

All Saints' C of E Primary School

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Inspire Challenge Succeed

Friday 6th September 2013

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to a new school year. We hope that you had a great summer and enjoyed the lovely weather.

The term has started very well and it is nice to see such enthusiasm from the children as they come into school! Welcome to our new children in Acorn Class along with a number of new children throughout the school. We now have 110 children at school, which is the largest we have been since I joined the school nearly ten years ago!

SEED TO TREE PROGRAMME

As a school we are keen for all of our children to have access to a variety of learning experiences which give them a greater understanding and awareness of the natural world around them along with a global awareness. The school has a long tradition of being linked to the local woodlands of Frithy Wood, which is located behind the school and Golden Wood in the heart of the village.

The Seed to Tree Programme involves all children in the school in an annual programme linked to Golden Wood. This programme helps children and young people to learn about, engage with and play an active part in conserving their natural environment. The different steps within the programme involve the children in exploring the woodlands, collecting and planting seeds, minding and tending saplings and eventually planting these saplings in Golden Wood in their final year at All Saints'. This means that every child who leaves the school also leaves the legacy of a tree in the community woodlands. Alongside this work we also make links with the rainforests of Papua New Guinea and the importance of developing a global environmental awareness.



We have now agreed a series of dates for the Seed to Tree Programme this year for each class:

Date	Year Group	Activity	Details
Wed 11 th September 2013 1.20pm- 3.10pm	Year 3	Minding and Mulching	Activity takes place in School Tree Nursery followed by tour of Frithy Wood. Nursery needs weeding by children and trees counted ready for transplanting to Golden Wood
Wed 9 th October 2013 1.20pm- 3.10pm	Year 1	Seed planting and collection	Collection of tree seeds from Frithy Wood and planting in school tree nursery
Tues 5 th November 2013 9.30am- 11.45am (yew tree entrance)	Year 4	Coppicing of oaks in Golden Wood	Trees will have been cut down by chain saw previous week and children will cut and stack wood near ride Full explanation of why 'their' trees are going to be cut down and use of tools
Tues 26 th November 2013 9.15am- 12 Start at school	Year 4	Planting trees in Golden Wood	The children will dig up their own trees from School Tree Nursery and take plants to Golden Wood and plant and mulch
Tues 29 th April 2014 1.20pm – 3.10pm	Year 2	Minding and Mulching	First weeding of Tree Nursery followed by trip to look at spring growth in Frithy Wood
Wed 18 th June 2014 1.20pm- 3.10pm	Year 1	Minding and Mulching	Seeing how the young trees are developing which the group planted in October
Thurs 19 th June 2014 9.30am -12	Year 4	Tree Rescue	Checking and weeding trees planted by year group in Nov 2013 in Golden Wood
Fri 27 th June 2014 9.30am - 12	Year R	Nature Walk	Introduction to Golden Wood

A letter for each session will be sent to classes before each event. Volunteers and helpers are always welcome.



DATES IN DIARIES

12th September – Swimming starts for Lime and Horse Chestnut classes

23rd September – Phonics session for parents (Acorn, Oak and Ash Classes)

This session will enable parents to support their child's progress with phonics by explaining the correct enunciation of each sound along with activities that they can use to support their child's understanding of phonics and word building.

The session starts straight after school and there will be a crèche in the school hall for children and their younger siblings.

15th and 16th October – Harvest celebration preparation

Further details to follow.

16th October – Harvest Celebration 2.30pm school hall followed by a foodie celebration

23rd October – Parents Evening 3.30-5.30pm

24th October – Parents Evening 4.30-6.30pm

25th October – School closed (PD Day)

28th October – 1st November HALF TERM

REMINDERS

Please could all dinner money be sent to school with your child each Monday morning in a sealed and labelled envelope stating your child's name, class and which days they would like a school lunch.

As an alternative we do offer a school packed lunch with the children can opt for each morning in place of the hot meal option. If you would prefer for your child to only select from the hot menu, please inform your child's class teacher.

As our numbers have grown, so too has the volume of traffic using the road outside school. Could we please remind parents not to drop off or park on the zig zag lines. We would encourage parents, wherever possible to walk to school or to share cars as a means of reducing the amount of traffic.

Our doors open at 8.45am and our school day starts at 8.55am. Please ensure that you leave plenty of time to arrive for the start of registration.



ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL GUIDANCE FOR PARENTS AND CARERS



Are you aware of the impact on your child's education caused by absence during term time?

99.5% attendance = **1 day off** in a school year

94.7% attendance = **10 days off** per school year

90% attendance = **20 days off** per school year
(which is the same as 4 whole weeks off school)

Regular poor attendance of 90% through the school during Reception through to Yr 4
is equal to half a year off school.

90% attendance during all primary and secondary years
is equal to a whole year of absence from education.

What can you actively do?

- Always phone if your child is too ill to go to school, follow this up with a note on their return to school
- If your child wakes up feeling unwell, give them appropriate medication and monitor to see if s/he is well enough to return to school later on.
- If you arrange a medical appointment, insist on either out-of-hours appointments at the beginning or end of the school day, so that your child can be in school at least part of the day.
- Talk to your child and ensure that any problems/ worries related to school are dealt with.
- Arrange your family holidays and special outings to school holidays and weekends.



PARENT VOLUNTEERS

We always welcome and value the support from parents in our school whether it is by supporting our Parent Group (formerly our PTA), listening to readers or supporting enrichment events like Forest Schools and school visits.

If you are able to give some time, either on a regular basis or for special events, please do talk to your child's teacher. Your support is always greatly appreciated.

FOREST SCHOOLS

As you are aware we cancelled our Forest Schools programme in the Summer term as badgers had been using an area close to our camp and had created an amount of disruption and mess. I have spent some time in the woods this summer monitoring the movement of badgers in the woodlands and their use of the space near our camp. The presence of these badgers appears to have reduced as does the mess they had previously created. On that basis, I hope to be able to restart our Forest School sessions within the next few weeks. More details to follow.

I hope that your child has enjoyed their return to school this week and we look forward to the many events that we have planned for the term ahead.

If you have any concerns at any time, my door is always open.

I look forward to working with you over the forthcoming year.

Kindest regards,

Clare Lamb
Headteacher

