

Dear Parents/Carers

IMPORTANT NOTICE-Please read the Change of INSET dates on the term Dates below. The INSET day will now

Important

Be **Thursday 4th May** and the school will be open on 5th June 2017 instead. Please change the dates on your calendars!

We are often asked how parents can support their children so we have set up a lot of meetings to help you help your child. Please see the list below.

Another way you can help is through homework. Homework is set to reinforce work done in class and for children to be able to practise their skills. It also gives parents an idea of the sort of level their child is working at and what is expected of them in class. It is early days for teachers to know how much homework to set individuals but if you find after a couple of weeks that your child is still struggling or equally flying through their homework then please contact your teacher to discuss a way forward together. We want homework to be helpful to your child's progress and not to be too onerous that they get upset about it. Please see your teacher if you have concerns.



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**. **Please do not wait inside the buildings before or after school unless you are queuing for the office.**

Next Gen Photographers will Be in school on the following Dates:

4th October- individuals and Siblings on the junior site.

5th October- family, siblings

And individuals on the infant site

If you want a **FAMILY** group photo with ANY age children including across both sites and pre-schoolers bring them on 5th October to the infant site at 8.30am.

Siblings who are currently on the **same site** as each other will automatically be photographed together so do not need to come to the family session.

Please let teachers know the day before that you may be late for registration if you're having family photos done.



New Secondary School



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.

Vacancies

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.



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.



Forthcoming events:

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.

New Reception Reading Meeting 12th Oct, 3.30pm

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

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

KS1 Parents' Evenings 13/18th October -details to follow

Y4 Camp Meeting 29th October 3.20pm in Falcon

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

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

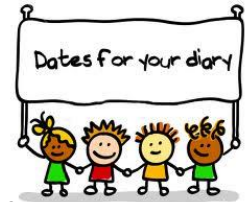
School Open Day 10th November- details to follow.

Spellings and Tables

We have noticed a huge improvement in children's spellings and times tables with lots of parents/carers helping their children to practise these at home. Several parents have asked if there are other things their children can do when they are fluent in recalling tables AND the related division facts. Mr McSmythurs is putting together some suggestions on our website. It would really help if parents could check their children's ability to recall facts about measurements e.g. how many grams in a kilogramme, millilitres in a litres, cm in a metre etc. A table of facts will be available for upper key stage pupils shortly. For younger children knowing which units of measurement to use is key e.g. what would you use to measure a carpet...centimetres or metres; what would you use to measure flour...grams or kilogrammes. Don't use inches and ounces even I didn't learn that at school and I'm older than most of you!! (Ms Slatcher)

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/Highways Agency 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.



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.

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.



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.



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.



Are you an outstanding orange or a rotten radish?!

Our school target for attendance is 95%. The best class attendance on the KS2 site for last week was Tree Frog Class with 99.2% attendance and they 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!

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

Yours sincerely
Ms Kate Slatcher



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