

Chilham St Mary's CE Primary School

Thursday 24th October 2024

Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come towards the end of Term 1, we hope you are all looking forward to the Half Term break. The children have all worked so hard this term and we are very proud of all they are achieving.

Harvest Festival Celebrations

It was fantastic to see so many of you at St Mary's Church on Tuesday as we celebrated our Harvest Festival. The children made us all so proud with their singing and performances. A big thank you to the PTA for providing refreshments and for all of your generous donations towards Canterbury Food Bank which totalled £123.52p.



November Film Night

We will be holding our film night on Wednesday 20th November. More information on the choice of film and times for collection will follow after half term.

Attendance

Our whole school attendance for this half term is 93.7 %.

Please do let us know by telephone if your child is ill by 8.30am each morning. If you wish to make a leave of absence for an exceptional circumstance, please email into the school office and we will look at each case individually before writing back to you to let you know if this will be authorised or unauthorised.

The laws around attendance have been changed by the government and as a Kent Local Authority School we are expected to follow the new National guidance. This includes issuing fine for holidays during term time. If you do have any questions please do get in touch.

Topics for Term 2

Our Curriculum Topics for Term 2 are:

Wrens- Celebrations

Hérons- Our Local area (continued)

Martins- Riotous Royalty (including the Victorians)

Peacocks- World War 2

If you do want to do any research over the break or make any posters or pieces of artwork to add to our classroom learning displays then we would love to see them. Miss Dolan may have stickers ready for anyone who would like to show her anything you have created.

PTA

A big thank you to the PTA for agreeing to pay £10 per pupil towards trips this academic year. This will help to reduce the cost of trips which are such a valuable enrichment to our curriculum topics.

Autumn 2 Clubs

Please book your child onto the clubs via Parent Pay.

Monday - Mrs James Christmas Crafts

Tuesday - Mrs Talbot Dance

Wednesday - Miss Callow Board Games

Thursday - Miss Dolan Netball (held at school)

Friday - Mrs Garland Mindfulness & Yoga

Forest School sessions

Forest School for Term 2 will be for **Wrens** and **Hérons** on **Wednesdays**. Please read the information below:

Clothing:

With the exception of very severe weather – high winds and thunderstorms – please assume that the children will be taking part in outdoor forest school activities on their allocated day. Therefore, it is essential they have the appropriate clothing to wear, ideally including waterproof over-trousers and jackets.

Children should come to school in their forest school clothes on their allocated day. They do not need to bring school uniform as they will go straight home in forest school clothes. However, they must have a pair of shoes so they can change out of their Wellies or muddy boots/shoes.

Clothing should be suitable for woodland activities – long trousers, tops with long sleeves and sturdy footwear or wellies. As the weather gets colder, layers of clothing are really important, along with hats, gloves, scarves, waterproofs etc. Please ensure ALL clothing is clearly labelled.

Nativity Service

Our Nativity Service will take place in the Church at 2pm on Thursday 12th December. We always look forward to this and hope to see lots of you there.

Swimming Lessons

Term 2 Swimming Lessons for Peacocks on the following dates:

7th and 28th November

5th, 12th and 19th December

Children should wear the following for swimming, and earrings MUST be removed:

Girls: One-piece swimsuit (not bikinis), hair bands for shoulder length hair, goggles where needed (children must be able to fit themselves).

Boys: Trunks or swim shorts (these must be above the knee and not baggy beach style swim shorts), goggles where needed (children must be able to fit themselves).

To save time once we arrive at the pool it would be useful if the children came to school wearing their swimming clothes under their uniform.

Tuck Shop

The children really enjoy our Tuck Shop facility. If you do want to pay for the whole week this can be done on a Monday.

Internet Safety

10 INTERNET SAFETY TIPS FOR PARENTS

- 1** Don't block all access to technology. Help your child learn to use tech **safely** and **positively**.
- 2** Take an **interest** in your child's favourite apps or sites. Co-view or co-create at times.
- 3** Be the parent. You're in charge. Set **boundaries** and consider using filtering software.
- 4** Create a family media **agreement** with tech free zones such as cars, bedrooms, and meals.
- 5** Teach your child what **personal information** they should not reveal online (YAPPY acronym).
- 6** Help your child learn to **filter** information online and navigate fact from fiction.
- 7** Navigate digital **dilemmas** with your child. Avoid using devices as rewards or punishments.
- 8** **Balance** green time and screen time at home. Focus on basic developmental needs.
- 9** Don't support your child to sign up for sites with **age restrictions** (e.g. 13+) if they're underage.
- 10** **Learn more:** Explore reliable resources for parents so you can educate yourself.

I hope you all have a restful and enjoyable half term break and look forward to seeing all the children back at school from 8.35am on Monday 4th November.

Best wishes,

Rebecca Dolan