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September Newsletter- WELCOME BACK!!!

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you have all had a wonderful summer and enjoyed spending lots of family time together. It was a real privilege to welcome all the children back to school this week and I can't wait to witness their amazing achievements over the coming years. A special mention has to go to our 'super smart' Reception pupils in Class 1 and 2 as they attended their first 'proper' day at school. You looked fantastic and I am certain you are going to love being part of our special school. I'd also like to take this opportunity to formally welcome the nine new children who have joined from other schools. As always, they have been made to feel very welcomed and I have been delighted with how friendly our pupils have been towards them.

New Staff

Although we were all very sad to say 'Goodbye' to some lovely members of our school staff in July, I am pleased to formally introduce you to the following appointments:

Mrs Vicky Burr (Teaching Assistant in Class 1);
Mrs Tracy Toop (Teaching Assistant in Year 1);
Mrs Alison Neal (Teaching Assistant in Year 3/4) and
Mrs Sam Andrews (Teaching Assistant in Year 6)

We also have a new name to remember in the form of Mrs Anderton. Luckily, we already know her well as Miss Southall and I'd like to congratulate her on getting married during the summer holidays.

Harvest Celebrations

St Peter's Church is holding their Harvest service on Sunday 7th October at 10:30a.m. The Key stage 1 and Key stage 2 choir will be taking part in this service. Everyone is very welcome to attend. We would also like to allocate readings and prayers to those pupils who will be attending so I would really appreciate it if you could let Nic or myself know if you will be there.

Our school harvest is taking place between Monday 1st October and Monday 8th October. This year we are supporting St. Peter's Church harvest collection as well as Bristol Soup Run (a charity supporting homeless people in Bristol). St. Peter's church will be collecting non-perishable items of food (tins etc...) whereas Bristol Soup Run are collecting the following items: chocolate bars, boxer shorts (clean!), deodorants, men's socks, razors, small packets of tissues, soap, tea and coffee and toothpaste. Any donations would be gratefully received and should be brought into school during the week of 1st October, but please avoid products containing nuts.

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PE

All children take part in at least 2 hours of PE each week. Please make sure your child has their kit in school at all times as PE is a statutory part of the curriculum. Please ensure all uniform has been named. We expect the following PE kit for all children:-

Indoor kit

- T-shirt (either the colour of the child's house team or white)
- Shorts (Black or navy blue)
- Suitable footwear if your child has a type of foot infection, otherwise bare foot.

Outdoor kit

- T-shirt (as above) or long sleeved top (depending on time of year)
- Shorts or Tracksuit bottoms (depending on time of year)
- Sports sweatshirt (not the child's school jumper)
- Appropriate Trainers
- Socks – particularly if it is wet or if girls wear tights to school.

Thank you.

Clubs

The new clubs list was issued before the summer break and payments can be made on Sims Agora (Nic has moved mountains to make sure this is working properly but please bear with us as we continue to resolve the issues). Some of the clubs are free so please ensure you register your consent on Sims Agora (or by letting the office know) even if there is no payment attached.

Each day there is an answerphone message on 01454 867206 which tells you whether a club is running or not.

We ask that you let the office know if your child is not attending a club they have registered onto, we will be sending text messages to parents where children do not arrive at a club as expected.

Nut free school

As some of our children have extremely severe, life threatening nut allergies, our school is a nut free area. Please respect the safety of these children by ensuring that your child doesn't bring in any food containing nuts and ensure donations to events like cake sales are also nut free. Any food containing nuts will be confiscated and thrown away. Thank you for your support.

Medication in School

Can I please remind all parents to bring in any medication for their child labelled and hand it into the office with a completed 'request to administer medication form' available from the office. We will always do our very best to administer medication, please manage your child's medication around the school day where possible and if your child finds their medicine particularly 'yukky' it might be best that they have this at home!

Best practise is always to have two inhalers and epipens in school so one can be kept in the class and the other in the office. Thanks

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Expectations Evening- Information for parents on how to help your children and what they should be able to do by the end of this academic year.

I know it is some time away but on **Tuesday 13th November**, there will be a series of meetings for parents to enable you to find out about the national Age Related Expectations for your child this year. These are the standards against which your child is assessed through the school year. I am sure this will provide you with useful information, give you the opportunity to ask questions and gain a better understanding of how you can support your child's learning. Each phase team will hold a meeting after school, which will then be repeated throughout the evening. Reception parents will be given an opportunity later in the term once the children have started school full time. The meetings are as follows:

Year 1 in Class 3;

Year 2 in Class 5;

Year 3 in Class 6;

Year 4 in Class 7;

Year 5 in Class 10 and

Year 6 in Class 11.

Each session will start 3.45pm and then will be repeated at 4.15pm and 4.45pm in order for parents to attend different year groups. There will also be opportunities to meet me (Mr Barnard!) and listen to our school development plan priorities for the next year.

In order to make child care easier our Early Years team have kindly volunteered to run a 'film evening' during the event so parents can walk around freely and concentrate on the information at hand. If you would like your child to attend then please let the office know and they will go straight to the hall after school rather than be picked up. You can then collect your child after you have attended all the relevant meetings.

School Open Morning on Saturday 22nd September

As I wrote in my last newsletter in August, we will be holding an 'open morning' on Saturday 22nd September from 10am-12. We have advertised this event in the local media as well as visiting different pre-schools and nurseries as we'd love for families to visit us and experience what makes our school such a special place. Our wonderful children contribute massively to this and I'd love for as many of our Year 1-6 pupils as possible to attend. We will be asking for them to arrive at 9.45am and they will be finished at 11.50am. I am so proud of all our children and we'd like to take this opportunity to 'show them off' as they participate in lots of activities we offer to them on a regular basis.

Nic has put an attendance request on Sims Agora so if you could reply to it to show your child can attend I'd be really grateful. We want to show the whole community what wonderful pupils we have at our school and just a few of the experiences we provide on a regular basis.

I'd really like our **new reception families** to also attend our 'open morning'. Please feel free to come from **11am** and let your child show you round their new school. Their class teachers will be available for a chat and it will give you an opportunity to see how the rest of the school works as well.

DoodleMaths Update for Parents from DoodleMaths

1. **Update your app to DoodleMaths 6.0** on all devices via your app store - there are new features and a new look and feel. Your child's data may not appear in the Parent Dashboard or the Teacher Dashboard until you update. *As of Thursday 6th September,*

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midday, all App Stores except the Apple App Store have the new version. We anticipate that the Apple App Store will approve the new version within 48 hours. In the meantime, use DoodleMaths on the browser version www.doodlemaths.com/students/ rather than the old app.

2. Once your child has switched to the new version of the app, **they should not switch back to the old version, as it will not work.**
3. If you are upgrading to the new version from a very old version of the app, it is possible that you may lose your streak. If this is the case, please drop us a line with your child's username, school name and what their streak should be - it's very easy to restore from our end. Email: hello@doodlemaths.co.uk.

Free School Meals Eligibility

As most of you may be aware, all children are eligible for free school meals up until the end of Year 2. However, you may not know many other children also qualify for free school meals. The criteria is included in the following link: <http://www.southglos.gov.uk/advice-and-benefits/benefits/free-school-meals/> and if you would like any more information please do not hesitate to speak to Nic or Lucy in the office. Not only will you not have to pay for school dinners but your child will also be eligible for pupil premium funding which will be allocated to the school and be directly spent on improving your child's education.

Outstanding Payments from Last Year

I always appreciate the overwhelming support every family gives our school. However, there were 57 separate occasions where visits or enrichment activities were not paid for. This totalled £264.80 which the school has now had to 'write off' after sending reminder emails to parents last term. We all forget to pay for a club or enrichment activity from time-to-time but please make every effort necessary to pay when reminded. We do lots of fabulous fundraising activities but if this debt were to accrue again this year then we'd be ultimately be running a fundraising effort just to cover these costs.

Guitar lessons for Year 6 Pupils with Mr Baly

Mr Baly, our brilliant guitar teacher, will be retiring at the end of this year. However, he is willing to take on any budding musicians for his final year and wanted parents to contact him if any Year 6 pupils wanted to begin learning the guitar. If they do, please feel free to contact him at paulbaly@blueyonder.co.uk

Jeans For Genes Day Friday 21st September

This year we will be supporting the 'Jeans for Genes' charity on the 21st September by wearing jeans to school. If your child wishes to wear a denim skirt or dungarees this is also acceptable. One of our Year 5 pupils is co-ordinating the day and a letter explaining the event will be attached to this newsletter.

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Lunch Break Supervisor

A vacancy has arisen for a lunch break supervisor. If you are interested in joining our fantastic lunchtime team please contact the office for an application form.

Dates for your diary

Thursday 13th September- African drumming with Year 1 and 2

Friday 14th September- Happy's Circus at FCCE (Gates open at 4pm and show starts at 6pm)

Wednesday 19th September- FRIENDS AGM Meeting (7pm at The Globe). All new parents welcome as they are a very friendly bunch and provide 'priceless' support to our children.

Thursday 20th September- Football game Vs. St. Mary's Yate (Away)

Thursday 20th September- Full Governors Meeting (7pm at school)

Friday 21st September- Jeans for Genes Day (£1 donation to wear denim)

Friday 21st September- Class 11 Assembly 'Bake Off' (9.15am in the hall)

Saturday 22nd September- Open Morning from 10am-12 (as many children as possible to attend from Year 1-6 please!)

Monday 24th September- Father Malcolm whole-school service 10.20am

Tuesday 25th September- Tulip photography (individual and sibling photos taken)

Friday 5th October- 2019 Reception Parent tours (9.30am in the hall)

Sunday 7th October- Harvest Service at St. Peter's Church (10.30am with Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 choirs performing)

Monday 8th October- Football game Vs St. Mary's Yate (Home) 3.30 kick off

Monday 15th October- Year 6 bikeability training all week (some Y6 pupils are having their training on a weekly basis during term 1).

Friday 19th October- Enrichment Day

Monday 22nd October- Maths parents' evening for anyone who has a different maths teacher to their normal teacher

Tuesday 23rd October- Parents' Evening

Wednesday 24th October- Parents' Evening

Thursday 25th October- Last Day of Term 1

Friday 26th October- INSET day

Monday 5th November- 1st day of Term 2

Tuesday 13th November- Expectations Evening (to find out about what your child will be learning and how to help them achieve their age-related expectations by the end of the year).

Congratulations

Well done to Ashton who received my first housepoint of the year. Sean's learning wheel was the first one to be signed for making good choices and Mattea was given the first Head teacher sticker for completing her summer reading challenge. The first Head teacher sticker for work produced in school went to Zoe who did a brilliant piece of art involving a Kenyan landscape at dusk. I'm sure these will be the first of many! I was also very pleased to be able to give out so many Head teacher stickers to everyone who has brought in their Summer Reading Challenge certificate. Last year we had 33 children complete the library challenge and this year we have 67!

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Wow... the first newsletter of the year is always a long one! As I said at the beginning of this newsletter, I am extremely proud to be Head teacher of our wonderful school and I look forward to working with you in providing the best possible education for our children.

Thank you for your continued support,

Pete Barnard

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