

All Saints' C of E Primary School

The Street, Lawshall, Bury St. Edmunds,
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Inspire Challenge Succeed

16th April 2016

Dear Parents,

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

- 19th April – Theatre Royal touring story telling production visits All Saints'
- 20th April – Queen's birthday enrichment day and tea party
- 21st April Year 3 & 4 School Farm Fair
- 12th May Year 3 Seed To tree am
- 27th May PD Day – school closed
- 30th May – 3rd June HALF TERM
- 6th June – school reopens
- 10th June – Seed To Tree Yr2 Minding and Mulching
- 13th June – Willow Class visit West Stow
- 15th June – Acorn Class and Oak Class trip to the Theatre Royal
- 5th July – Acorn Class nature walk
- 11th July – 14th July Health and Fitness Week
- 14th July – EYFS/KS1 Sports day am
- 14th July – KS2 Sports day pm
- 15th July - Transfer Day
- 19th July – Reserve Sports Day
- 21st July – 2.30pm whole school open air concert
- 21st July – Last day of term

BREAKFAST CLUB

Please could I remind parents that you must book a place at Breakfast Club for your child in advance. We can only accept a certain number of children and on some days we have very high numbers, which may mean that if a place is not booked then we may not be able to accept your child in that day. In addition, Mrs Bigg shops for the club throughout the week and uses the numbers on our register to determine what will be needed for each session. We would appreciate your cooperation with this matter.

Motivation Cooperation Creativity Independence Curiosity Stickability



FACEBOOK

As part of our ESafety awareness sessions we have become aware that some children have their own Facebook accounts. The Facebook website states:

Facebook requires everyone to be at least 13 years old before they can create an account (in some jurisdictions, this age limit may be higher). Creating an account with false info is a violation of our terms. This includes accounts registered on the behalf of someone under 13.

We would like to make parents aware that when a child accesses Facebook then they may be exposed to conversations, images and materials that are not appropriate to their age and this is of great concern. As a school we promote the importance of staying safe online through our ICT curriculum, PHSE lessons and focus days on ESafety but parents also have an important role to play within this.

PE NEWSLETTER

I have attached a copy of our termly PE Newsletter, which details all of the fantastic achievements and opportunities that our children have accessed in the spring.

SCHOOL FARM FAIR VISIT REMINDER

Just a reminder that children in Years 3 and 4 need to be at school for 8.25am on Thursday 21st April for the coaches for the Suffolk Farm Show in Ipswich. The children will then return to school at 3.30pm.

ATTENDANCE

If your child is absent then the school will require a letter detailing the reason for the absence when they return to school for our records.

We have a number of children who are arriving late for school when registration has closed. Please make sure that your child is in class by 8.55am ready for the start of the school day.

ACADEMISATION

You may have heard about the Government's proposal to force all schools to become academies by 2022 as part of their White Paper. The proposal would see schools forced to join Multi Academy Trusts (MATs) even though they are successful and thriving schools that offer high standards of education, such as at All Saints'. Currently schools can choose to create their own MATs or they are forced to do so if they are a school of concern.

Recently, I was visited by our MP James Cartlidge, who came to see our outstanding provision and to discuss school funding. We discussed the academy agenda and I explained why we did not feel that academisation was educationally or financially sound for our school. There are great concerns that such a plan will see rural primary schools close as they will not be seen to be economically viable.

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On 13th April 2016 there was a parliamentary debate concerning the White Paper and the proposal for forced academisation. At this debate in the House of Commons, South Suffolk MP James Cartlidge said:

We owe it to our children to raise education standards across the board, especially in the most disadvantaged areas.

However, while I certainly see a role for academies in transforming schools that are failing, I have many reservations about the specific proposal for enforced academisation, and like many other Members, I have particular reservations in relation to rural primary schools. I recently visited All Saints Primary School in Lawshall, near Bury St Edmunds. Its excellent headmistress, Clare Lamb, is a National Leader. The school is outstanding in every sense of the word, and it has told me that it does not want to become an academy. What I fundamentally struggle with—this is a very simple point—is the idea that I should go to that school and say, “Although your school is outstanding, and all your staff are working brilliantly and delivering a fantastic education, we are now going to force you to become an academy.”

Please follow this link to read the full report in the East Anglian Daily Times:

http://www.eadt.co.uk/news/east_anglia_conservative_mps_oppose_plans_to_turn_all_schools_into_academies_1_4494379

We plan to hold a Parent Forum later this term where we will discuss a number of items, including this particular issue. I will send out further information about this meeting once I have a confirmed date.

THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone for their patience with the change in arrangements as a result of the flood last weekend in Ash and Acorn classes. The children have quickly adapted to the temporary arrangements and although we have had to shuffle a few things around due to the lack of space this week, everyone has been very supportive. I would also like to thank Mrs Marsden and Miss Kidd for their positivity throughout what has been quite a difficult week. Our teachers work so hard to ensure that their classrooms are wonderful spaces in which our children can enjoy their learning and to see these rooms flooded with many resources spoilt as result, is very difficult. However, the carpets are being laid this weekend and we will ensure that all classrooms are back in place for Monday.

I hope that you have a good weekend, despite the rain!

Best wishes,

Clare Lamb

Headteacher

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