



# CHRIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2017



Dear Parents,

Due to our old friend, 'Facebook' I am more than aware that a number of you have heard of the sad news that Mr Baker will be leaving us in July. The governing body of Christ Church were faced with finding tens of thousands of pounds to balance the books for 2017/18 and were left with little choice but to cease employing Mr Baker through his private agency, 'Personal Education Services Limited'. As a school, my predecessor and I have employed Mr Baker (for 16 years part-time and full-time) to provide a number of services including Every Child Counts, Reading Recovery, Classroom cover, Boosting Reading Potential and of course, what he is most well known for, after school sports clubs. I would personally like to thank Mr Baker for his years of dedication to Christ Church and also the additional hours he provided outside of his contract, particularly when teams reached finals on Saturdays or he escorted groups of pupils to Walsall F.C. Over the years, Mr Baker has worked with many pupils not only at Christ Church but also other local schools, the young people of Blakenall and Leamore have been lucky to have such a faithful servant. His dry wit will be missed around the school by staff and of course the pupils will miss him too. I would like to wish him all the very best for the future and hope that he finds a school that is not being crippled by government budget cuts as we are at Christ Church. Good Luck, Mr B!

## Parents' Evenings

Thank you to all those parents who came along to Parents' Evenings last week. They were really well attended and hopefully helpful for you. As I wandered around the corridors I heard lots of positive comments. However, I also heard a few concerns raised about why homework is set and also the level of difficulty. If I am 100% truthful, I would love to allow the children not to have homework, but unfortunately successive governments have forced the issue. Last year, we ran an after school homework club for pupils and parents to attend, so that myself or Mrs Till could help out with some of the trickier tasks. If parents would like this club to start again, please let me know and we will organise it! I know the new curriculum, especially in Key Stage 2 is particularly difficult. Pupils are now expected to learn more much earlier. The Year 6 Maths SATs paper last year contained questions and skills that were previously taught in Year 9 and are actually tested at G.C.S.E. level. So if you are struggling to help your child, please don't worry, come and tell us and we will help!

## Attendance Week

Next week sees our second Attendance Week of the school year. Last time we did it, attendance improved significantly! I would like to set a challenge, a local primary school, where my wife now works, achieved 98% attendance during their week. I am sure we can beat that! If your child is absent next week and you don't inform the office, myself, Mrs Bolton or Mrs Whitehouse (Attendance Officer) will visit the family home.

## More On Cuts!

Earlier this term I shared a letter with you about proposed cuts to school budgets. Since that time the proposed cuts seem to have grown. The national average cut for a primary school is £103,754. For Christ Church it will be £185,053 by 2020. That is a reduction of 17%! If parents would like to help stop these crippling cuts you can sign a petition on the 'schoolcuts.org' website. I have written to David Winnick the local M.P. and he has written to the Secretary of State for Education to voice our concerns. As a school we will do everything within our power to continue to provide high class education for our pupils and provide a full extra-curricular timetable of sports and other clubs. However, with the current educational climate, it is highly likely that other tough decisions will have to be taken.

## Easter Service

Pupils from Year 1 to Year 6 will be going to the local parish church on Tuesday 4th April for the Easter Service. If you would like to join us, the service will start at 9.30am. We will leave school just after 9.00am, if you would like to walk with the children.

## Easter Bonnet Parade

Children in Nursery and Reception will be taking part in our annual Easter Bonnet Parade on Friday 7th April at 10.30am in the school hall. Parents, grandparents, uncles and aunties are all welcome!

# Diary Dates

Wednesday 22nd March:	Mothering Sunday, Lunch
Wednesday 29th March:	Mothering Sunday, Lunch
Friday 31st March:	End of Term Reward Worship
Monday 3rd April:	Alice in Wonderland Production Reward Trip
Tuesday 4th April:	Easter Service at Church (9.30am)
Wednesday 5th March:	Reward Trip
Friday 7th April:	Easter Bonnet Parade: 10.00am Break Up Easter: 1.30pm
Monday 24th April:	Inset Day
Tuesday 25th April:	School Re-Opens

Week beginning 8th  
May: Year 6 SATs