



St. Saviour's Church, Coalpit Heath.

The Manor C of E Primary School

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"Together we rise to the challenge"

Newsletter 1 – Wed 7th September 2011

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back to the start of another academic year. The holiday seemed to disappear so quickly! The teachers have been busy planning for their new classes and I hope that all the children have experienced a positive start. You should receive a class newsletter on Friday that will give more specific detail about what's in store for your child this term.

Towards the end of last year, two of our parents, Zoe Coleborn and Simon Pegler, worked together to help us update our school prospectus. They did a great job and governors are really pleased with the result, as I hope you will be. I have sent home one copy per family for your reference and for you to share with others; if you do not wish to receive this, please return it to school. You can also download the prospectus from our website.

Staying Safe ... on the road

The local residents are concerned about road safety near our school. They appreciate that sometimes people are in a rush but apparently there have been occasions when vehicles have stopped and doors flung open without regard for pedestrians or other road users. Please take care as the roads around the school are extremely busy, especially in the mornings.

The landlady at the Ring 'O Bells has kindly agreed that parents may use the pub car park when dropping children off in the morning and picking them up at the end of the day. You may also use the church car park and walk up the road from there. Please just be mindful that the church car park may be busy some afternoons if there is a special event taking place. Parking a short distance away helps to relieve congestion near the school and the daily routine of walking is excellent exercise for you and your children. Regrettably the school car park is for **staff cars only** and for safety reasons is off limits for parents, including those dropping pupils off early for Breakfast Club.

Another way of getting to school is to cycle. We are happy for children of all ages to do this, provided they are properly supervised. Children shouldn't cycle to school alone unless they have passed their cycling proficiency test (all pupils have the opportunity to do this in Year 5) and you are confident about their skills. Of course, cycle helmets must be worn; should there be an accident, wearing a helmet could save your child's life.

If you live close enough (and actually most people do!) please try to walk as often as possible.

Staying Safe ... coming and going

Lessons start promptly at 08.55 and all pupils should arrive in enough time to sort out bags, coats etc beforehand. Pupils who are not in the classroom when their name is called on the register will be marked late. In order to keep our school secure, the green gates are closed promptly at 08.55 and any children arriving after this time need to come in through the main entrance.

Your children are all capable of sorting out their own belongings in the mornings. They will not learn to be responsible for things unless they are given the opportunity, so by putting their PE bags on their pegs etc you are not actually 'helping' them at all! We are not expecting to see parents inside the building with their children in the mornings except for those whose children are in Red Class and then only while attendance is part-time.

Starting Monday 12th September, if you are meeting children in Red or Orange classes (YR or Y1) at 3.15 p.m., please wait in the FS/KS1 playground, standing well back from the building. The teachers will bring the children out to meet you. The green gate should be open for you from 3 p.m. onwards. **Yellow Class (Y2) will be dismissed through the hall door. This is a new arrangement to try to relieve congestion at the end of the day.** Please wait quietly so not to disturb activities taking place in the hall. Y2 children with younger siblings will come out with them onto the playground. KS2 classes will come to the front of the school with their teachers at 3.20 p.m. and pupils will be asked to stay with their teacher until parents arrive. Please keep well away from the cars and ensure that children do not run around in the car park, since they risk hurting themselves or damaging teachers' vehicles.

Staying Safe ... before and after school

Our Breakfast Club is available daily from 08.00. The charge is £1.00 to attend plus the cost of breakfast. The breakfast menu includes cereal, toast, yoghurt, fruit juice and fruit. Currently places do not need to be booked in advance.

'Skool's Out' caters for pupils after school until 6p.m. Pupils are met from school at the end of the day and parents then collect them from the Manor Hall. Places need to be booked in advance as there is a limit on the number Skool's Out can supervise. Please ring Carrie on 07977450608 to do this.

Enjoy & Achieve

Is your child a Circus Star? Did they join the summer reading challenge at the library this year? Have they finished and collected their certificate and medal? Congratulations if they have but if they haven't there is still time ... Pop into the library soon to finish – you have until 18th September.

I have met with a representative from Kingswood Gymnastic Club and am pleased to tell you that their fully qualified and CRB checked coaches are willing to run a club in our school hall on Mondays until 4.15 p.m. for children in Years 1 – 6. Participants would work towards the British Gymnastics Award. There would be ten meetings before Christmas at a cost of £4.00 per session. Next Monday, 12th September, your child is invited to a FREE taster session. Please complete the form at the end of this letter if your child would like to attend just so we have an idea about numbers. There will be more news to follow regarding other after-school clubs available this term.

Thank you to those who returned the questionnaires sent out in July with the children's reports. I have looked through your comments and the majority were very positive. Some made specific comments regarding communication that I will share with teachers and I will be meeting with a few parents who raised individual issues.

Over the next few weeks you are invited to attend a meeting that will outline the expectations for your child's year group. I hope to see many of you there. We are anticipating that the meetings will last about an hour and the aim is to communicate our expectations so that you are ready for the changes that take place as your children mature through the school. These meetings will be of a general nature and although you will have the opportunity to ask questions, this will not be the time to discuss individual children. The Parent/Teacher consultations will take place during week commencing 18th October but if you would like to talk to the teacher before then, please catch her after school, or make an appointment via the office.

Being a parent can be the hardest job in the world and I wouldn't dream of telling you how to go about it! All I will say, from experience, is that the challenges don't get easier as your children grow up, they are just different. However, there may be times when you feel at the end of your tether; if this happens, don't panic! Help is at hand. Mrs Tucker, our Higher Level Teaching Assistant, has completed Parent Mentor training and is happy to be a listening ear and to let you know what has worked for other parents in similar situations. We also have access to an independent parent support adviser (Chris Cranney) and a number of our families have benefited from her support and advice. Mrs Tucker is available to speak to parents, in confidence, on Monday afternoons; appointments are not necessary.

Our Harvest Service will be held on Tuesday 20th September at 10.00 at St Saviour's Church. Your child is invited to bring along food items on the day (tins or packets please). These will be added to the gifts already collected at the church the previous Sunday that will then be donated to our Sisters of the Church in St Paul's, Bristol, for distribution to needy families. If you could help escort the children to the church at 09.45 on 20th, please speak to your child's teacher.

Economic Awareness

Please be aware that the cost of school meals is now £1.70 per day.

Pupils attend school for 190 days over the year and staff for 195 days. These additional five days are for staff training and are called 'inset' days (this stands for **in service training**). I understand that inset days are a problem for working parents and it helps if you know the dates for these in advance. Skool's Out usually offer child care on inset days, which this year will be on the following dates:

- 1 Thursday 1st September
- 2 Friday 2nd September
- 3 Monday 7th November
- 4 Tuesday 3rd January
- 5 Friday 1st June

Please note that recorder lessons for Green & Blue Classes (Y3 & 4) begin on Monday 12th September. If you would like your child to have their own instrument, you can purchase one from the office for £4.50.

Yours sincerely
Mrs Hilary Eade

Diary Dates

- Wed 14th September 18.00 KS1 Expectations Evening (Orange and Yellow Classes)
- Fri 16th September 18.30 FOMS BBQ at the Cricket Club
- Tues 20th September 10.00 Harvest Service at St Saviour's Church
- Wed 21st September 18.00 KS2 Expectations Evening (Green, Blue, Indigo and Violet Classes)
- W/C 17th Oct P/T consultations - late evenings Tuesday & Wednesday
- Tues 18th Oct Red Class (YR) coffee/open morning
- Fri 21st Oct **Last day of Term 1**

Child's name Class

Would like to take part in the FREE Gymnastics Taster Session on Monday 12th September

At 16.15, I will meet my child at the hall door*

** please delete as appropriate*

At 16.15, my child needs to go the Skool's Out*

Signed (Parent/Carer)

Please list overleaf any medical issues the coaches need to be aware of, e.g. Asthma.

