

All Saints' C of E Primary School

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Inspire Challenge Succeed

10th November 2014

Dear Parent/Carer,

PARENT FORUM

Thank you to everyone who came along to the Parent Forum last week. We discussed a range of subjects including School Organisation Review, parking and the implementation of Growth Mindsets within school.

School Organisation Review (SOR):

We discussed the timeline for changes in education in the Bury St Edmunds cluster, which are as follows:

January/February 2015 – Catchment Consultation for upper schools

- The results of this consultation will be known by April 2015.

September 2015

- Bury Schools Partnership Primary schools increase to 6 year groups (Reception to Yr5) Hardwick, Howard, St James, St Louis Catholic Middle schools reduce to 3 year groups (Yrs 6-8)

July 2016:

- Hardwick, Howard, St James, St Louis Catholic Middle schools close

September 2016:

- Primary schools increase to 7 year groups (Reception to Yr6)
- King Edward VI CEVC Upper increases to 7 year groups (Yrs7-13)
- St Benedict's Catholic School already has 7 year groups The 3 remaining year groups from Hardwick, Howard, St James, St Louis Catholic Middle transfer to high school
- New high school at Moreton Hall opens.

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SOR: Expansion of Primary Schools

Parents/carers may be aware that planning consultations have been taking place in preparation for the grant of planning consent and the start of building projects at schools. These are exciting times for expanding primary schools. Although building works can mean that short term changes have to be made to accommodate the works, County Council contractors are very experienced at building on school sites and work to stringent health and safety, noise and safeguarding standards.

Experience in previous phases of SOR has shown that having a building project on site can also offer opportunities to enhance the curriculum in ways it would be difficult to do otherwise. We will be looking to take full advantage of these opportunities.

SOR: School Traffic and Parking

An ongoing issue at All Saints' is traffic congestion and parking problems near to the school. The expansion of our school will undoubtedly bring additional cars to the road outside school and as a result I have been working closely with the Parish Council, the Local Authority, the Highways department and our local Councillor, Richard Kemp to look at ways in which to improve provision for parents at the start and end of the school day, ensure safety for our pupils and their parents and to minimise the impact on local residents.

We are currently working with SCC Highways Department to develop additional pavements leading from the pub down towards the school, which will remove the need for children and parents to walk in the road. It hopefully will encourage parents to park along the pavement by Swanfeld in the knowledge that they can walk safely to school. This will then reduce the number of cars which currently park outside the church and further down past Hall Mead. Plans are currently being developed and will be shared with parents once complete.

In addition to these measures, SCC Highways have agreed to position a designated bus stop on the road outside school which allow more staff to park in the car park and not on the road as they currently do, which will increase parking capacity. We have also negotiated to have the zig zag lines reduced in length which will give a further three parking spaces.

We know that we still have much to do to improve parking but we are very hopeful that these measures will make a significant difference.

SOR Building Work:

As you are aware, we will have two additional classrooms built as part of the reorganisation so that we can take Years 5 and 6. We have now agreed the final plans with the Local Authority and once the planning notice period is complete and the plans have been approved formally then the project will go out to tender.

It is hoped that building work will commence during February half term and that both classrooms will be completed before the end of the Summer Term.

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This is an exciting time for our school and there will be many changes. We have already started to visit schools which have been through this process so that we can benefit from their experience by talking to staff and pupils. We will of course keep you updated as things progress.

Communication with parents:

At the Parent Forum we discussed the Open Books sessions that we now hold each half term so that you have a regular opportunity to see your child's work and the progress that they have made.

It was suggested that it can be difficult for parents to spend enough time looking at their child's work if they have siblings in different classes. I have discussed this with teachers and we propose holding Open Books sessions over two days with Key Stage One/ Acorn class on one day and Key Stage Two on another. To reflect this change, **Open Books for Key Stage One will be held on Monday 8th December at 3pm** and **Open Books for Key Stage Two will take place on Tuesday 9th December at 3pm.**

Growth Mindsets:

At the Parent Forum we looked at a Growth Mindsets display in the school hall along with a document which I have produced, which details how we will develop a positive/ growth mindset for every child at our school in order to help each child to reach their full potential. This document is attached with this newsletter.

I will hold further Parent Forum sessions on this initiative after Christmas and hope that you will be able to attend. (Dates to follow)

SCHOOL WEBSITE

Please could I remind parents that in addition to the reminders for events and dates provided in the weekly newsletters, we also have a calendar page on the school website which also details these dates and reminders.

Please could you check the website on a regular basis to ensure that you keep up to date .

SCHOOL GARDEN

We are very lucky to have our own school garden, which in previous years has been developed and cared for by Mark Jay. Mark has now stepped down from this role and Katie Norris has kindly offered to take over the garden this year. We have enrolled in the Jamie Oliver's Kitchen Garden Project, which will develop further our work as a Food For Life Partnership School and provide many exciting learning opportunities with our pupils.

We now need a small group of parent volunteers who will work with Katie to carry out a range of jobs to clear the garden ready for the growing season. If you are interested in supporting the school with this venture, please could you contact Mrs Kemp or Katie Norris.

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BARN DANCE

On Thursday 23rd October Nicholas and Carol Willcocks kindly opened up their beautiful barn to the school for the Parent Group Barn Dance. It was wonderful evening and was enjoyed by all. The children had a great time and it was a good opportunity for families to come together for a social event.

I would like to personally thank everyone who was involved in organising this event and helping out on the evening for their hard work.

CROSS COUNTRY

On Thursday 23rd October a number of our Key Stage Two children in Horse Chestnut and Lime classes took part on the Bury Schools Partnership Cross Country event.

90 boys took part from across the town. Results:

Archie 17th
Felix 38th
Owen 63rd
Joseph 66th
Charlie G 77th
Oscar 79th

82 girls took part from across the town. Results:

Freya 2nd
Isabelle NB 21st
Lucy H 23rd
Alice 27th
Lana 73rd
Lola 77th

Freya De'Ath was awarded a silver medal for her achievement in this event...well done!

Twelve schools took part in the event with All Saints' coming 10th overall in the boys competition and the girls came 5th overall.

I am sure you will agree that this is a great achievement for our school and I would like to congratulate all of the children who took part. You are stars!

REMINDERS!

Please could we remind parents that lunch money needs to be sent to school each **Monday** so that Mrs Hickford can log the money at the start of the week.

Please could you ensure that you book a place for your child in advance for Breakfast Club. Emails asking for places after school hours are not always opened and this can cause difficulties when ensuring that we have the correct staff ratios. Staff will not presume that you child will be attending Breakfast Club unless their place is booked.

Please could children in Key Stage Two make sure that all play scripts are brought into school each day.

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Please send your child to school with a labelled water bottle. We no longer have a water fountain in school.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

12th November Forest Schools Lime and Horse Chestnut classes – please make sure that you send your child to school in clothing suitable for the weather.

14th November – Child In Need Enrichment Day. Please send your child to school dressed as a bear along with 2p and 1p coins to complete a class Pudsey Bear coin activity. We will be holding a fundraiser cake stall after school so donations of cakes and biscuits would be greatly appreciated.

19th November Forest Schools Lime and Horse Chestnut classes – please make sure that you send your child to school in clothing suitable for the weather.

20th November – Don't forget to send in bags of unwanted clothes for the Parent Group Bags2Schools fundraiser.

21st November Parent Group Film Club

28th November – Horse Chestnut Class perform at Snape Maltings as part of the Big Sing event

1st December- Christingle Service All Saints' Church 2.30pm. All welcome

5th December- Whole school visit to the pantomime at the Theatre Royal in Bury St Edmunds

5th December – Parent Group Christmas fair after school

8th December KS1 Open Books 3pm

9th December KS2 Open Books 3pm

10th December – KS2 Christmas plays 2pm and 6pm in the school hall. More information to follow.

11th December – KS1 Christmas plays 2pm and 6pm in the school hall. More information to follow.

12th December – whole school Christmas decoration event – all families are welcome for this festive event 9am – 10.15pm. Children (and adults) are invited to wear a Christmas jumper or red/ green and donate £1 to Save the Children charity.

16th December – whole school Christmas Lunch

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19th December Father Christmas visits All Saints'

19th December – Carol service All Saints' Church 2.30pm. All welcome.

On a final note, I would like to thank one of our parent governors, Aidan Dunn for giving a highly motivation assembly about his achievement in an Iron Man Competition this year. It reinforced our Growth Mindset initiative by promoting the importance of practice and determination in order to master a skill and be the best we can be.

Kind regards,

Clare Lamb
Headteacher

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