



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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Tuesday 12th September 2017

Dear All,

Welcome back! I do hope you managed to enjoy some sunshine and recreation over the summer break.

I would like to welcome Mrs. Mel Munt to the staff. She is now working in the school office from 08:30 until 13:30. From this time the office is then covered by Mrs Avril Thornton, our Administrative and Finance Officer, and by Mrs. Wendy Davidson. Due to financial restrictions the office is now closed from 15:30 until 08:30 the next morning. Anyone making late bookings for Early Birds or Night Owls is asked to contact Miss Grace Griffiths or Miss Jeanette Hardiman between 15:30 and 17:00.

Information can be accessed on the school web-site: www.stratford-sub-castle.wilts.sch.uk



Welcome & Information Evening for New/Interested Parents

In the interests of good communication we are holding a “**Welcome /Question and Answer Session for New Parents**” on **Thursday 28th September at 7pm** in the school hall. At this session we will go through routines and policies and basically answer any questions, having given everyone a chance to get into the swing of things! This session is designed to welcome EYFS parents, however we would like to extend the invitation to **all parents**. Please do come along if you wish to ask anything at all about how the school runs or learning etc!

PLEASE LET MRS M. MUNT IN THE OFFICE KNOW IF YOU WISH TO ATTEND. MANY THANKS.

Home Learning (Homework)

The main focus of home learning is reading, practising spellings and learning number facts.

Home Learning for EYFS & KS1 2017

Please note we teach your children to read but it is down to you to help them PRACTICE!

EYFS: Reading (5 times a week) and words, counting backwards and one to one correspondence. (Counting things not just saying numbers)

Year 1: Reading (5 times a week), spelling lists and maths booklet.

Year 2: Reading (5 times a week), spelling lists and maths booklet.

Home Learning for KS2 2017

Year 3: Reading (5 times a week), spelling lists and maths booklet.

Year 4: Reading (5 times a week), spelling lists, maths booklet and Termly Topic

Year 5: Reading (5 times a week), spelling lists, maths booklet and Termly Topic

Year 6: Reading (5 times a week), spelling lists, maths booklet and Termly Topic SAT's practise papers/activities rotation of comprehension, grammar, punctuation & spelling or maths.

Reading: Reading records will be checked once a week on a Monday. Children are recognised for reading 5 times with a sticker. If children read 5 times a week for a term their efforts are recognised with a certificate.

What does reading 5 times a week mean? Reading could be spread over the seven days in a week, or you may read twice in one day if that is easier. Reading will vary according to the age and reading skills of each child. Reading could be sharing a book together, not necessarily the scheme book or the child reading all the words in the book. Children may choose to read an article on the Newsround website (or similar) and this will count as long as a record is made in the Reading Record book. *The Reading Journey* (Helpful hints for reading) booklet is available in the 'Parent Workshop Information' section of the school website.

Spelling: Children will be provided with a weekly set of spellings. This will be in their Spelling Book. Once a week the children will be assessed on these spellings. Stickers will be given for 9 or 10 correct. Stickers will also be given to recognise the children who have practised their spellings regularly and have tried very hard.

What does learning your spelling mean? We do not expect children to just go through the motions of learning their spellings, but to actually take responsibility for their learning and to extend their spelling skills by making an effort to learn new words. Children will be provided with ideas of how to learn spellings.

Maths Booklets: Each maths booklet is named after a different planet and is stuck in back of Spelling Books. The aim of the booklets is for the children to be able to recall number, measure and geometry facts quickly and without thinking. This means being able to say multiplication tables in about 20 seconds and to recall isolated times table facts immediately.

In key Stage 2, children will be given a challenge by their teacher to know all the times tables in order, to know them mixed up and also to know division facts. Inside the booklet are the other number, measure and geometry facts your child needs to know. As parents please tick and initial the boxes 3 times (1 tick/initial = 1 box) to verify your child is able to recall the maths facts being focussed on.

Termly Topic: The Termly Topic this term is to be based on the **CLIMATE/WEATHER**. What is the difference? Find out! This is to be completed in the book provided by the school and handed in on **Friday 13th October** to each class teacher. All children completing the task will be recognised with a certificate.

This is compulsory for Y4, Y5 and Y6 and optional for all other year groups. Pupils in the younger year groups will need to ask their teacher for a book to complete the work Termly Topic in as they will not automatically be issued with one.



Swimming commences on Friday 15th September. This year swimming lessons will be for **Year 4 and Year 5**. The children will be transported from school to the Five Rivers Leisure Centre by coach on a Friday afternoon. They will return in time for the end of the school day. Due to budget constraints the lessons will again this year only run from 15th September until 15th December 2017. The voluntary contribution will remain at **£2 per session**. This does not cover the entire cost of lessons but goes some way to covering the cost of the coach hire, swimming teachers, life guards and the hire of the swimming pool. Private swimming lessons are very expensive, so I hope you agree this still represents good value for money. A separate letter has already gone out to Y4 and Y5 giving more detail about swimming. Please be aware of the coach returning to school at 3pm!

PE lessons

Please ensure your child has their PE kit **every day as things do change**. There are so many events each week which may cause us to have to change things around!

The general plan is:

Butterfly Class; Thursday
Owl Class; Monday / Wednesday
Woodpecker Class; Monday/ Thursday
Fox Class; Tuesday and Friday (Y4 & Y5 swimming)
Robin Class; Monday / Friday (Y5 swimming).

Next PTA Meeting

Wednesday 20th September at 7pm in the staffroom. All welcome. See the PTAs Facebook page!

Bikes and scooters

If you collect a bike or scooter at the end of the day please wait until the rush of pedestrians has cleared the school site. Unfortunately we are unable to extend the path below my office window (due to drains), so we will have to work round it for the foreseeable future. If you wait for a few minutes, it also allows the traffic outside school to die down and be a little safer for you!

School Meals

School meals are now **£2.50**. 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!

Instrumental Lessons

There are some sessions available with our two instrumental teachers. If your child is interested in learning the violin, guitar or ukulele please contact Mrs Munt in the school office.

PLEASE REMEMBER.....

School rules **DO** apply before and after school. Children (and adults!) must **NOT**

- climb on fences or gates (use gates)
- climb under fences (use gates)
- play on the field, track or in the den area (before and after school)
- venture into the garden area
- get out play equipment (except the balls provided in the morning)
- stand on picnic benches (people don't want to sit on your muddy foot prints!)
- cycle or scoot on the premises, please wheel your cycles and scooters to the gate.

Adults please do not...

- bring buggies into school (park in the hall on very wet days), we just don't have room
- use your mobile phone in school buildings (to safeguard yourself and our children)
- remain in school when the bell has rung in the mornings (we get into trouble if you do)
- come into school after the bell has rung (we get into trouble if you do)
- park on the zig-zag lines



School Photographer- Monday 25th September 2017.

This time of year the individual and family portraits are done (in time for Christmas), whilst the class photos are taken in the summer. Please note you are under no obligation to buy. All the children will have a photo taken individually (for school records) but please indicate if you wish to have a family portrait taken. Pre-school children are also invited to come along and these will be taken as near to **9am** as possible. If you wish to have a family portrait/pre-school photo taken please come along to the school hall on **Monday 25th September at 9am.**

FAMILY GROUPS WILL ONLY BE TAKEN IF THE REPLY SLIP IS RETURNED TO SCHOOL. TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT PLEASE RETURN THE SLIP!

PLEASE NOTE SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN (OURS!) NEED TO REGISTER AS NORMAL. A MEMBER OF STAFF WILL COLLECT THEM WHEN THEY ARE NEEDED FOR A FAMILY GROUP PHOTO!

PLEASE RETURN REPLY SLIPS ATTACHED TO THIS NEWSLETTER BY FRIDAY 22ND
SEPTEMBER TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT!!!!



We would like to start e-mailing newsletters out to families. If you would like to take part please provide us with an e-mail address, which will be part of a group email to be sent out instead of paper copies. Please return the form below by Friday 22nd September

Finally... many apologies for sending so much information all in one go. The photocopier had a problem with its rollers at the beginning of the term. Too much rock and not enough roll! Great timing!

Both Mrs Watkins and I have a very heavy teaching commitment this year, so please bear with us! However, we are both committed to being here for you, so please leave a message for us in the office, if you are unable to grab us, when you want us! We will get back to you.

Kindest regards

Kay Bridson

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS: INDIVIDUAL AND FAMILY GROUPS

I would like my pre-school child/ren to be photographed with my child/ren attending Stratford-sub-Castle Primary School.

NAME OF CHILD _____ CLASS -----

NAME OF CHILD _____ CLASS -----

I would like my children attending Stratford-sub-Castle Primary School to be photographed together.

NAME OF CHILD _____ CLASS -----

NAME OF CHILD _____ CLASS -----

SIGN UP FOR NEWSLETTERS BY EMAIL

Name of pupil(s).....

Class(es)

- I wish to receive paper newsletters
- I wish to receive electronic newsletters by email. My email address is:

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Please tick as appropriate.

Signed:

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