St Mary's Episcopal Primary School

Thursday 20th October 2016

Dates for the Diary

October

Wednesday 26th
Primary 3 / 4 Multi sports club begins

Pupil Council representatives at mosaic artwork launch

November

Wednesday 2nd
Flu immunisation in school

Monday 7th
Primary 7 transition groups begin

Wednesday 16th
Reporting on our Learning Parents' Evening

Thursday 24th and Friday 25th
School In-Service days

Wednesday 23rd
School Photographer in school

Monday 28th
Parent Council Meeting

Tuesday 29th November
Shaping the Nation Sharing our learning event at the Smith Museum 2pm and 5.30pm

December

Friday 2nd
Whole School Trip to the pantomime

Saturday 3rd
Christmas Fayre

Monday 19th
Lego Mindstorm competition

Parent Pay- It's simple, safe, convenient and your child will no longer need to carry cash into school. We are delighted to be able to introduce an online payment system to enable parents to pay online in advance for their child's school trips, meals and other school activities. This is done using a secure website called ParentPay. ParentPay offers you the freedom to make payments online whenever and wherever you like, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. You have been reissued with the details of your secure online account, activated using your unique activation username and password; you will be prompted to change these and to keep them safe and secure as your username and password for future logins. Making a payment is straight forward and no card details are stored in any part of the system. Once you have activated your account you can make online payments straight away. **Please go to www.parentpay.com and activate your account as soon as possible. The website also contains a** Frequently Asked Questions section which should provide help if it is required however, if further assistance is required, please contact the school office.

As part of this system children will now make their own dinner choices. This is done through an electronic system which involves your child making a meal choice on the class interactive whiteboard on a daily basis. Menus were sent home at the end of last term that will allow parents to see what choices are available to your child every week, this menu is also available to view on our school website.

If you wish to support your child in making their choices please discuss this with them at home prior to them coming into school. Parents are able to view what their child has chosen each day through the parent pay website. We encourage you to use this system as it will significantly reduce the hours our support staff spend on dealing with money and dinner requests and free them up to be available to support children in class.

Reporting on our Learning:- As a school we have taken on board feedback from previous parents evenings and parental focus groups. We recognised that for a ten minute appointment, parents, on average, were spending about 30 minutes in the school. We would like to make this time as informative and productive as possible. As a result, for this session, we are going to trial a new format which will involve our parents having the opportunity to be guided through some learning highlights by your child, view children's work in the classroom, meet support staff, discuss your child's learning with the class teacher and provide feedback to your child on their learning progress. It is hoped that this provide parents with a more in depth understanding of your child's learning journey this session and make the time spent in school worthwhile.

Trading Cards:- Due to considerable upset amongst children in the playground, before, during and after school our Pupil Council have decided to ban all trading cards. Please can you support the Pupil Council and School in ensuring that your child does not bring any type of trading card into school. Freedom Friday will still exist with children being allowed to bring toys into school on a Friday to play with at playtimes, however children will not be allowed to participate in any trading or swapping games. Your co-operation with this is much appreciated.

Technology:- We would appreciate if anyone had any old tablet devices that they are no longer using if they would consider donating these to the school. These devices would go through a factory reset before they were configured so that they could be used on our school network. If we had more of these devices it could enhance the number of children that then have access to this technology.

School Photographs:- We have arranged for Tempest photography to come into school on Wednesday 23rd of November to take family and individual photographs. The company has assured us that any orders placed for photographs will be fulfilled before Christmas.

Extra Curricular Clubs:- We are pleased to offer some additional extra-curricular classes this term.
Chess club will start up on Tuesday 25th October at lunchtime for children in Primary 4-7. This will be run by Mr Duffus, when he is available, but we would appreciate any additional support from parents.

Our primary 3 / 4 multi sports club will start on Wednesday 26th October in the school hall and we are grateful to any parents who would be willing to support this class.

We are also looking to establish a table tennis club on a Monday after school and would be grateful to any parents who would be willing to support this.

In preparation for our Lego mindstorm competition on Monday 19th December the STEM club will run on both Thursday lunch times and on Thursdays after school. The competition states that it is only a team of ten children that can participate so not every child will be able to attend the tournament, however their contributions will be recognised as an integral part the competition process. A permission slip will be sent home for all children who wish to participate in this after school club.

Primary 1/ 2 Forest Schools:- Starting on Wednesday 2nd November primary 1 / 2 will begin their weekly visits to Holme Hill as part of our Forest School programme. A full kit list and request for parental helpers will be issued this week. Please can you support us in making these sessions a success by ensuring that your child brings their forest school kit into school for changing into on a Wednesday afternoon. If parents require support in providing appropriate clothing please contact the school as we do have some equipment that children may borrow, but we don't have enough equipment to provide for every child.

Contact Information

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Weekly Events Reminder

P.E Kit:- Please ensure your child has P.E Kit in school with them every day

Monday

- Violin tutor in school
- Reading / Homework café at lunchtime P1 -7
- Table Tennis club (TBC)

Tuesday

- Primary 5/6 swimming
- Chess club at lunchtime

Wednesday

- All classes:- Music with Karen Moore music specialist (fortnightly)
- All classes:- P1/2, P3/4 and P7 P.E with Mrs McLachlan
- P3 / 4 Multi sports class from 3.15pm – 4.15pm
- Reading / Homework café at lunchtime P1 -7
- Cross Country running at lunch time
- Primary 1 / 2 forest schools

Thursday

- 2.30pm Assembly with Reverend Nick Green
- STEM club for Primary 5-7 children lunchtime and afterschool

Friday

- All classes:- Responsibility Time