' evening.





Parking Reminder!

Please don't park on the zig zags outside either site. They are there to try and keep children safe. Some parents are endangering lives by parking on the zig zags.

Please find a safe place to park away from the busy entrances. Thank you.

Are you a top tangerine or a mouldy

mango? Our school target for attendance is 95%. The best class attendance on the KS2 site for the week beginning 19th September was Firecrest class with 99.3% and for the week beginning 26th September it was Tree Frog Class with 100%, both of whom won themselves a large bowl of fruit for this achievement!

Please remember to arrive on time for school every day. The playground gates are open at 8:40am.

Miss School, Miss Out!



Please note the school tries to pass on information it considers may be helpful or of interest to parents in this newsletter. We do not necessarily endorse or check the security and safety of the services on offer. Parents need to satisfy themselves that they are happy to leave their children at any of the clubs and services advertised which are not based on the Holymead School sites. Holymead School carries out DBS checks on clubs who have hire agreements with this school.



Please remember that we are now a cashless school and most payments from parents/carers will be requested to be paid online via the ParentMail payment option.

This facility is still in the process of being embedded and dinner records in particular are still being updated. The administration is nearly completed and you will be advised when all balances are showing correctly.

If you are still having issues in accessing the online payment facility, please to speak to Mrs Holland, our school Bursar. Thank you.

Rights Respecting Schools Article 13: Children have the right to get and to share information

Yours sincerely
Ms Kate Slatcher



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