



Stratford – Sub – Castle Church of England VC Primary School



Headteacher: Mrs Kay Bridson B.A (Hons) PGCE

*Learning for life in a positive and caring Christian community*



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Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2017

Dear All

Thank you to all who were able to make it to Sports Day on last week. Many thanks also to the PTA for providing refreshments and to all the staff who helped to make the vital preparations, especially Miss Griffiths who works very hard before and on the day! Congratulations to all our winners and to everyone who took part. A very special thank you to the Y6 pupils, who helped to set up the races.

**Annual Reports / Parents' Open Evening Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2017**

Your child's end of year report and SATs results (if they are in Y2 and Y6) should have arrived home yesterday. If you think there are any errors, don't understand anything or we have left anything out please do come and see Mrs. Watkins or myself and we will rectify the situation or try and explain the report to you. **You will have chance to discuss this report with us or a class teacher on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2017. Please note the evening runs from 3:30pm – 6:00pm.** Old books will be sent home on Friday. Current books will be rolled over into next year (to save money).

If you wish to talk to your child's teacher or say hello to their new teacher (if they have one) then the staff will be there to see you. We work on a 'bacon counter' idea for this evening, simply write up your name and 'chats' will happen on a first come, first served basis. Please do come and feel free to wander around the school and visit all the classrooms should you so wish! **Each class will have a white board where you can write up your name if you wish to take part in the bacon counter!**

**Please note there is no Athletics Club on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July due to Parents' Evening!**

**School Budget**

As you may have heard in the news many schools are struggling to cover costs and unfortunately our school is one of these schools. Under 'Fairer Funding' we stand to gain £30,000 per year. This was due to be debated in the last parliament but got caught up in the election etc.

Our budget 2017/2018 is about 8% less than last year. This has been due to a number of factors. We knew that a large year 6 cohort leaving in July 2016 would reduce funds. This was coupled with a big drop in the number of pupils claiming free school meals. The governors budgeted for a roll-over of £18,000 but this was not enough to make up the other £30,000 needed to make up the difference in funding. As standards go up our funding also drops.

Over the last year or so we have not renewed the contract for our Parent Support Adviser and our Teaching Assistant team has reduced by three. I have been on duty every lunchtime this academic year in an attempt to save money!

Despite taking measures in the last financial year to save money and cut spending as much as possible the governors had to agree to set a deficit budget for the 2017/2018 financial year. A plan to rectify this situation has been put in place.

This year Mrs H Waters is leaving and we shall not be replacing her role as Premises Manager or taking on someone for as many hours in the school office. This is intended to be a short term measure as we hope our increased numbers in September will help with the next financial year (18/19). Hopefully fairer funding will come in as new legislation; this would really help us too!

We are admitting 26 children into the EYFS in September rather than our usual 21. All the money we have in the main school budget is being spent on staff, basic necessities such as books and pencils and on utility bills. We do have some money from a *Government PE Grant* but this is ring fenced and can only be spent on certain things. **In addition to cutting staffing we will be implementing some money saving schemes for the 2017/2018 financial year some of which we hope will be temporary.**

1. *The school office will only be open from 08:30 – 15:30*
2. *We shall be rolling work books over from the end of this year into next.*
3. *We shall be asking parents to provide an e-mail address so we can send out newsletters via e-mail. (Paper copies for those without an e-mail will be provided)*
4. *Certificates will be smaller!*
5. *The Abacus on-line Maths scheme has been cancelled saving £1,500 per year*
6. *The library book budget has been reduced by £1,000*

In addition to these measures it is with great reluctance that the governors have decided that the charges for both Early Birds, Night Owls and school meals should be increased in September 2017. This is to cover charges and to ensure money is not required from the whole school budget to subsidise this service.

*The charge for Early Birds will be £3 for any arrival time between 08:00 and 08:45*

*The charge for Night Owls will be £5 per hour or £2.50 per half hour*

**These rises are just to ensure that the staffing, heating and electricity bills are covered. These sessions do not make a profit.**

School meals will be charged at £2.50 as from September. This service is subsidised by the school budget when the uptake is low or when children do not have their Universal Free School Meal. The subsidy gets less as more children have hot meals. The meals are delicious and are really good value for money at £2.50. The governors have a duty to provide meals but they do not have to be hot. Please support our hot meal service; it will not survive if we as a school are unable to meet higher and higher subsidies. This takes money from the education budget!

Sorry to be the bearer of such disappointing news. As a staff we are working hard to maintain our level of service to you despite there being fewer of us! Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any thoughts or ideas on the matter!

Kay Bridson

On a happier note...

**Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July: Recorder Assembly (Mr Walker conducts the Robin Class and Woodpecker Class recorder orchestra!) 09:00. ALL WELCOME!**

