



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 7th September 2016

Dear All,

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

Sorry about the amount of information "coming at you" at the start of term. As always, if you are not sure about anything, please do ask.

I am also sorry to report that Mrs. Helen Waters is still unwell and is not yet fit to return to school. Mrs. Mel Munt is doing a sterling job at covering the reception desk but please bear in mind that she has never experienced the beginning of term before!!!!

I would like to welcome Mrs. Avril Thornton to the staff. She has replaced Mrs. Penny Larcombe as the school's Finance and Administrative Officer. Mrs. Thornton is very experienced, but is in a similar situation to Mrs. Munt, so please help her too as she gets used to us!

Also joining us as a Teaching Assistant is Mrs Lucy Godfrey. I am sure you will make her feel welcome over the next few weeks.

During the holidays Mrs. Bara Joint and Miss Zoe Huckleby left the staff, so we will be recruiting more Teaching Assistants as soon as possible. I am sorry to say goodbye to both ladies but new opportunities await them.

At the end of last term the school calendar for 2016 / 2017 was sent home. All the dates are on the newly vamped school website so please do take a look. **BEWARE: we have changed some dates around and are also some changes to the usual routines! Take a good look please!**



In the interests of good communication we are holding a "**Welcome /Question and Answer Session for New Parents**" on **Thursday 22nd 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 (Home work)

Thank you to everyone who returned the questionnaires about home learning to school at the end of last term. Over the holidays Mrs. Williams kindly gathered in all the sheets and collated the information for us. The teachers will be discussing the outcomes and also adding their thoughts about 'home learning' at the staff meeting on Thursday. The beginning of the new academic year provides us with a good opportunity to take stock and think about what we do and why we do it!

Pupils will not receive any written home learning this week. Instead they will be expected to read and write a comment in their Reading Record. More info on home learning to follow!

Swimming commences on Tuesday 13th 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 Tuesday afternoon. They will return in time for the end of the school day. Unfortunately due to budget constraints the lessons will only run from 13th September until 6th December this year. 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 will go out to Y4 and Y5 giving more detail about swimming. Please be aware of the coach returning to school at 3pm!

Play time.

This year we have brought play / snack time forward to 10:25. It still lasts for 20 minutes!

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; Tuesday / Friday

Owl Class; Monday / Thursday

Woodpecker Class; Monday/ Thursday

Robin Class; Tuesday (swimming) and Friday

Kestrel Class; Monday / Tuesday (Y5 swimming) / Wednesday

Next PTA Meeting

Wednesday 14th September at 7pm in the staffroom.

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!

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
- stand on picnic benches (people don't want to sit on your muddy foot prints!)

Thank you! Kay Bridson





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