



Newsletter 2
29th September 2022
Acting Head Teacher: Mr Kurt Doyle
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"A Church School Community aspiring for all to live life to the full"

Dear Parents, Carers & Governors,

Thank you for another week of support and encouragement.

The recent Sports Day events were great opportunities for me to meet with many different parents and for you to join us in celebrating the daily life of our wonderful school and our children's talents. Thank you for your excellent and unwavering support. I would also like to extend a huge thank you to the staff who have worked tirelessly behind the scenes to plan and deliver our excellent sports day events and to Mrs Helen Colson for providing us with great commentary and entertainment throughout!

As already shared, school resources are scarce in this current climate. We are required to manage the current school budget with great care in order to balance the needs of our school and to deliver the services most important to our children. We are having to make some difficult decisions on priorities and I must therefore express how important parent contributions for trips and experiences are. Holy Trinity has an exceptional reputation for providing outstanding trips and experiences for our pupils, however, we may be required to reduce this programme going forward. Even with generous support from the PTFA, the school has made a substantial loss in this area over the past financial year and this is having a significant impact on other areas of the school. I am aware of a number of schools locally who have been forced to cancel trips and experiences when contributions have not covered the total cost. Please be aware that we can only continue to offer trips and experiences if enough parents and carers are prepared to make the necessary contributions.

I am concerned by the current frequency of communication directed to the school office. This appears to be disproportionate for the size of the school. The staff in the office are a crucial cog in the daily function of our school. At this present time, they are dealing with an unprecedented number of calls, e-mails and messages regarding items which are often on the newsletter or are of a low-level nature (e.g. PE t-shirts, lost items of clothing, dinner choices, sports clubs, minor complaints) and often where information has previously been provided. Please ensure that you are checking text messages, e-mails and Newsletters sent from the school office.

We will shortly be introducing a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) section to the school website and we may direct e-mails and calls to this page. We may also direct e-mails and calls to school newsletters when relevant information has already been shared. Should you have questions or concerns which have not been clarified by official school communications, then please may I remind you that your child's class teacher should be your *first port of call*.

I am almost always available on the school playground and we endeavour to be available, transparent and effective in our communication. However, I kindly ask that parents and carers consider the importance of the request before contacting the school office. Thank you.

Finally, we are delighted with the new school library. I have previously shared a written update but thought it might be nice to share an image of this wonderful new learning space.

The majority of our school books have now been banded using the Accelerated Reader programme. This programme assesses reading ability (primarily comprehension levels) for pupils and provides recommended texts for their ability level which underpin progress in reading comprehension levels. Please can I ask all parents and carers to continue to read often with their children and to use the Home-School reading log, often. This is an important part of our strategy to develop reading.



The new school library.

Meet The Teacher: As shared previously, we are altering the format for 'Meet the teacher' this term. To increase flexibility for parents and carers, we will be offering three 'drop in' sessions throughout the week. These sessions will take place at the following times:

- **Tuesday 4th October - 9.15 – 9.45am**
- **Wednesday 5th October - 2.15 – 2.45pm**
- **Thursday 6th October - 4.30 – 5.00pm**

This is a fantastic opportunity for parents to meet their child's teacher, explore their child's classroom and look through their school books. I strongly encourage all parents and carers to engage with this opportunity. **The Meet the Teacher drop in sessions on Wednesday 5th and Thursday 6th October, do not replace parent's evenings, details of Parents Evening will follow in due course.**

Harvest Festival: On Wednesday 19th October our Harvest Festival Service will take place at Trinity Church at 2.00pm. We will look forward to seeing you there.

School Dinners: Next Thursday 6th October is Census Day and it would really help support the funding for our school if as many children as possible could order a school lunch on that day, **especially children in Reception, Year 1 & Year 2.** **The meal choices on that day will change to:**

- A: Cheeseburger in a bun with chips & sauces**
B: Vegan hotdog & chips
C: Jacket potato & toppings
Dessert: Ice Cream

Children will just need to tell their class teacher their meal choice on the day, as usual. Thank you for your support.

Reminder: if you pay for your child's school lunches please remember to top up your Parent Pay account. Unfortunately, we still have quite a few outstanding debts. If your debt reaches £12.00 we will not be able to supply a school lunch for your child and we will ring you to ask you to bring in a packed lunch.

Free School Meals/ Pupil Premium: If you think your child may be entitled to free school meals as you are accessing Universal Credit, please complete an online form via the Free School Meal Portal on the Gloucestershire County Council website to see if your child is entitled. If you require further details or help with this, please speak to the school office who will be happy to help.

Please note that if your child is in Reception, Y1 or Y2 they will receive a Universal Free School Meal but if you are accessing Universal Credit, they could be entitled to the Pupil Premium Grant which provides additional funding for your child and the School. This funding helps us to strengthen our educational offer and better support your child in their learning.

Healthy Snacks: A reminder please to only send your child to school with a Healthy snack. Some children are still bringing in snack items that are not healthy! **Snacks should not include nuts or items containing nuts.** Thank you.

Birthday Cakes: Children are welcome to bring birthday cake to school to share with other children. However, the cake must be in unopened/ in sealed packaging and have a list of ingredients. This is important as we have a number of allergies within the school and safety is an absolute priority. Please also note that food products containing nuts should not be brought onto the school premises. Thank you for your understanding.

Secondary School Transfer September 2023: The deadline for secondary applications this year is **Monday 31st October 2022.** This is extremely important as any applications received by Gloucestershire County Council after this date may not be considered until after 1st March 2023. **If your child will be attending an Open day, please ensure you complete a leave of absence form for them to attend.**

PE Kit: Please ensure that your child wears their school jumper to school with their PE kit, not their own hoodie.

Roads around School: Please may we ask parents when dropping off/collecting your child from school each day, to please be kind and respectful to the residents that live near our School and be mindful of how and where you park your car. Thank you.

Newsletters & Text Messages: As our main forms of communication, please ensure you are checking newsletters, e-mails and text messages. We are increasingly chasing up parents for information or permissions as well as answering queries in relation to things that have previously been communicated with parents – thank you for your support with this.

Values Certificates

Well done to the following children who received a Christian values certificate or Jigsaw Scroll Award in our weekly Celebration Worship.

22.09.2022

Y1	Ginette and Tom
Y2	Zain and Reuben
Y3	Nico and Flynn
Y4	Kit and Lisa
Y5	Jillian and Adam
Y6	Ayla and Daniel

Flu Vaccinations – Thursday 20th October: Flu Vaccination Forms were sent home with every children on Tuesday. **Please complete and return the form to the office by Tuesday 11th October, whether you would or would not, like your child to receive the Flu nasal vaccination on this date.**

Y2 Crickley Hill Trip: Please return your slips by the end of the week at the latest for the Y2 Crickley Hill Trip on Friday 7th October, indicating your choice of EITHER a packed lunch from home, or a school packed lunch so that we may place your order. **We cannot provide a school lunch if you have not returned your slip requesting one.**

Activity Camp 4 -2-11: Would like to offer parents 10% off their October Camp at St Edward's School from Monday 24th to Friday 28th October. Please see flyer attached with the CODE: OCT10.

Forthcoming Dates

• Friday 30 th September	Coffee with Mr Doyle Session	9.00am – 9.30am
• Friday 30 th September	KS2 (Y3, 4, 5 & 6) Sports Day – <u>Reserve Date</u>	9.30am – 11.30am
• Tuesday 4 th October	Meet the Teacher Drop in Session (All Classes)	9.15am – 9.45am
• Tuesday 4 th October	Joiners Service (New Reception Children)	2.00pm – 3.00pm
• Wednesday 5 th October	Meet the Teacher Drop in Session (All Classes)	2.15pm – 2.45pm
• Thursday 6 th October	Meet the Teacher Drop in Session (All Classes)	4.30pm – 5.00pm
• Thursday 6 th October	Census Day Menu	Details above
• Friday 7 th October	Y2 Visit to Crickley Hill	9.30am – 3.00pm
• Monday 10 th October	Whole School & Sibling Photographs	am
• Tuesday 11 th October	Y4 & Y6 Literature Festival Trip	Details to follow
• Wednesday 12 th October	Y1 Literature Festival Trip	Details to follow
• Wednesday 12 th October	Y5 PTFA Sale (Uniform and books)	
• Wednesday 12 th – Friday 14 th	Y6 Residential Trip to Whitemoor Lakes	
• Thursday 13 th October	Y3 & Y5 Literature Festival Trip	Details to follow
• Friday 14 th October	Y2 Literature Festival Trip	Details to follow
• Wednesday 19 th October	Harvest Festival at Trinity Church	Details to follow
• Thursday 20 th October	Reception - Y6 Flu Vaccinations	All day
• Thursday 20 th October	PTFA Non-Uniform Day	
• Thursday 20th October	End of Autumn Term 1	
• Friday 21st October	<u>INSET Day – Teaching staff only in School</u>	
• Monday 24 – Friday 28th	October Half-Term	
• Monday 31st October	Start of Autumn Term 2 – GATES OPEN AT 8.50AM	
• Monday 31st October	Secondary School Applications Deadline	

Yours sincerely,

**Mr Kurt Doyle
Acting Headteacher**