



**William Gilbert Endowed
(Church of England) Voluntary Aided
Primary School**
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Headteacher: Mrs S J Whyld

NEWSLETTER

5 October 2007

No. 337

Dear Parents

Harvest Celebration

Thank you to all the parents and friends of the school who attended our Harvest Celebration and added to the atmosphere of the occasion with some truly wonderful singing.

Your tremendous support and generous donation of gifts for our Harvest celebration was appreciated. The Barnardo's Charity was delighted with the number of goods donated.

Year 6 pupils visited and chatted to our neighbours on St Alkmunds Close before presenting them with a box of harvest goodies. The pleasure they gave to the majority of residents was clearly immense. In return Year 6 have received several thank you letters. Congratulations Year 6 on a job well undertaken and some good 'life skills' practised and learned.

Pumpkin Winners

Congratulations to William Johnson-Evans in the Juniors, Jonah Willis in the Infants and Aleric Morris in the Foundation Stage for growing the largest pumpkins this year. Well done to everyone who took part.

School Uniform

Despite the mild weather autumn is creeping up on us and when term restarts on Monday 29th October all pupils need to be in full winter uniform. This means a collar and tie for everyone with the appropriate trousers, skirt or pinafore. Please note only red or navy blue jumpers or cardigans are allowed and girl's tights should only be plain red, navy, grey or black. Your co-operation and support with our uniform is always appreciated.

Junior Pupils – Games Lessons

After half term pupils will need their navy and white P.E. kit and plimsolls in their pump bag in school at all times. In addition on a Monday and Tuesday (unless attending swimming lessons) they will need:

- Navy or black tracksuit (as plain as possible)
- White T shirt
- Waterproof/cagoule
- Socks
- Trainers
- Small hand towel

These items need to come to school in a separate bag in preparation for the block of lessons, which will take place outside next half term.

It is essential the children have this complete change of clothes as the lesson will take place irrespective of the weather, and we do not wish the children to be sat in damp socks and clothes for the rest of the day.

If we have torrential rain or the playground is dangerous due to ice then staff will provide an alternative lesson.

Half Term Activities

Allestree 'Schools Out' club are running activities during half term Monday 22 October – Friday 26 October.

To book a place or for further information and details of fees telephone Amanda on 01332 737947 or 07984 908836 or e- mail allestreeschoolsoutclub@hotmail.com.

Named Charity for the Year

We have chosen to support a children's cancer charity. Details of our fundraising activities will follow.

Complaints

I am duty bound to annually remind you of the school complaints procedure, which is available in full in the school office. In summary, day to day problems should be solved in conjunction with your child's class teacher. If you feel it necessary to make a complaint then in the first instance you should arrange an appointment to share your complaint with me. If after investigation and discussion you are still not satisfied then you are entitled to make your complaint in writing to the Chair of Governors, Mrs A Carmichael-Smith.

Parents Parking

Escorting Key Stage 2 pupils to the coach on the last two Mondays and the recent Parents' Evenings, once again highlights the problems we have with parents/carers cars.

The Governing body have discussed this problem over and over again and have decided that parents who mount the pavement, or park their car in illegal or dangerous positions, will be reported to the police. A variety of residents have agreed to provide this information.

I have no desire to spoil the good relationships we share but once again I need to ask you to park away from the school site so as not to cause congestion on Vicarage Lane and St Alkmunds Close.

Unfortunately, some parents/carers seem to think this information does not apply to them and continue to drive as close to school as possible. On finding no parking space, or spotting my presence, parents are reversing, double parking, blocking driveways and the road; all of which are completely unacceptable.

In school we are trying to educate your children to be polite, considerate citizens; compassionate to those around them. Please support us by modelling this continued education through your parking.

I would be grateful if you would pass this information to grandparents and carers who may not access this letter directly.

Can I also remind all vehicle drivers that it is unsafe to move cars parked directly outside school until all children have left the immediate area and that we encourage travelling one way along Vicarage Lane, from the Castle Hill end towards King Street, not the opposite way.

Collection of Key Stage 2 Pupils

The staff have trained the pupils where and how to cross over Vicarage Lane so it does help if you would allow them to do so rather than encouraging them to run across or down the road.

Neither the staff or I are happy with the exit from school for Key Stage 2 pupils and if you have a solution to the problem we would be pleased to share it.

Health & Safety holds the school liable for accidents and it is unfortunate to see younger siblings continuing to play in the slate at the top of Mr Smith's drive as well as chase around cars and climb the school wall despite being under the supervision of their parent/carer. I am sure you can appreciate that this lack of supervision would deteriorate further if parents waited on the playground; seemingly a safe place, but full of hazards for unsupervised children for which the Governors and I would be held responsible.

Similarly, it is compulsory for the school to have a 'Critical Incident' plan. Our plan has been approved by the Governing body and requires immediate access to the playground for any emergency vehicles as well as an exit for pupils in the event of an emergency. Consequently, we are unable to have parents and younger siblings on the playground.

A concerned staff and headteacher would gratefully receive solutions and or ideas.

Information Gathering

Further to your ideas on parking and collection of pupils please return the questionnaires on Extended Schools and Disability as soon as possible.

Goodbye and Good Luck Miss Stanfield

Sadly, Miss Stanfield, our Year 5 teacher leaves at the end of this week. She will be greatly missed and I know you will join the staff, governors and myself in wishing her all good wishes for the future.

Any contributions to a leaving gift or messages need to be in school by Wednesday 17th October.

The Governors are currently recruiting a new Year 5 teacher and you will be informed in due course.

Half term Holiday

School will close to pupils on Thursday 18th October at 3.30pm (Thursday clubs will run as normal) and re-opens to all pupils on Monday 29 October. I hope everyone enjoys the half term break and returns to school feeling rested and ready for the run up to Christmas!

Yours sincerely

S J Whyld