

Thursday 8th September 2016. Number 1, Term 1

WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back everyone. I hope you all had a lovely holiday. It's great to see everyone looking refreshed as they return after the summer break.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to all our new parents and carers who have joined us this year. We hope you and your children have a happy time here. If you are having 'teething' problems bringing your child into school (and this includes older children moving up) please remember it is perfectly natural for some children to cry and say they don't want to come to school. Rest assured you are not alone! Keep cheerful and positive and say a firm good bye to your child as you leave them. Try not to worry unduly but do talk to the class teacher or myself if you have ongoing concerns.

New Reception Parent/Carer Curriculum Meeting 27th September. We will be holding a curriculum meeting at 6.30pm in YR classrooms for parents/carers to come and find out more about what your children will be learning this year in school. **This meeting is not suitable for children so please do not bring them to school during the evening as there is no crèche.** 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.

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. Thank you.



Nurture, Inspire, Achieve



Times of the School Day – the school buildings open at 8.50am for the children to be registered at **9am**. Infant children should be handed over at the OUTSIDE classroom door from parents to teachers. Junior children may be left in the junior playground when a member of staff is on duty i.e. at 8.40am. Home time is **3.10pm for infants and 3.20pm for juniors**. The school office is open from 8.40am if you need to call in. **Please do not wait inside the buildings before or after school unless you are queuing for the office.**

What's Happening

Forthcoming events:

Y2 Reading Meeting on 22nd September for parents at 3.20pm in Tamarin. Please book a crèche place at the infant office.

Y1 Phonics Meeting 28th September at 3.20pm. Please book a crèche place at the infant office.

School Open Day 10th November- details to follow.

New Staff: We welcome Miss Harris in Tamarin with Mr McSmythurs, Miss L Phillips in Tiger and Mr Stolarczyk who will be working throughout the school. We would also like to welcome Miss Yateman who has joined the staff as a school meals supervisor assistant. We are always on the lookout for new dinner supervisors so if you are interested in this role please call Mrs Buckley for an informal chat.



School Uniform. We have moved to all uniform being ordered online. We stock different sizes of sweat shirts etc so you can try on a sample to get the right size before ordering. If you don't have internet access our office staff are happy to help you with ordering uniform.

Polo Shirts: These can either be plain white or dark purple in colour.

Shoes: Children need to have BLACK SCHOOL SHOES for school. NO TRAINERS! Thank you.

PLEASE NOTE JEANS AND **HOODED PURPLE TOPS** ARE NOT SCHOOL UNIFORM AND MUST NOT BE WORN IN SCHOOL.

PE kit: is a purple tee-shirt and black shorts in a purple dap bag. Black or white tee shirts and shorts are an acceptable alternative but no club football kits etc. ALL UNIFORM, INCLUDING PE KITS MUST BE LABELLED CLEARLY.

Back Packs are not allowed on the infant site as space is very limited.

Pencil Cases: just a reminder that pupils are NOT allowed to bring pencils and pencil cases to school. The only exception to this is in Y6 where pupils are getting ready for using their own pencil cases and equipment in secondary school.

Spellings and Tables.

All children will be tested on their spellings this term.



If, for whatever reason, your child hasn't got their spelling list in their book bag there are spelling lists on the school website. Please make sure your child practises their year group spellings. If they struggle then limit your child to one or two boxes to go over and over. If they know them all then your child can learn the next year's list.



Times tables are also on the website for children to practise and learn off by heart. Keep returning to the lists regularly and testing your child. I can't emphasise enough the difference knowing your times tables makes. It is those children who have learnt them that speed through their maths work in class.

Term Dates

Term Dates 2016-2017 School will close for all BANK Holidays as normal.

Term 1

(Thurs 1st Sept closed for INSET). **Friday 2nd Sept 2016 KS1 and KS2 start. Monday 5th Sept 2016 new Reception start**

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

Term 6

Tuesday 6th June 2017 to Thursday 20th July 2017

(Monday 5th June and 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 eg 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.



Swimming:

The Percy Smith Swimming Gala will be at 7.30pm on 12th October.

Rules and Safety

As the new school year starts I would like to inform parents about some of the rules around school.



Bikes and scooters and any other wheeled transport may not be ridden in the school grounds. We have found it is too dangerous to allow children of any age to use wheeled transport round school. Scooters must be taken home, not left in school, as we do not have the capacity to store them. Children in Upper KS2 (Y5 and 6) may park bikes in the bike sheds if parents fill in the cycling to school agreement. Bikes are left at their owner's risk.

Climbing Equipment is not for use by children before or after school hours on either site.

Dogs are not allowed on the school premises at all. Even if you know they are gentle pets a small child can still find them threatening.

The white lines on the infant site are painted round the playground to keep your children safe. Please remind your children they are not allowed to go up the grass banks or the new path or the concrete slopes before or after school. This includes pre-schoolers as playing in these areas can be dangerous.

Drains and drain covers - There are many drains and drain covers around school which mean there are many holes so please be careful if you wear stilettos or narrow heeled footwear as narrow heels can go through the holes.

Toys, games, pencil cases, mobile phone phones etc are not allowed in school as they can cause arguments and lead to problems.



Friends' Events:

Coffee morning 23rd September- for all parent/carers to particularly welcome new parent/carers to school. After drop off in the infant hall. YR to Y6 parents are welcome to come and have coffee and chat. Pre-schoolers are welcome to come and play. (All donations to MacMillan Cancer Support).

Friends' Meeting 9th September after drop off. New members always welcome.

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.

KS2 Fruit time

KS2 pupils are allowed to bring fresh fruit for break time. We have had problems with children going in and out of the building to get fruit (and other snacks) from their lunch boxes, when they should be outside in the playground so from now on fruit for break time must be brought directly into the classroom and not left in lunchboxes.

As there is also a problem with litter, children are only allowed to bring FRESH FRUIT for break time (preferably with no packaging) so waste can be dropped in the food bins.

Children may continue to have any other sort of fruit or veg in their lunch box but can only eat it in the dinner hall where rubbish can be cleared away. Thank you.

KS1 continue to have free fruit provided by the government.



ParentMail: Please can we remind parents/carers that everyone should have now re-registered onto the new ParentMail platform (which has been recently updated by parentMail). This will allow the school to send out school news electronically (via email) and will also allow for the majority of payments to the school to be made online and allow us to be as cashless as possible. Thank you for your patience whilst we embed the new process.



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.



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.

Spanish Club News:

Spanish after school clubs at both sites are now fully booked.

If anyone would like to be on put the waiting list they can contact Mrs White

At spanishclub.bristol@gmail.com. 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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