



CHRIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2017



Dear Parents,

To those of you who are old hands, welcome back and to those who are new to Christ Church a very warm welcome!

This is the first Newsletter of the year and you can expect to receive at least 2 each half term. The idea of the newsletter is to share information and celebrate the successes of our fantastic school. If you ever misplace a newsletter, they are always uploaded to the school website:

www.christchurch.walsall.sch.uk

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome 2 new members of staff. Mr Hall and Miss Birch have joined us this term in Year 3 and Year 4 respectively. I am sure you will offer your friendship and support to our new members of staff, as this is the 'Christ Church' way!

As ever, we will be operating an 'Open Door' policy. This means that if you want to speak to a teacher, they will be available after school. If this is not convenient, contact the required member of staff and they will arrange a suitable time. Myself and members of the Senior Leadership Team will also be available before and after school.

This year we are very excited about becoming a P4C (Philosophy for Children) School! This means we will be developing pupils' speaking, listening, thinking and questioning skills, so don't be too shocked if they come and ask a strange question such as: Would you rather have 4 legs, 3 arms or 6 eyes? Think about it ... well?

Reading, Reading, Reading ...

Once again this year, the main focus of School Development Plan will be to improve Reading outcomes by the end of Year 6.

In order to do this we have changed our timetable around a bit to offer more time for quality reading activities in school, however, we can't do it by ourselves. It is vital that children read, or share a story, at home every day!

In 2016, 29,000 Year 6 pupils left school reading below the age of a 6 year old! It is usually the case that these pupils never catch up and so enter adulthood unable to read! Our children will not be one of the 29,000!

We ask that if your child is in Nursery or Reception they read or share a story for 10-15 minutes a day; in Year 1 pupils should read or share a story for 15-20 minutes per day; Year 2 should be reading for 20+ minutes per day; Years 3 and 4 should read for 25+ minutes per day and finally, Years 5 and 6 should read for between 30-45 minutes per day! Obviously, if children read for longer it will be even more beneficial.

Those pupils in Years 2-6 will be regularly assessed using Accelerated Reader (a software package), that will allow us to provide you with a 'Reading Age' for your child. The aim is that all children have a reading age that is equal or above their 'actual' age. In order to help, pupils will be provided with a school reading scheme book (unless they are free readers), a reading for pleasure book from the school library and our younger pupils will also bring their RWI Phonics Story book home at the end of the week. If they have books etc at home they like to read even better! I know that if we all work together, we can help our children to develop the most important of skills!

Curriculum Meetings

We are kicking the new term off as we mean to go on by holding curriculum meetings next week. These are great opportunities to chat to the new teacher to find out: which day P.E. is on; when homework is handed out and when it should be handed in; all about the curriculum; when and where visits may happen and most importantly, how you can help your child.

The dates and times for the Curriculum Meetings are as follows:

Years 1, 2 and 3: Tuesday 12th September @ 3.30pm

Years 4,5 and 6: Thursday 14th September @ 3.30 pm

Meetings will last about 30 minutes.

Read, Write Inc (Phonics) Parent Support

This is a meeting particularly for parents of Reception and Year 1 pupils. The meeting will provide you with the tools to help your child to learn how to read. We will also be providing you with useful resources and refreshments!

Tuesday 19th September: 3.30pm

P4C

The Big Question

To share at home with your family:

Would you rather live without your T.V. (all gadgets etc) or your bed?

Diary Dates

Tuesday 12th September:	Curriculum Meetings: Years 1,2 and 3 (3.30pm)
Thursday 14th September:	Curriculum Meetings: Years 4,5 and 6 (3.30pm)
Friday 15th September:	Non Uniform £1 Donation (Chicken Coup)
Monday 18th September:	Year 5 begin Swimming.
Tuesday 19th September:	Rock It Worship Years 1-6 RWI Parent Workshop: 3.30pm
Thursday 21st September:	P.H.S.E. Project in Year 5 starts (3 weeks)
Monday 25th September:	Reading Open Mornings: 9.00-9.30am
Tuesday 17th October:	Parents' Evenings: 3.30-6.00pm
Wednesday 18th October:	Parents' Evenings: 3.30-6.00pm
Thursday 19th October:	Harvest Festival (TBA)
Friday 20th October:	Break Up: Half Term-3.15pm Curriculum Day: History
Thursday 2nd November:	Anti-Bullying Show: Years 2-6
Monday 6th November:	Open Mornings: All week
Friday 15th December:	Christmas Craft Day: Parents invited
Wednesday 20th December:	Christmas Carols at Watermill (Choir)
Thursday 21st December:	Christingle Service Years 1-6
Friday 22nd December:	Break Up: 1,30pm
Monday 8th January:	INSET Day (No pupils)
Tuesday 9th January:	School Open

We are currently waiting on dates from the Forest Arts Centre, when these are received the all important Christmas dates will be shared.