



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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Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2016

Dear All,

I would like to start the term by thanking everyone for helping to make my 50<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations so special. I was completely overwhelmed by the good wishes, cards, gifts and balloons! Thank you.

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. The Book Sale at the end of last term raised £56.05 towards a new Christmas tree. The PTA have agreed to donate some funds towards this too! Many thanks to the school librarians and Mrs. Williams for organising this event.

#### Home learning (Home Work)

As you are aware we have been making some changes to our Home learning policies and procedures. Thank you for your feedback this has been very useful. We will continue to 'tweak' things until we feel it is really working well. We are aware that the use of Abacus has been a bit problematic and that reading needs looking at as the needs of the scheme readers are not the same as some of our older 'free readers'. The Termly Topics have proved very successful and I have really enjoyed looking at them. We made this change 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! Now you as a family can 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 now to read regularly and to actually learn stuff/ facts (spellings and number facts) which need to be recalled quickly. We will continue to make little changes and hope to get more feedback from you about home learning at the mid-year point.

The Termly Topic for this term is anything based on the theme of '**Underground**'. This could be volcanoes, caves, moles, roots, railways! Be as creative with the theme as you like. The deadline for handing in topics is **FRIDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2016**. 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 Day with a moment of silence and reflection at 11am on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November.

#### Remembrance / British Values Day

On Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November the school will be taking part in a 'whole school topic day'. The morning will be spent learning about Remembrance Day in classes and during the afternoon we will mix EYFS/ KS1 up and KS2 up to learn about British values. 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.*

### **Children in Need: Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2016**

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.

## **PTA News .....**

### **School Disco: Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2016.**

**Tickets are available from the school office from Monday!** 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 PTA would be very grateful as they ran out of cakes for the KS1 disco last time!

### **Christmas Bazaar: Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2016**

Put a date in your diary for this event. More details to follow but just to say the PTA are keen to start collecting any gifts or lucky dip prizes you may be willing to donate. Please drop them off at the school office.

## **Activities .....**

### **Scooter Skills**

Due to circumstances beyond my control the session scheduled for this week had to be postponed. The Scooter Skills Sessions will now take place on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November. If your child would like to bring in suitable clothing (warm and easy to move about in) to change into for the scooter skills session, please do bring them into school on that day. Helmets are not compulsory, but if your child has one **please, please** bring it in for them to wear.

### **GO ACTIVE: Multi- skills Club.**

These sessions start after school on Mondays next week and will take place in the school hall. The dates are 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> Nov, 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Dec. Please note this means, there will be a session during the last week of term. There are still places available for Y1 and Y2 pupils, see Mrs Munt in the office if you are interested. Sessions cost £18.00 and cheques should be made payable to Go Active.

## **Finally .....**

- Please park carefully outside the school and respect the needs of local residents
- The school deadline for the Trussell Trust Shoebox Appeal is Fri 18<sup>th</sup> November. We were only given one leaflet per family so if you require information please see Mrs Munt in the school office or visit the Trussell Trust web-site.

### **Dates for your diary, so you can plan your summer holidays!**

For the academic year 2017/2018 the school will open for children on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2017. Friday 1<sup>st</sup> and Monday 4<sup>th</sup> are Teacher Training Days.

Kindest regards  
Kay Bridson





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