



St. Saviour's Church, Coalpit Heath.

The Manor C of E Primary School

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"Together we rise to the challenge"

Headteacher: Mrs Hilary Eade

Newsletter 1 – 3rd September 2010

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 will receive a class newsletter shortly that will give more specific detail about what's in store for your child this term.

Staying Safe ... on the road

A local councillor has approached me with concerns raised by local residents about road safety near the school. Residents appreciate that sometimes people are in a rush to get to school on time but apparently there have been a few 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 and be in class ready for this. 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 Miss Sale's Red Class and then only while attendance is part-time.

At 3.15 p.m. if you are meeting children in Red, Orange and Yellow classes (YR, Y1 & Y2), please wait in the 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. KS2 classes will come to the front of the school with their teachers at 3.20 p.m. and they 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 this area, since they risk hurting themselves or damaging teachers' cars.

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, yogurt, 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 numbers Skool's Out can supervise. Please ring Carrie Zapata on 07977450608 to book a session for your child.

Enjoy & Achieve

Thank you to those who returned the questionnaires sent out in July with the children's reports. I have looked through your comments and most were either regarding 1) after school clubs, or 2) being better informed about pupils' progress. I shall include a list of clubs in the next newsletter, although these are subject to change throughout the year.

Over the next few weeks you are invited to attend a meeting that will outline the expectations for your child's year group. 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 him/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 parental support offered through Barnardo's and a number of our families have benefited from this; please just let me know if we can help you at all. Any conversations will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Economic Awareness

Please be aware that the cost of school meals is now £1.65 per day.

South Gloucestershire Council is looking for casual kitchen staff to work in various kitchens. If you are interested please contact Louise on 07595089376.

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 Wednesday 1st September
- 2 Friday 1st October
- 3 Monday 1st November
- 4 Monday 28th February
- 5 Friday 27th May (this date is yet to be confirmed)
- 6 The date for this inset day is yet to be identified by the governors

Please note - This year there are six inset days as agreed by the Labour government prior to the election.

Staff news

Last year, Mrs Holbrook and her husband applied to become adoptive parents. They completed training days and assessments and last May were pleased to hear that they had been accepted as prospective adoptive parents. Then the waiting started. Mrs Holbrook told me that there would be a possibility that a child could become available at some point over the next year but had no idea when. Then, over the summer, much to everyone's surprise because this is sooner than expected, a toddler needing a home was matched with Mr and Mrs Holbrook! They begin their new roles as Mum and Dad at the beginning of November. Mrs Holbrook will therefore be taking leave from her Y3 teaching post to welcome her new daughter into the family. The search is on for a suitable replacement and an appointment will be made towards the end of September. Adoption Leave works much like Maternity Leave; Mrs Holbrook will be entitled to a year's leave, although she may choose to return to her post sooner.

I am sure that you would want to join me in wishing the Holbrook family well and we look forward to meeting little Miss Holbrook soon.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Hilary Eade

Please note that recorder lessons for Green & Blue Classes (Y3 & 4) begin on Monday 6th September. If you would like your child to have their own instrument, you can purchase one from the office for £4.50.

Diary Dates

Wed 15 th September	6 p.m. KS1 Expectation Meeting (Orange & Yellow Classes)
Thurs 16 th September	6 p.m. KS2 Expectation Meeting (Green, Blue, Indigo & Violet Classes)
Wed 29 th September	10 a.m. Harvest Service at St Saviour's
Fri 1 st October	Inset Day – school closed to pupils
Mon 4 th October	Red Class in full time
Tues 5 th October	Evening Post to take a photo of Red Class
Thurs 7 th October	Green & Blue Classes (Y3 & 4) visit Bristol Museum
Thurs 14 th October	Freedom Theatre Presentation & workshops for KS2 classes
W/C 18 th October	Parent/Teacher consultation evenings
Fri 22 nd October	Indigo Class (Y6) visit the Lifeskills Centre
Fri 22nd October	Last day of Term 1
Mon 1 st November	Inset Day – school closed to pupils
Tues 2nd November	First day of Term 2