



Newsletter 1

10th September 2021

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"A Church School Community aspiring for all to live life to the full"

Dear Parents

Welcome back: It was a joy to welcome all the children back in what feels like a step towards more normality! I hope you have all had a refreshing break and stayed safe and well during the summer break. Understandably, we had a few anxious children returning, but they now already appear more relaxed and secure, and everyone seems to be settled in and ready to go!

Value of the Term: This term's value is Respect, and we will begin by exploring this through our school's rule – 'Ready, Respectful & Safe' and in establishing classroom routines etc. Through the rest of the term we will be learning to value each others' uniqueness and difference as well as respecting ourselves, property and different cultures and beliefs. Please use the 'Home-School' Values leaflet attached to this newsletter to help you discuss this value with your child.



'Meet the Teacher': Before the pandemic we introduced a 'Meet-the-Teacher' event which was well received and your feedback suggested was helpful. We are so pleased we can now do this again in person! Most of the meetings will take place on **Wednesday 15th September** – there is no need to book just turn up. At this meeting you will be able to find out about the curriculum being covered, homework, PE days, any planned trips etc. If you aren't able to make it, don't worry because all the information will be put on Class Pages on our school website and you should be able to access information about your child's class from Monday (20th September). The meetings will be as follows:



- **Reception** – parents will be having individual meetings with Miss Mitchell
- **Y1 – Y6 (except Y4) Wednesday 15th September 3.30-4.00pm and 4.00-4.30pm** (this will give parents with children in more than one year group to attend both classes.
- **Y4 – Thursday 16th September 3.30-4.00pm**

We will also make available the teachers email addresses so you have a point of contact to ask them any queries you may have. This is a sensible way forward to help communicate with the teachers who are generally the best first point of contact with any query. However, please be aware they may not be able to answer immediately – they are most likely teaching! We will aim to reply within a working day within the teachers' hours (especially for part-time staff), but please be patient if a reply falls to the following day.

Thank you: Towards the end of 'lockdown' and through the summer holidays, we have had a host of people who have helped us to tidy up and do some repairs to our temporary building. Particular thanks go to Bruce who has helped with some of the more technical/DIY aspects of this work. We are all very grateful for his hard work and support to the school. We still have some unfinished tidying up and now we aren't restricted about mixing 'bubbles' may plan a working party to help with this – watch this space if you are interested in helping out!



Volunteers: We are really pleased to be able to welcome volunteers more readily now. If you would like to help, we have lots of opportunities – from supporting children at lunch, listening to readers, going on school trips, being another pair of hands on Art/D&T days etc. If you would like to get involved, please enquire at the school office for an application pack as we will need to get references and apply for a DBS check – but don't let that put you off! Thank you in advance for your support with this.



Parent Governor: You may remember we were seeking nominations for a Parent Governor vacancy we currently have. As we had no nominations we need to repeat this process.

Governors play a vital role in the strategic leadership of our school. If you are interested in becoming a governor the following information will be useful.

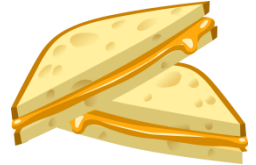
The Role of Parent Governors?

- *Parent governors should play a full and active part in the governing board but, parent governors, like other governors, do not have the power to act as individuals or as a group, unless specifically authorised to do so by the governing board.*
- *Parent governors are not on the governing board simply to represent the interest of parents, or to be the only link with parents because all governors must have regard to these issues.*
- *Parent governors have the same rights, responsibilities and duties as other governors.*

We will be sending nomination forms soon, but in the meantime I would ask that you consider if you would like to get involved in this.

Personal Details: If you have any changes in your personal details (eg mobile telephone number, emergency contacts, medical information or address etc), please could you let the office know as soon as possible so we can keep the records on our system as up-to-date and accurate as possible.

School Dinners: If you pay for school dinners, please ensure you have 'topped-up' your child's dinner money Parent Pay account to cover any meals they will be ordering. Please note, we ask that all meals are **paid for in advance**. Meals cost £2.34 each. Also, please be aware, if you are in Y3 (because this change can cause some confusion), your child will no longer be eligible for Universal Free School Meals as this is only available up to Y2. However, if you have applied for Free School Meals (because you are eligible) you can still receive these free. For more information to find out if you are eligible, and how to apply, follow this – <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals>.



Uniform: A reminder that school no longer holds any uniform stock. To purchase these, visit our [website](#) for a link to companies that sell our school uniform. In the meantime, please can I ask that you only send in your child wearing school uniform as outlined on our website. Also, please discourage your child from wearing nail varnish, excessive jewellery (this will need to be removed on PE days) and avoid excessive hair accessories – thank you for your cooperation with this.

PE Kit: As we are still running a split lunch and break times, our playground and school hall have limited times when available for PE. As a result, to give us more time being active, we are asking the children come to school in their PE kit on those days (teachers will inform you when these are). I appreciate the weather will be getting cooler, so would expect children to wear school jumpers and coats over the top as well as some leggings if necessary. Please do not send your child in wearing bright coloured or branded clothes – simple grey or black leggings will be sufficient.



After School Clubs: Again, it is really great we can now run more after school clubs. We have Coding, Chess, Cross-Country, Dance and Art club run by members of staff. Please note, staff run these clubs on a voluntary basis, so as a matter of courtesy please ensure if your child signs up they are committed to attending every session. Obviously for unforeseen events they may be absent occasionally, but please let them know as soon as possible. Follow this link - <https://forms.gle/mqQgZuESAXPDzdjo8> - to book your child into a club. Note, you will need to do a separate booking for each child. These clubs will start in the week commencing 20th September, and no clubs will run from 6th December.

- Cheltenham Town will also be running an after school football club. Please refer to the attached flyer for more details and follow this link if you want to book a place - <https://officialsoccerschools.co.uk/cheltenhamtownfc/>

PTFA: The PTFA have been busy planning events for the forthcoming term with a view to gathering lots of your support for events we missed last year. If you are able to offer any support, please contact ptfa.chair@holytrinity.gloucs.sch.uk. Dates to look out for include:

- 30th September - PTFA parent social (evening drinks)
- 6th October - PTFA parent social (afternoon tea/coffee) + pre-loved uniform sale
- 17th October - After school sale - Year 1
- 21st October - School disco (times to be confirmed)
- 22nd October - Non-school uniform day
- 3rd December - After school sale - Year 6
- 10th December Christmas Fair (details to follow)

Before & After School Club Please use the links to booking forms below (also on the school website). Any queries can be sent via:

- Email: beforeandafterschool@holyltrinity.gloucs.sch.uk
- Telephone/Text: 07548 592989 (Note – this phone is only monitored during the hours the club is operating)

Booking Forms

Week beginning	Link to booking form
Monday 13 th September	https://forms.gle/HYAmVccpvBGH5Aa68
Monday 20 th September	https://forms.gle/qH6Ro2cdo3VxWxV59
Monday 27 th September	https://forms.gle/KqUft28zfVi8ur5e6
Monday 4 th October	https://forms.gle/76o4Pw5JnG3VvAzT9
Monday 11 th October	https://forms.gle/ykkThRi8j1jrD5BA9
Monday 18 th October	https://forms.gle/YLAmkycoVnQHebyHA
HALF TERM	No Wrap Around child care available

Cheltenham Folk Dance Club: Are you looking to get out more after lockdown? The Cheltenham Folk Dance club meets on Monday nights in term time starting Monday 13 September from 7.30-9.30. We are a small but very friendly group who do lots of laughing. We meet in Holy Trinity School Hall. You can come with, or without a partner/friend and we will be delighted to see you. No special equipment or clothing is required, just a wish for fun, exercise and the chance to learn or develop a new skill. For more information contact Sarah Collacott

sarahssewing@hotmail.co.uk

[01242 242245](tel:01242242245)

[07732 570134](tel:07732570134)

Other News:

And there's more! – Look out for several other flyers and information about activities to get involved with and information to support families – I hope you find them useful!

- The Family Learning Team are offering some exciting courses online this term for your parents. All of our classes are delivered by experienced teachers, many of whom are primary teachers too. Courses available include:

- **Improve Your English and Help your Child**
- **Help Your Child with Reading**
- **Help Your Child with Maths**
- **Calm Kids, Calm Home**
- **Calming the Mind**

Our courses are free to people over 19 years old, who have lived in the UK/ EU for 3 or more years, or have a valid Residence Permit, and are one of the following: Unemployed or earning below £17,374 per year; Qualified below a Level 2 (less than 5 GCSEs); Have mental health challenges, Have a learning difficulty or disability.

Forthcoming Dates

Remember – all these dates are on our School Website and are updated regularly!

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| • Wednesday 15 th September | Meet the Teacher (Y1, 2, 3 5 & 6) | 3.30 & 4.00pm |
| • Thursday 16 th September | Meet the Teacher (Y4 only) | 3.30pm |
| • Wednesday 22 nd September | Swimming starts for Y5 & Y6 | pm |
| • Friday 1 st October | Y5 Trip to Corinium Museum | all day |
| • Friday 15 th October | Y1 Trip to Perrgrove Railway | all day |
| • w/c 18 th October | Parents Evening Meetings | times to be confirmed |
| • Friday 22nd October | End of Autumn Term 1 | |
| • Monday 1st November | INSET DAY – school closed | No pupils |
| • Tuesday 2nd November | Start of Autumn Term 2 | |

Yours sincerely

Duncan de Gruchy – Headteacher