



Stratford – Sub – Castle Church of England VC Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs Kay Bridson B.A (Hons) PGCE



Life in all its fullness

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Wednesday 9th January 2019

Dear All,

Happy New Year! I do hope you had a lovely Christmas and were able to keep healthy throughout the break.

Next Thursday (17th January) it is School Census day. Our funding for school meals depends on how many children have a hot dinner on that day. We need funding in order to provide you with a school meal service and also to provide the Universal Free School meals. These are free for children but the school has to pay for them. If our funding isn't enough, we then have to take money from curriculum pots!

Please help us by ensuring as many children as possible have a school meal next Thursday 17th January

ORIGINAL MENU FOR NEXT THURSDAY HAS CHANGED TO MENU CHOICE BELOW:

- Ham and pineapple pizza with diced potatoes and vegetables
- Cheese and tomato pizza with diced potatoes and vegetables
- Jacket potato with beans/cheese/tuna mayo
- Pudding: Chocolate cake and custard.

Life Education Centre, Monday 21st and Tuesday 22nd January 2019

The Life Education Centre (a bus which visits us every year) is part of a national charity called Coram Life Education and is the UK's largest children's health education charity, providing a comprehensive range of high quality and evidence-based services appropriate to the needs of primary school children.

Our school is receiving a visit by the Mobile Classroom of the Life Education Centre on **Monday 21st January and Tuesday 22nd January**. Life Education Centre (Wiltshire) Ltd is a local charity affiliated to the national charity. It is supported by the Education, Health and Police authorities and administered by a small team of volunteers from local Rotary Clubs. It provides a unique programme which teaches children about the wonder of their bodies, how to take care of them, and how relationships, food, drugs and other substances can affect them.

The specially equipped mobile classroom provides an unforgettable experience for the children, which assists our school in our health education work. The focused, interactive, programmes are designed and varied to match each age group and are presented by a specialist educator. Each class will spend about an hour with the LEC teacher.

The school is charged about £4.00 (per child) for these visits. The school and F.O.S.S. contribute toward the cost, **but a donation of £2 per child would really help the funds to go further.** We will be adding this to ParentPay tomorrow morning or please drop donations off at the school office. Many thanks.

A free session for parents will be held on Tuesday 22nd from 9.00am – 9.20am. Parents/Grandparents and carers are invited to visit the Life Education mobile classroom to find out more about what their children have been learning.

Please complete and return the attached form if you wish to attend. You may also care to check the website: www.coramlifeeducation.org.uk

A few reminders/dates etc

The next F.O.S.S Meeting will be held on **Wednesday 23rd January** at 7pm in the Staffroom - all welcome.

Please see the school calendar attached to this letter.

I would like to thank all of you who have phoned to let us know about your child's absence. It really helps us when you let us know about your child's illness; otherwise we end up having to make countless phone calls to ensure that your child hasn't got lost on the way to school. We are not trying to check up on you, we just want to know that your child is **SAFE**. Again, to do with safety, **please ensure that your child does not arrive at school before 8.45am** unless they are booked in to the Early Birds session.

I would also like to remind all of you, that the only way we can beat the scourge that is **HEADLICE**, is if all parents are vigilant. Please check your child's hair regularly and treat immediately if you find any unwanted visitors. Remember also, long hair is required to be tied back!

Premises updates...

GAS

You may have noticed the yellow spray markings on the pavement outside the school. During the Christmas holiday the SGN (Southern Gas Network) investigated whether the two recent extensions have been incorrectly built over a mains gas pipe. Apparently SGN has been doing some work matching 'Google Earth' images with their plans and investigating any anomalies. We are an anomaly!

I have been told that 50% of 'anomalies' are found to be 'build -overs' and 50% result in the plans being found to be incorrect. Buildings should not be built on gas pipes, as the pressure of the building can cause pipes to fracture and gas to leak. Therefore, the governors and I are taking this matter very seriously.

Yesterday, I talked to the man in charge to find out what the Christmas holiday works had discovered. They were inconclusive. Basically he wants to dig another hole to really make sure.

If there is a pipe under the extensions, it does not go under any classrooms, just my office! If there is a pipe, then the gas will have to be re-routed around the building.

If work is required, it will be done during the week's break in February. In order to ensure safety, regular tests would take place until the work is completed in February. The new pipe will be laid down the drive way (if required)!

EXTENSIVE TESTS WERE COMPLETED YESTERDAY AND I'M PLEASED TO CONFIRM THAT IT IS SAFE AND THERE ARE NO LEAKS. I WILL LET YOU KNOW OF ANY DEVELOPMENTS AS SOON AS I KNOW THE DEFINITE FACTS.

WATER

You may have also noticed the roof leaks during the last two weeks of term. We have five major ones! Unfortunately these are not recent developments, but what has changed is the quantity of water making its way into our buildings. Some leaks are over eight years old and others are about three years old! I have been trying to get the funds to

repair the school roof (actually the main problem are the roof-lights) for a considerable time. I am pleased to say that the school has now been allocated emergency funds by the Local Authority. The school is such a miss-mash of tack on roofs that the water tends to pool on very small parts of it. It is hoped that the work will also address this problem.

I will let you know when the work will commence. However, due to the amount of water now making its way into the school we can't wait for the summer holiday to get the work done. When I know more I will let you know what the plans are!

Please do contact me if you require additional information about the gas pipe issue or the roof leaks.



SNOW PROCEDURES

If we experience significant snowfall we will send a text out, we put information on the school web-site and also post a message with Spire FM.

We only send a message to say we are closed not to say we are open!

We will endeavour to make a decision as early as possible because we have so many staff members who have long distances to travel and you need to make arrangements too! Please do bear in mind, that we will do our utmost to keep the school open during the winter but a school without teachers is not much good and we also need to be able to feed most of the school! The other major factor is that we do not have a caretaker, so the snow clearing has to be done by myself and willing volunteers. This also relies on me being able to get to school!

If it snows heavily during the school day we will stay open until the end of the school day. Please can children bring some spare dry clothes so we can enjoy the snow!!

As always, keep talking to us!!

Kay Bridson
Headteacher

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Life Education Centre – Adult Session

Name of pupil:

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Name of adult (relationship to pupil):

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I would like to attend the session for adults on **Tuesday 22nd January from 9.00am to 9.20am.**