



«Learning together, aiming high»

Kington St Michael CE Primary School

NEWSLETTER

September 2017

IN THIS NEWSLETTER

School Focus	School Dinners	Reception Open Morning	Reception Information Meeting	
Photographs	Victorian Costumes	Parent Workshop	Citizenship Awards	Children's Parliament
Behaviour Policy	Houses	Bus Prefects	Harvest	School Admissions
Parent/Teacher Consultations	School Council	Worship Council	Tuck Shop	Breakfast Club
Parent Helpers	Governor News	Wall of Fame	50/50 Club	Congratulations
Supersonic Superstars	Parking	Assembly Visitors and Theme	Diary Dates	

Welcome back to the new academic year. I hope you had an enjoyable summer and managed to find some sunshine somewhere! I would particularly like to welcome our new families to KSM. Our new children are settling in very well. The children have all settled back in to the routine of school very quickly and are already working hard and enthusiastically.

School Focus

Each year, following our monitoring and evaluation, we devise a School Development Plan which outlines the areas in which the school is trying to improve further. This document can be found on our website.

Each year, we focus on two particular curriculum subjects. This follows a rotation so as to ensure all subjects have a turn. All subjects are covered during the year but, by having two as a focus (not including English and Maths), we can plan special events, activity weeks, etc. based around these subjects. Our main focus subject areas across the school this year will be Languages and PSHCE (personal, social, health and citizenship). Our Fair Trade Fortnight in Term 3 and work towards our International School Award will support this.

Having almost completed the mound - now the amphitheatre - and the pond, we shall be further developing our outdoor learning, problem solving and team building activities.

We continue to support other schools, colleagues and students as a National Support School. We shall also continue to try to make every piece of work we do the best we can make it - "Only my Best is Good Enough". Our Wall of Fame and Supersonic Superstars will continue to reward those children trying really hard with this in all areas of the curriculum.

Children will continue to develop their skills in learning through our Building Learning Power strategy. The skills of resilience, resourcefulness, reciprocity, risk taking and reflectiveness are all developed and encouraged. More information on this strategy can be found on our website.

You will all have received class newsletters and topic webs. We hope that you will find these useful to see what areas of the curriculum your child will be studying this term. These can also be found on our website.

School Dinners

Our school dinner provision continues to be very popular and the children are really enjoying the food. The quality of the food and portion size is very good. If we could urge you to continue to develop their skills in the use of a knife and fork as this would help them to enjoy the lunchtime experience more.

Please remember to order 3 weeks in advance and that both hot meals and packed lunches are available. Menus are sent out by email and will be on our website. Please note that ALL need to order - even if your child has a free dinner (Reception, Year 1 and Year 2) - as we need to know what they would like. Elinor are unable to refund monies already paid if your child is off school on a day that you have ordered a meal. This is due to food being bought in response to orders made.

Reception Open Morning

This will take place on Wednesday 11th October and is for parents of children starting school in September 2017. Our Reception classroom will be welcoming visitors from 9.30am to 11.30am.

Reception Information Meeting

Mrs Wells and Mrs Cavey will be leading a meeting for parents of Reception children from 3pm on Thursday 21st September. This will be to explain procedures, share information and answer any questions you may have.

Photographs

The school photographer will be in school on Tuesday 3rd October to take individual and sibling group photographs. These will be done during school time but there will also be an opportunity for preschool/older children to have their photograph taken in a group with brothers or sisters in this school. If you would like this for your children, the photographer will take these in the Hall from 8.30am to 9am.

Photographs are back in plenty of time for Christmas presents!

Victorian Costumes

Four classes have visited the Victorian school at Sevington this week as an introduction to their topic. Many thanks to parents for supporting this by creating Victorian costumes for the children. Please keep these as the children will need them again for our Christmas church service and Victorian Christmas banquet.

Parent Workshop

We shall be running another of our popular information workshops for parents on Wednesday 22nd November from 5.30pm to 6.30pm. Our focus will be on Maths and how this is taught in school. We shall be leading two sessions - one for Reception and KS1 parents and one for KS2 parents. Information regarding how certain maths concepts and operations are taught will be shared. We shall also be sharing resources that may help and pointing you towards things on our website.

In order to encourage as many parents as possible to this event, we shall be running our Bedtime Stories at the same time for your children.

Citizenship Awards

Next week, all children from Year 1 to Year 6 will have a Citizenship booklet in their bookbag. The aim of the citizenship award is to encourage children to become responsible, informed, active members of their local community and the wider world. The citizenship award is structured in three levels; Bronze, Silver and Gold. Each of these levels develops skills across six key areas of citizenship. The booklet contains a range of activities, vital skills and knowledge regarding democracy, health and wellbeing, global citizenship, economic wellbeing, local community and manners. To achieve successes, your child will need to develop these skills within the home, school and local groups which are part of their everyday lives. Some activities are covered in school but many can be done at home. Please keep the booklet in bookbags so that teachers are able to sign off achieved skills.

Certificates and badges will be awarded in assembly when completed.

Children's Parliament

Ben Clulo and Kitty Sidaway and have been chosen to represent our school at the Chippenham Children's Parliament meetings this year. They will be working with children from the Chippenham town and village schools, meeting members of the Council and the Mayor and working to improve targeted issues for young people in Chippenham.

Digital Leaders

Next week, children will be invited to apply for a role as a Digital Leader in our school. Digital Leaders are confident, reliable children with good communication and a passion for technology, who want to share their knowledge with others and promote the use of all things digital throughout the school. Being a Digital Leader is a fantastic opportunity to take on responsibility and demonstrate leadership skills. They will have responsibility for equipment, helping in classes and coaching.

Along with an application, children will be asked to complete a challenge and then, if successful, will be invited to a short interview. We shall be appointing 4 Digital Leaders (two from Kingfishers and two from Hawks) in the first instance. We shall hope to be able to expand this initiative in the future.

Further information and an application form will be sent out with the children on Monday. Applications should be in by Monday 18th September. Interviews will be held during that week and our new Digital Leaders announced in assembly on Friday 22nd September.

Behaviour Policy

Staff are ensuring that our behaviour policy is used consistently throughout the school and class sessions and assemblies are focusing on behaviour at this time of the school year so that all pupils are aware of expectations, rewards and sanctions.

In order to make our behaviour policy and strategies most effective, we need your support as parents. Please make sure that you are familiar with our policy (to be found on our website).

We expect children to behave appropriately at all times in school. This includes the time when they are collected from school and allowed to play in the school grounds. Please ensure that your children are supervised, respect school property and behave appropriately. Any children seen to be not following our behaviour policy will be asked to leave the school grounds.

Please remember that the school grounds should be vacated by 3.20pm, unless children are at after school activities. If an after school club is taking place on the playground or field, please do not allow your children to disturb this. Children are expected to leave school immediately at 4pm, once clubs are finished.

Children should not be playing anywhere in the school grounds before school. If children are in school before 8.40am (when the doors are opened) they must be supervised and standing sensibly. This should not be a playtime, please.

School Houses

Our House system continues to be very popular with the children and they are very keen to earn House Points for their team.

Congratulations to our new House Captains - Flo Hayes and Alfie Bull (Vikings), Oliver Tobin, Kitty Sidaway and Ben Galeozzie (Saxons), George Kirby and Mia Shorland (Tudors), Seth Langford-Lempriere and Sophie Buck (Romans). Most children are wearing their House colour t-shirt for PE and this is really good for team games. If your child does not have a coloured t-shirt for PE, it would be much appreciated if you could provide one. These are available at Scholars with the House logo.

Bus Prefects

In order to promote good behaviour on the bus, Elysia Durrant and Emma Holtby will be our Bus Prefects this year. They are excellent role models and encourage sensible behaviour. They will also ensure that any young children are cared for. Any unacceptable behaviour (silliness, bad language, bullying) will be reported to me and parents contacted immediately. We use a 'three strikes and you're out' policy for the bus. If a parent has had to be contacted three times in a year, that child will not be permitted to use the bus.

May we also remind you that children using the school bus must wear their bus bands so that we know if they are to be put on the bus or not.

Harvest

We shall be celebrating harvest in church on Friday 29th September at 1.30pm. Parents are encouraged to join us. We shall also be doing a collection for the Doorway Homeless Charity in Chippenham, run by the Salvation Army. We have contacted the charity and asked them what they really need:

Tins of baked beans
Tinned tomatoes - chopped
Tins of puddings (fruit cocktail, rice pudding, etc.)
Tins of vegetables (carrots, peas, etc.)
Tins of meat products (chilli con carne, ham, corned beef)
Small bags of pasta or rice
Individual or large boxes of cereals
Tea, coffee, sugar
Squash
Tinned dog food
Ketchup / brown sauce
Biscuits (individually wrapped multipacks such as Penguins)

If you are able to donate any of the above, please bring it in to school from Monday 25th September, where we shall be making a collection. Thank you.

School Admissions

Please remember that forms need to be completed and sent to County by 31st October (Secondary) and 15th January (Primary) to ensure a place.

Parent/Teacher Consultations

The teachers will be completing detailed assessments with all the children in order to ensure accurate and realistic individual targets are set and future learning needs are carefully planned for. These will be shared with you at our Parent/Teacher consultations meetings on Tuesday 31st October (3-6pm) and Thursday 2nd November (3-6pm). We hope that all parents will be able to attend these meetings, so as to find out how your child is settling in to their new year group and how you can support their progress at home.

Sign-up sheets for appointment times will be put up outside classrooms from Monday 16th October. If you are unable to come in to school to sign up, please contact the office and we will organise a convenient time for you.

Tuck Shop

Remember that all Key Stage 2 children (Year 3, 4, 5 and 6) may bring money in to spend at our Healthy Tuck Shop. A range of snacks are available such as fruit juices, raisins and health bars. All items are 25p. KS2 children may also bring a piece of fruit in as a snack. Reception and Key Stage 1 are provided with a piece of fruit every morning. No other snacks from home should be sent in.

Breakfast Club

This is now up and running on a daily basis from 8am. Please contact Mrs Meehan 07425 412140 if you require a place.

School Council

The School Council enables children to take responsibility for themselves and others and gives the children 'a voice'. It encourages them to make a positive contribution to our school, its environment and ethos. The Council promotes a sense of community within school and is used to support and develop citizenship and democracy. It encourages teamwork and helps to improve speaking and listening skills. It encourages resilience, reciprocity, reflection and resourcefulness and allows us to hear the ideas of the children to make our school an even better place.

Congratulations to our Councillors for Term 1 and 2:

Tia Harris, Georgia Ives, Maxi Tregaskis, Amelie Taylor-Fall, Angel Metcalfe, Jefferson Lamming, Rhiannon Seager and Joseph Pym.

Worship Council

In the same way our School Council operates, the Worship Council enables the children to help to shape and improve our acts of worship in school. As a Church of England School we hope that all children will appreciate and enjoy our activities, events and displays.

Our Worship Councillors are:

Ben Galeozzie, Kitty Sidaway, Harriet Whiting, Daniel Harris, Callum Dennis, Edward Vickery, Olivia Eddy and Imogen Croffie.

Parent Helpers

We really appreciate the support we receive from parents, grandparents and members of the community. The children love to share their reading, computer work, art work and other achievements with our visitors.

If you would like to offer any of your time to us (either regularly or on more of an ad hoc basis), please fill in the Parent Helper Information Form at the office.

Governor News

The governors will be continuing their input to our newsletters and will keep you informed of work they are doing for the school. Governors are often around school or on the playground at the end of the day and are always happy to have a chat.

Congratulations

Very well done to Mia Shorland who has passed her Grade 1 tap exam with Distinction.

Supersonic Superstars

Well done to the following children who have impressed their teachers, so soon in the new school year:

Sparrows - Charlie Burnham and Elladine Wicks

Eagles - Emily Rogers and Sebastian Birch

Kingfishers - Daniel Harris and Phoenix Rice-Chandler

Hawks - Zachary Powell and Ben Clulo

(Blackbirds will begin this in Term 2)

Wall of Fame

The children remain very keen to feature in our Wall of Fame display in the main entrance. They are all working hard to produce their best work at all times and concentrate on the presentation of every piece of work.

Beautiful work in the Hall of Fame this month comes from:

Sparrows - Joshua Crump

Eagles - Sebastian Birch

Kingfishers - Alice Bennett

Hawks - Harry Maxwell

(Blackbirds will begin this in Term 2)

Parking

May we remind parents to be considerate to the safety of the children and to other road users and residents by remembering the following:

Please do not park across driveways or the turning area in The Ridings

Please do not park in the school car park before the school bus has arrived (approximately 8.50am)

Please do not park in the bus stop area at the end of the school day

Please do not double park in the school car park

Please do not park in the staff parking area at any time

Please do not park around the school car park roundabout

If we are all vigilant and remember that children are always around the parking areas, we will stay safe.

We have had several complaints from village residents this term who have asked us to request "that all drivers are respectful of the residents when driving through the village".

FOSMAA

A big thank you from FOSMAA to everyone who came along and supported the Teddy Parachuting event on the 10th September. Despite the rain we had lots of brave teddies and raised £410.00.

Assembly Visitors

We have a member of the Clergy to lead assembly each week – usually on a Wednesday. If you would like to attend any of these, please feel free to do so. Assembly takes place from 12.40pm to 1pm.

4th October – Rev Gubbins

11th October – Trevor Ranger

18th October – Jonathan Brain

8th November – Trevor Ranger

15th November – Jonathan Brain

22nd November – Rev Gubbins

29th November – Jonathan Brain

6th December – Trevor Ranger

Assembly Theme

Each term we focus on a different Christian Value. We discuss the meaning, use and benefits of the Value in assemblies and circle time and encourage its use around school. We look at what the word means, different words meaning the same and why it is important in our lives. Value Certificates are awarded to those who have demonstrated that particular value well.

Parents may find it useful to know which Value we are focusing on each term, in order to discuss at home. Don't forget that you can find out more about this term's value by looking on our website. Follow the link 'Our School' on the Homepage menu and then visit the 'School Council and Worship Council' page. You will find a link called "Home – School Value".

Our Value for Term 1 is **Courage**

DIARY DATES

Thurs 21 st Sept	Information session for Reception parents (3pm)
Fri 22 nd Sept	Fire Safety Training for Year 6 and Year 2
Fri 29 th Sept	Harvest Church Service (1.30pm)
Tues 3 rd Oct	Individual Photographs
Mon 9 th Oct	Flu Vaccinations for Reception – Year 4
Mon 9 th Oct	Assessment Week
Wed 11 th Oct	Reception Open Morning
Fri 13 th Oct	Newsletter out
Wed 18 th Oct	End of Term 1

Mon 30th Oct

Tues 31 st Oct
Thurs 2 nd Nov
Thurs 9 th Nov
Mon 13 th Nov
Tues 21 st Nov
Wed 22 nd Nov
Mon 27 th Nov
Mon 4 th Dec
Tues 12 th Dec
Wed 13 th Dec
Thurs 14 th Dec
Mon 18 th Dec
Tues 19 th Dec

Wed 20th Dec

Start of Term 2

No Teacher led clubs this week

Parent / Teacher Consultations (3-6pm)
Parent / Teacher Consultations (3-6pm)
SEND Parent / Teacher Consultations
Anti-Bullying Week
Book Fayre until Mon 27 th
Parent Maths Workshop and Bedtime Stories
Nativity tickets available
Christmas post box out
Nativity Dress Rehearsal (10am)
Nativity Performance (1.30pm)
Nativity Performance (10am)
Victorian Banquet
Class Parties
Christmas Discos – Reception and KS1 (2.15 - 3pm) / KS2 (3-4pm)
Christmas Church Service (1.30pm)
End of Term 2