

# Additional information for families new to the school

## Spring 2020

This information sheet is designed to supplement the newsletter for families who have joined the school more recently.

There are a number of things that are very much part of the life and routine of the school that **we sometimes forget to tell you about but would like you and your child to know**. There are also several events coming up that get mentioned in the school newsletter and you may have been wondering what they are about and whether they involve you and your child.



### **Class assemblies**

Each term some classes lead an assembly to showcase their learning. The assemblies start at around 9.05 am. They are supposed to run for about 15 minutes. Almost every child has a parent, relative or neighbour who comes to watch this event. The dates for these can be found in the school newsletter.

### **Any concerns**

We know that sometimes children become anxious about things that happen during the school day and parents often put off coming to tell us in the hope that matters will settle down. We would always rather know early on if there is something that is bothering your child so that we can take steps quickly to ensure that children are happy and safe in school. Please bring any issues to the attention of Class teachers or Mrs Pike rather than approach other parents as school staff are in a much better position to investigate what is going on and take appropriate steps to resolve matters.

### **Easter service – Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April at 9.30 am**

The service is open to all friends and relatives. Children come to school in school uniform as normal. Once the register has been taken, all the children in the school get ready to go over to the church. Teachers often need help to accompany the children across the road, so if you are available to do this please let your child's teacher know. The school all sit together as they do in an assembly and any visitors and parents sit behind the school or at the side of the church. Parents and visitors who have dropped children off at school are welcome to go straight to the church where you will be made welcome. Coffee is served in the foyer while you wait for the children to arrive. Once the children are settled, the choir sing one or two songs and then Rev Doug McHardie welcomes us to the church. This service is planned and led by Class 5 and lasts about 40 minutes. The children then go back to school and continue with their day as normal.

### **School prayer group**

We have a small group of parents who meet every Monday morning after dropping children to class to pray for the school. Any parent or relative who would like to join them in this vital support for the school would be very welcome. Toddlers and babies are welcome too. Please make your way round to the school office and the office staff will direct you.

This group are happy to pray for individuals or family situations. If you would like prayer please put your request in an envelope and give it to the office staff marked for the attention of the prayer group.

### **Friends of Christ Church School (FCCS)**

Please do join this hard working band that raise money for the school. They have recently supported the school by buying new adventure playground equipment. The next meeting of the FCCS is Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March at 7.30 pm; the venue is usually the school. Look out for a reminder email nearer the time which will confirm the details of the venue. Do come if you can. The meeting is open to all. Even if you can only help occasionally, with everyone doing something we can make a big difference to children through the extra resources provided.

### **NO sweets for birthdays**

This is a kind thought but we would ask that you **do not bring sweets or cakes to school** for your child's birthday.

- Some children have allergies and inevitably feel left out when they cannot have the same as the others.

- In the past when sweets were regularly distributed for birthdays, children inevitably put parents under pressure to buy sweets for the class and some families struggle to afford this.
- We need to help children to establish healthy eating patterns so it is good to minimise the association with sweet food as treats.

Some parents are donating a book to the class library to celebrate their child's birthday. If you would like to do this please let your child's teacher know so that the book can be shared with the class.

### **Adventure playgrounds**

The Friends of Christ Church School have provided us with lovely adventure play equipment. We do not allow children on this before or after school because, although you might be watching your children carefully, not everyone is so careful and some children will play unsupervised. So for health and safety reasons, we tell the children that these areas are out of bounds before and after school.

### **Scooters and bikes**

A number of children ride bikes or scooters to school. There are bike racks and scooter racks on the field near the play fort where these can be kept during the day. Children should bring a lock to secure the bikes and scooters. Children are not allowed to ride these on the school premises.

### **Finally....**

If you have any queries or concerns about the school please do let us know as we are keen to ensure that you have all the information you need so that your child's experience of school is happy and successful and that you are able to support them at key moments in their school life.

*Mary Pike*

February 2020