



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 7<sup>th</sup> February 2017

Dear All

### **Some good news!**

Before Christmas I wrote to tell you that I had submitted a bid to the MOD Support Fund in an attempt to get some money to revamp the pond area and build an outdoor classroom. (This would go on the scruffy area near to the bike shed). This fund is a government fund set up to help improve the lives of children from service families. It is hoped that the fund will improve the well-being of all pupils whether from a service family or not. I am pleased to inform you that we have been partially successful. We have been granted £8,500 to improve the wildlife area. I am meeting with Wiltshire Wildlife Trust next week, to plan a way forward. We did not get funding for our outdoor classroom but hope the PTA can raise enough funds to make this part of the project happen. As I wrote in our bid.....

*Should this bid be successful the school's overgrown and dangerous wildlife and pond area will be transformed into a safe and accessible zone with an adjoining outdoor classroom, where pupils can produce high quality work in the fresh air.*

*This will help to mitigate the effects of deployment by providing an excellent accessible, educational resource, right on our doorstep. It will help pupils to be even more enthused about coming to school by providing first hand experiences and a meaningful context for learning. The importance of time spent outdoors with nature is well documented as having a positive effect on children's' mental health and well-being. This project fully supports the emphasis put on fresh air and natural experiences as currently promoted by the National Trust and their recent report 'The Natural Childhood Report' (2012).*

The bid was 'sponsored' by one of our parents Major Bagshaw who wrote an excellent letter of support for the bid. I would like to thank him for his efforts. So exciting times. Watch this space or rather the space behind the school!!!

### **Some dates for your diary! (Mostly stuff not on the school calendar)**

#### ***This term....***

***Maths Workshop for Parents: Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February @ 3:15pm***

***Learning Journey session (For parents/ grandparents of EYFS pupils: Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2017 @ 2:30pm***  
*A letter went out a while ago with a reply slip attached, see office if any hic-ups!)*

**Break for holiday:** Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2017 @ 3:00pm

**Term 4... Some dates for your diary. Details to follow after the holiday!**

**Back to school:** Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2017 (No clubs this week!)

**School Disco:** Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February (This is the first week back. Tickets go on sale Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2017)

**World Book Day:** Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2017 (Dress as a character from a book and bring in one of your favourite books to share with someone from a different class) Your book token should be attached to this letter!

**Tag Rugby Tournament for Y6:** Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2017 (Letters to come out to pupils involved separately)

**VIP Days:** Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2017 and Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2017: (Please attached letter)

**Comic Relief (Red Nose Day: Wacky Hair/ Hat Day):** Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2017: Wear a hat or do your wacky hair thing! Or both! (We are also collecting jokes that day with the aim of making up a school joke book to sell for the charity)

**Small Schools' Games Tournament (football and netball)** Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017 (Letters to come out to pupils involved separately)

**PTA Meeting:** Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April @ 7pm in the staffroom (A PTA newsletter is to follow)

**Stratford Sing Up Day:** Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2017: (More details to follow, but please come and sing with us in the afternoon @ 2pm)

**Today we celebrated Safer Internet Day in our school.**

**Please talk to your children about it!**

**Safer Internet Day**



**Safer Internet Day:** Celebrated globally every year, Safer Internet Day offers the opportunity offers the opportunity to highlight positive uses of technology and to explore the role we all play in helping to create a better and safer online community. It calls upon young people, parents, carers, teachers, social workers, law enforcement, companies, policymakers, and wider, to join together and play their part for a better internet. Ultimately, a better internet is up to us! [www.saferinternetday.org.uk](http://www.saferinternetday.org.uk)

**There are some fabulous resources available to help you to keep your children safe on the internet. See our school website (PARENTS TAB) for ideas such as.....**

**Factsheets/information for parents and carers**



**Supporting Young People Online:** A free guide created by Childnet providing Information and advice for parents and carers on supporting young people online. The advice is also available in 12 additional languages including Arabic, Hindi, Polish, Spanish, Urdu and Welsh. [www.childnet.com/resources/supporting-young-people-online](http://www.childnet.com/resources/supporting-young-people-online)



**Information and Advice for Foster Carers/Adoptive Parents:** The UK Safer Internet Centre has worked together with Islington Council to create leaflets for foster carers and adoptive parents. The leaflets, which are free to download and easy to print, include top tips and conversation starters to help foster carers and adoptive parents get to grips with internet safety. [www.saferinternet.org.uk/fostering-adoption](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/fostering-adoption)



**Keeping Under Fives Safe Online:** Children love using technology and are learning to navigate websites, online games and consoles, and touch screen technology like iPads and smartphones from a younger and younger age. This advice contains top tips for parents and carers for keeping children aged five and under safe online. [www.childnet.com/resources/keeping-under-fives-safe-online](http://www.childnet.com/resources/keeping-under-fives-safe-online)

## **Thinking about safety and well-being ....**

Parents / guardians: please inform the school if your child is going home with another parent (even if you are very good friends). Please do not take someone else's child home without express parental permission (no matter how helpful you think you are being).

Children: if someone offers to take you home, even if it is someone you know really well, please do not go home with this person without checking with your teacher first.

## **Thinking about safety and well-being ....**

Please do not use your mobile phone inside the school buildings. Thank you for your co-operation!

### **School Disco: Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2017.**

Tickets are available from the school office from Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February! 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! Please do not have your phones out at this event.

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)

ALL TICKETS ARE £1 and include a drink in the price. Cakes and drinks are also on sale during the evening. 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!

### **World Book day: Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2017: [www.worldbookday.com](http://www.worldbookday.com)**

We shall be celebrating World Book Day in school by dressing up as a character from a book! Please find attached a special WBD token which is redeemable against a book or audio book. Take it to any bookshop participating in the initiative. This offer is valid 27<sup>th</sup> February until 26<sup>th</sup> March inclusive. (See the back of the token for more details). This year will be asking the children to take part in a quiz during the school day. All will be allowed to enter for free. All entries go into a hat and a winner drawn at random. The winner will be announced in Smiley Face Assembly on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2017. Prizes to be presented in Smiley Face Assembly 06.03.17

We would also like to encourage all children and staff to bring a treasured book to school with them that day to share with another pupil in the school.



### **Comic Relief / Red Nose Day: Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2017**

This year we are holding a non-uniform day with a twist in order to raise money for this worthy charity! As well as a choice of clothes we also thought it might be fun to add in the choice of hair style or hat! Donations in a bucket by the gate please. As always, you do not have to join if you feel this is not for you! Uniforms are accepted on that day too! Red noses if you want!

Kindest regards

Kay Bridson

# INVITATION AND REPLY SLIP FOR VIP DAYS 2017

Dear All

As last year we are providing each pupil with the opportunity to invite a Very Important Person to spend an afternoon with them in school. Hopefully enough people will want to come on both days, but in case of a clash and to make things fair, places will be drawn out of the hat. If you have more than one child please return a separate slip for each child you have attending our school. We will co-ordinate your forms for you. It would be lovely to see you if you are able to come along. The details are as follows:

- Each pupil is allowed to invite **one** special visitor (parent, grandparent, auntie, uncle etc. but just one!) on one afternoon only.
- VIP Days (afternoons) take place on **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March and Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March** from **1pm until 2:55pm**.
- Visitors will be expected to join in with whatever the class are doing that afternoon and if possible stay for the whole afternoon.
- We look forward to welcoming you!

Mrs. K Bridson

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## Stratford-sub-Castle Primary School VIP Visitor Day

PLEASE COMPLETE IN BLOCK CAPITAL LETTERS

NAME OF VISITOR: \_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT TEL NO OF VISITOR: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF PUPIL: \_\_\_\_\_

RELATIONSHIP TO PUPIL: \_\_\_\_\_

PREFERED DAY: **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March / Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March/ CAN DO EITHER**

**Please circle as appropriate. Return to the school office by  
Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2017.**

**PLEASE DO NOT PUT IN BOOK BAGS!**

**We will let you know which day you have been allocated by  
28<sup>th</sup> February 2017**