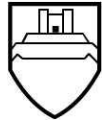




Stratford – Sub – Castle Church of England VC Primary School



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Learning for life in a positive and caring Christian community

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Thursday 2nd November 2017

Dear All,

I would like to start the term by thanking everyone who attended the Harvest Festival, the Parents Evenings and the Cheese and Wine Evening combining the Governors' Report to Parents and the PTA AGM. It is so helpful to have such good support in all aspects of school life. If you wish to read the Chair of Governors Report on 2016/2017 it can be found on the school website. You may also be interested to know that the PTA has now changed its name to FOSS (Friends of Stratford School). This has been done for insurance reasons and also to acknowledge the great support the PTA and school receive from grandparents and the wider community!

I hope you had a good break. We have a very busy term ahead of us with lots to do and plenty of exciting things to look forward to.

Termly Topics. (Home Work)

Well done one and all! The Termly Topics 'blew us away' this time. The interest in weather and climate was evident. Certificates were given out yesterday. What a great variety of ideas!

The Termly Topics are set for two main reasons. Firstly to cater for the split amongst families who prefer weekends free and those who want to do home learning at the weekend and keep the week nights free! We want you to be able to complete the written home learning when it is convenient to you. Secondly we are responding to research conducted by organisations such as the Sutton Trust which indicates that homework (unless designed carefully) has very little impact on pupil progress. The focus of the weekly home learning is to read regularly and to actually learn facts (spellings and number facts) which need to be recalled quickly.

The Termly Topic for this term is anything based on the theme of '**BRILLIANT BUILDINGS AND AMAZING ARCHITECTURE**'. Be as creative with the theme as you like. The deadline for handing in topics is **FRIDAY 8TH DECEMBER 2017**. 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 given one.

Poppy Appeal

The school has a collection tin for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. Poppies will be available to children and parents on the playground before school during the school day and after school. We do ask that children make at least a 20p donation. The school will mark Remembrance with a moment of silence and reflection at 11am on Friday 10th November.



Museum Experience Day

On **Thursday 9th November** Fox Class and Robin Class are working with a team from Salisbury Museum to learn about how museums are organised and to learn a bit about 'putting on an exhibition'. This will then culminate in an after school exhibition presented by both classes on **Wednesday 22nd November**. This will take place in the school hall and all members of the school community are welcome to visit this exhibition after school on that day!

Remembrance / British Values Day

On Thursday 9th November Butterfly Class, Owl Class and Woodpecker Class will be taking part in a 'whole school topic day'. The morning will be spent learning about Remembrance Day and during the afternoon we will focus on 'British values'. Robin Class and Fox Class will also learn about 'Remembrance' and complete some work on 'British Values' at other times during the same week as they have other plans on that day. (See above!)

*As a school we have a duty "to promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs." We do this every day in the way we live our lives in school. However, we thought it would be good to spend a bit of time thinking about these themes in a more explicit way. The school's **'British Values Statement'** can be found on the school web-site.*

This year as part of our focus on Remembrance we will be thinking about the men who left this village to fight in WW1 and whose lives are commemorated in St Lawrence Church. They are known as the Stratford Nine. A booklet about these men has been compiled by Helen Rowe and is available from the Church if you are interested in finding out more.

Children in Need: Friday 17th November 2017

Charlotte's grandma has once again volunteered to make us a Pudsey Bear Cake. This amazing creation will be raffled before school, after Smiley Face Assembly, during lunch and play time. Tickets cost 10p and all proceeds will be sent to the charity. To allow as many raffle tickets to be sold as possible the draw will take place near the end of the school day.

School Disco: Friday 10th November 2017.

Tickets are available from the school office from Monday 6th November! Please note this event is for children from our school only. Younger siblings may stay if parents stay as well! Parents are very welcome to stay at the EYFS/ KS1 Disco and we always need help for the second session if you are able to stay for that! Children must attend the disco for their age group (unless their parents are explicitly helping to run the event and they need to be at both discos)

EYFS/ Y1 and Y2 Disco 6:00pm – 7:00pm (Enter by side door to hall from big playground and exit via the door onto the 'not so small playground'. This is the front door near my office.)

Y3, Y4, Y5 and Y6 7:00pm – 8:00pm (Enter by side door to hall from big playground and exit via the same door.)

ALL TICKETS ARE £1 and include a drink in the price. Cakes and drinks are also on sale during the evening. Glo-sticks are on sale at this event. Please let a member of staff (on the door) know if you do not want your child to purchase one. If you are able to make cakes for this event the FOSS would be very grateful.

Kindest regards

Kay Bridson

P.S. REMEMBER: SWIMMING IS ON TOMORROW FOR Y4 and Y5