



All Saints Church School

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6th September 2017

Newsletter 1

Dear Parents and Carers

A very warm to the new school year and thank you all for making me feel so welcome. I am looking forward to meeting you all and excited about the prospect of working with you during the coming months. I hope that you have enjoyed the summer holidays and that our children are feeling refreshed as they start a new school year.

A special welcome is given to all the new families who are joining our All Saints family and we look forward to getting to know you in the coming weeks, terms and years ahead. Please do remember this is your school and you are always welcome here.

We welcome Miss Bethany White and Miss Olivia Bale who will be teaching classes 1 and 6 respectively, we hope that they will be very happy here and find teaching at the school fulfilling.

I apologise for the length of this newsletter and that a lot of it consists of reminders about school life at All Saints, but it is important for these to be outlined at the start of the school year, as it will help to ensure the smooth running of the school. A list of dates for your diaries will be sent home at the end of the week.

Road works outside school

As many of you will be aware Wales and West Utility are undertaking work on Yeovil Road at the entrance to the school site. The Project Manager has had discussions with Somerset County Council Transport Department with regard to how the buses will park and turn outside school. However, for those of you who drive your children to school, please be aware that there will be limited parking on the roads outside the school in Montacute. There will be NO PARKING on the road between the school entrance and the garage and if you park in Back Lane the exit that joins the main road will be right in the middle of the two sets of traffic lights.

We ask that you park sensibly and are extra vigilant when driving in and around the school at this time.

School Day

In the morning the bell rings at 8.50am and the classroom doors are opened; please support the school by **not leaving your child before this time** as adults are not available to supervise children.

The gates onto the playground will be locked until 3.10pm and we ask that parents and any other adults who are collecting at the end of the day do not enter the playground until after this time.

At the end of the day the staff will not release your child until they can see the person who is collecting them. If another adult who is not one of the designated contacts is collecting your child, please make sure you have informed your child's class teacher. Children in Key Stage 2 will not be released from class unless a permission form has been completed or a designated adult is present at the classroom to collect them; if you would like a permission form, please ask at the school office.

We expect the children to go straight to their parent or responsible adult. After school is not an additional play time; for safety reasons please supervise your child closely and do not allow them to go onto the bank or boundary walls within the playground. Thank you. **Dogs are not allowed on site at any time and please remember that the school grounds are a non-smoking site.**

We have high expectations of behaviour at All Saints and we want to reward the children who demonstrate, at all times, that they contribute to the ethos of our school.

We ask that the children are:

- Ready;
- Respectful
- Safe.

We will spend the first two weeks of term ensuring everybody understands what being ready, respectful and safe involves. The children will then begin to earn their Rising Stars the week commencing Monday 18th September. It is very important that Rising Stars are viewed as a reward and something that is earned for being ready, respectful and safe at all times, rather than a sanction whereby something is lost. In addition to rewarding children for their outstanding efforts, this system is also designed to help them understand that their actions have consequences, that they can learn from their mistakes and by talking things through, everyone can learn strategies which will enable them to be successful next time.

Parking

Please be considerate to our neighbours and remember not to park blocking driveways around the school. We have had a number of complaints recently, particularly from our neighbours in Back Lane and at the end of the access road, because parents have blocked their driveways or gates resulting in people being unable to get out to reach appointments. Also please do not park in or block the entrance to the staff car park at any time. Many of our staff work part time and need to be able to get in and out of the car park at different times throughout the school day. Thank you.

The drop off zone which is located just past the disabled bays will continue to operate in the mornings. Please can I remind you not to park in this area, it is not an area which you can pull into quickly to walk with your children around to class; it is for parents who are happy to pull in and drop off their child allowing them to walk around to class on their own.

Please could I also ask that you only park in the disabled bays at the front of the school if you hold the relevant disabled badge and the person who holds the badge is getting out of the car to collect or accompany you to drop off or collect a child from class.

Attendance Policy

Please remember to inform us, by telephoning the school office, as soon as possible if your child is going to be absent. A member of the office staff will ring if no reason has been given for an absence.

If you wish to take your child out of school for any reason, you must inform the school in writing, giving details of the dates and the reason you wish your child to be absent from school. If you are requesting absence during term time, please remember that you need to fill in a term time absence form in advance and give an 'exceptional circumstance' for the request. I am sure you appreciate the need to make sure all children attend school as much as possible and I thank you for your support with this. The school is not trying to be awkward – we have a duty to make sure attendance is as high as possible.

The Local Authority will issue families with a penalty fine of £60 per pupil, per parent where any child is absent from school for ten consecutive, unauthorised sessions (5 days) and attendance is deemed to be below expectations. This means that families could receive a fine of £60 per pupil, per parent for taking a holiday of a week or more. Please note these fines go to the Local Authority and not to the school.

Please note a full copy of the attendance policy is also available on the school website.

Safeguarding the Children

Everyone at All Saints takes their roles of educating and looking after your child very seriously. We do all we can to safeguard your child. With regard to one aspect of this, namely Child Protection, please read the following extract carefully.

The school takes the safeguarding of children extremely seriously. The designated members of staff for Safeguarding are the Head Teacher Mrs B Foister and the Deputy Head Mrs S Bowditch .

Our aim is to safeguard and promote our pupils' welfare, safety, health and guidance by fostering an honest, open caring and supportive climate. The pupil's welfare is of paramount importance.

The school has a duty to address any issues of concern that might arise in relation to any child and consult with Children's Social Care as necessary. We will always endeavour to keep the parents as fully informed as possible.

There is a culture of vigilance and care within the school. Staff are fully aware of the correct procedures and practices that keep our children safe and happy whilst at All Saints.

A full version of our Child Protection Policy is available on our school website.

Helping in school

We are always looking for volunteers to come in to school and help. If you are interested, please ask at the office or see your child's class teacher. Having a large number of volunteers in to help is a strength of our school, I believe, adding a great deal to the experiences the children receive.

Please remember that before you are able to come in regularly and help you need to have a DBS clearance. This can take up to 4-6 weeks, so please enquire at the school office for an application form.

Medicines in school

If your child requires prescribed medicine during the school day, you must fill in a form available from your child's class teacher. The medicine must be given to the class teacher or teaching assistant, not left with your child. If the above procedure is not followed, the medicine will not be given. Inhalers are a separate issue and should be discussed with your child's class teacher. We are not allowed to administer medicines to children during the school day unless they have been prescribed.

School Uniform

The All Saints school uniform contributes towards the aims of our school. It helps towards bringing the children together in a calm, industrious and collaborative working atmosphere. We expect all children in the school to wear it on each school day.

Please could the children come to school each day wearing:

Uniform

- ✓ school sweatshirts or cardigans (navy with school logo in gold)
- ✓ grey trousers, shorts, skirt or pinafore
- ✓ white collared shirt, blouse or polo-shirt
- ✓ sensible brown, black or navy school shoes (no trainers, deck shoes, high heels, shoes without heel straps, inappropriate boots e.g. UGG boots and no shoes without socks)
- ✓ plain socks (white, grey or navy)
- ✓ yellow gingham Summer dresses (when appropriate)

Please could the children come to school each day with:

PE Kit

- ✓ Yellow T-shirt
- ✓ Navy shorts
- ✓ Daps and/or trainers
- ✓ Long hair to be tied up
- ✓ Earrings (if left in) to be covered with micro-pore tape (provided by child)
- ✓ Fleece/sweatshirt and tracksuit bottoms for outside in winter months

If your child is unable to participate in PE for medical reasons a letter must be provided.

Jewellery/Nail Varnish

In the interest of health and safety stud earrings (one pair in lobe only) and small watches are the **only** items of jewellery that should be worn in school. Nail varnish is not to be worn.

Hair

Please keep hair within the generally smart appearance set by the uniform (e.g. no crew or Mohican style cuts, tram lines, coloured hair pieces, braids or over-decorative toggles.)

Naming your Child's Belongings

Please ensure that your child's belongings are named as clearly as possible. As I am sure you know, children are very good at putting things down and forgetting where! Searching for them is made so much easier if things are named. This is particularly true of sweatshirts, cardigans and PE kit please.

Parents' Praise Assemblies

Each month you are invited to join us for Parent Praise Assembly. The dates for this term's Parents' Praise Assemblies have yet to be decided and further details will follow. We will continue to use the doors either side of the fire exit at the back of the hall to enter and exit these assemblies.

Music Teachers

We have several music teachers who work within our school to provide one to one or group lessons to children. Currently we have teachers who provide lessons for the flute, fife, clarinet, piano; if you are interested in your child starting to play one of these instruments, please contact Mrs Sharp in the school office who will be able to provide you with more details and information regarding the cost for the lesson.

Newsletters

Newsletters are numbered, as well as dated. This year, these will be sent home at the end of each month, as we would like the children to become more involved in contributing to the newsletter. The newsletter will provide useful information, but will also include reports about some of the activities the children have been completing at school. If you have provided the school with an e-mail address the newsletter will be sent via email. If you have not given us an email address, but would like to help us to cut down the amount of paper we use, please contact the office, otherwise, the newsletter will be sent home with the family's eldest child in the school. A copy of the current newsletter will also appear on the home page of our website; all other newsletters can be found on the page titled 'Past Newsletters'.

Website

Lots of useful information can be found on our school website

www.allsaintsprimaryschoolmontacute.com

Please bear with us as we update information over the coming weeks. We hope this will be a valuable tool to provide information to parents.

We all look forward to working with you over the academic year.

Yours faithfully

B Foister

Mrs B Foister