



CHRIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2016



Dear Parents,

Well done those sharp-eyed readers of the first newsletter of the year who spotted the 'deliberate' mistakes made on the diary page. Just to clarify:

Monday 31st October is an INSET Day (No pupils in School)

And

Wednesday 14th December, the KS2 Performance will be at 6.00pm

Many apologies if any confusion has been caused.

I would like to say how well all the pupils have settled back into life at school. We have had far fewer tears than normal, even from staff! A special mention to Reception parents, your children have settled beautifully and have amazed our lunchtime staff with how well they have taken to the routines.

I have also been really impressed with the levels of attendance, 98% for last week and punctuality has been good too! If we can stay at the same level I will be one very happy Headteacher.

For those of you who know Mrs MacDonald, you will be pleased to hear that she gave birth to a baby girl, Sophie Grace on September 4th, weighing in at 6lb 8oz. Daisy Dunning was born on 16th September weighing 7lb 1 oz. Many congratulations to both families, we look forward to meeting the little ones soon!

Safeguarding

The school leaders of Christ Church take their Safeguarding duties very seriously and although much of the work goes unseen it is important that parents know we are looking out for their children. As I reported last term, if a child discloses that they are 'smacked' at home then it is our duty to report this to Children's Services. More often than not, they will advise me to speak to the parent, quietly about the seriousness of the disclosure. We also ensure that 'Radicalisation' is not present within the school or community and that pupils are safe when using the Internet. There are brilliant links on the school website to support parents with this. If you believe a child at our school or locally is at risk of significant harm, you must report it to Children's Services or come and speak to one of the Safeguarding Team in school!

Reading, Reading and More Reading

You may have already picked up the fact that 'Reading' is our main area of development this year. Previously under the old National Curriculum, Reading was a strength of the school, however, the much tougher expectations mean that we need to work harder at school and home with our pupils to support reading! Pupils in Nursery and Reception should be spending 10-20 minutes a day sharing stories with parents or older siblings: Looking at pictures, discussing what is happening or what might happen on the next page. They should also be practising their 'sounds'. Key Stage 1 pupils should be reading for 20 minutes per night at home and Key Stage 2 pupils at least 30 minutes, more by Years 5 and 6. If you need any help or ideas, just ask your class teacher or any member of staff!

A Letter from the Queen!

Pupils from last year's Reception Class received a lovely surprise a couple of weeks ago when a letter from Balmoral arrived. One of the Queen's Ladies in Waiting had written a letter to say thank you for sending Her Majesty a number of very colourful 90th Birthday cards. The letter is on show just inside the main doors and each of the pupils was provided with their own copy. Staff and pupils were so excited to receive the letter. Please feel free to come in and take a look at it!

Parking

We have not even completed our first month back at school and already a huge number of parking issues have been raised by parents. The first area of concern is related to those parents who park on the access road to the school, either on the footpath or across the yellow lines. What is more, a number of parents then reverse or turn in the road. This is putting our pupils at risk of significant harm! I have spoken to the council numerous times to ask for support, however, budget cuts mean that there is not a lot they can do! So, AGAIN, I ask you to think of others when parking.

Residents of Awlmakers Grove have also complained about the parking situation. Of late, there have been road works within the street which has meant that half the road has been unable to be used. This has meant cars parking on the footpaths blocking pedestrian access. Again, please may I ask that you think carefully of residents and young children when you park. I fully understand that parking is very difficult, but we need to put the children first!

Diary Dates

Thursday 20th October:	Halloween Disco (Times to follow)
Friday 21st October:	DT Day: Pizza and Bread Making (old clothes)
Friday 21st October:	Break Up Half Term 3.15pm
Monday 31st October:	INSET DAY: No children in school
Tuesday 1st November:	Pupils return to school
Wednesday 2nd November:	School Photos (Brush hair, best smile)
Wednesday 2nd November:	Parents' Evenings: 3.30-6.00pm
Thursday 3rd November:	Parents' Evenings: 3.30-6.00pm
Tuesday 15th November:	Flu Vaccine: Y1/2 and Y3
Saturday 26th November:	Ball Boy and Girl Experience (Walsall F.C.)
Tuesday 29th November:	Choir event (to be confirmed)
Thursday 8th December:	Nursery and Reception Nativity: 9.30am
Friday 9th December:	End of Term Reward Worship
Friday 9th December:	Nursery and Reception Nativity: 2.00pm
Monday 12th December:	KS1 Carol Concert: 2.00pm
Tuesday 13th December:	KS1 Carol Concert: 9.30am
Tuesday 13th December:	KS2 Christmas Performance: 1.30pm
Wednesday 14th December:	Reward Trip (am only)
Wednesday 14th December:	KS2 Christmas Performance: 6.00pm
Thursday 15th December:	Christingle Service (to be confirmed)
Friday 16th December:	Break Up: 1.30pm Christmas Jumper Day
Wednesday 4th January	Pupils Return to School