

# All Saints' C of E Primary School

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*Inspire Challenge Succeed*

9<sup>th</sup> October 2014

Dear Parents,

## SPECIAL VISITORS

On Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> October children in Key Stage Two were visited by Chinese students who are spending time at King Edward VI Upper School. The children were taught a Chinese song, they learnt how to write Chinese numbers and find out about what schools are like in China. It was a very interesting morning and a great opportunity for our children to have an insight into other cultures.

*"I really liked the visit from the Chinese students because they taught us how to count from one to ten in Chinese and a game using Chinese numbers. They said that our school was much smaller than their school in Shanghai! They were really polite. It was good to find out about another culture and learn about the differences between our two countries."* Tilly

*"I enjoyed the activity when they were teaching us numbers. Their English was really good because they learn it at their school. They wore really smart uniforms and they were really thoughtful with the gifts that they had brought us. We tried some spicy sweets from Shanghai, which were really nice."* Madeleine

## PARENTS EVENINGS

Thank you to everyone who has already signed up for Parents Evening. There are still spaces for each class if you haven't had a chance to book an appointment yet!

I will sit in on the Parents Evenings for Oak Class so that I can pass information on to Ms Kydd when she joins the school in November.

*Motivation Cooperation Creativity Independence Curiosity Stickability*



## MAKING CONTACT

Could I please reinforce that if you would like to talk to your child's teacher about a concern or query but are unable to at the start of the day then please do talk to the Teaching Assistant for the class, Ms Ryan in the school office or myself and we will pass a message to your child's teacher.

Following this, your child's teacher will make contact with you either by telephone or at the end of the day. We do appreciate that it can be hard to gain the attention of teachers at the start of the school day as they are busily settling their class but we will always get back to you if you have a concern or query. You are also most welcome to make an appointment for a mutually convenient time.

For children who travel on the school bus, please do use the home/ school liaison books which are checked each day.

## ATTENDANCE

I have been asked by some parents to clarify why we have sent home so much information concerning attendance over the past few weeks.

As you are aware, research shows a direct correlation between poor attendance and low academic achievement. National and local government recognise this as a real issue and have tightened up the regulations as a result. As we highlighted in our Governor newsletter at the end of the Summer Term, our absence data for 2013 showed that we are well below average for attendance, placing us in the bottom 20% of schools in the country. The new rules that are now in place are very robust and part of our duty is to be very clear with parents about the importance of school attendance, the impact of absences and the consequences for parents when their child has high levels of absence. This includes the serving of penalty notices for defined levels of unauthorised absences ( 8 sessions) and for parents taking their children out of education during term time to go on holiday.

As a school that strives to provide the highest quality education and to achieve the very best outcomes for all of our children academically, socially and emotionally we do need to promote the importance of school attendance to ensure that every child at our school reaches their full potential.

## HARVEST

I would like to express my thanks to a very enthusiastic and hardworking group of parents who have given their time to work with our children to create a harvest feast, which will be enjoyed by everyone at the end of our Harvest celebration this afternoon. A big thanks must also go to the many parents who have donated produce for each recipe. This afternoon promises to be quite a treat!

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## BARN DANCE

I would like to thank you to everyone who has already purchased tickets for the Barn Dance. The Parent Group will send these home via book bags shortly. If there is anyone else who would like to purchase tickets, please could you order them ASAP, latest Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October as Parent Group need this for catering purposes!

The plan for the evening is arrival from 6:30pm with the children kicking off the night with a dance at 7pm, which they have learnt at school. The band will play a further set then you will be served a hot supper during the break with more dancing to follow. The evening will wind up around 10:30pm. Your supper is included in your ticket price; there will also be a licensed cash bar and a raffle.

Please come along and support this fund raising event, the teachers and I look forward to seeing you all there!

A reminder of dates:

- 13<sup>th</sup> October Happy Puzzle Maths Problem Solving Enrichment Day (kindly funded by the Parent Group)
- 14<sup>th</sup> October – Silver Book assembly
- 15<sup>th</sup> October Open Books for each class. 3pm
- 16<sup>th</sup> October Parents Evening 4.30-7pm
- 20<sup>th</sup> October Parents Evening 3.30pm – 5.30pm
- 23<sup>rd</sup> October School Barn Dance

We have now set the dates for the Christmas plays:

Lime and Horse Chestnut classes:

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December – Dress rehearsal 2pm School Hall

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December – Evening performance 6pm

Acorn, Oak and Ash classes:

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December – Dress rehearsal 2pm School Hall

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December – Evening performance 6pm

Further details to follow after half term.

I hope you all have a good weekend, see you on Monday!

Kind Regards,

Clare Lamb  
Headteacher

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