



# Additional information for families new to the school

## Autumn 2019

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.

### Harvest gifts

During this week, before the harvest service, children are encouraged to bring a tinned meat, fish or soup which we donate to a local charity. Piles of tins are placed on the stage and we see which class can collect the most!

### Harvest service led by Year 4 – Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October at 9.30 am

Reception children will be having their own celebration within the classroom so that this can be tailored to their age and stage. They will not be joining us at the church this time, but will be included at our Easter Service when they will be more settled and confident in school.

Children from Y1 to 6 will 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. The service is open to all friends and relatives. Parents and visitors who have dropped children off at school are welcome to come 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 a member of the church staff team welcomes us to the church. This service is planned and led by Year 4 and lasts about 45 minutes. The children then go back to school and continue with their day as normal.

Please do not to take photos or videos during the service. Also please remember that children are planning to help us to reflect on what God has given us. This is a service, not a performance, so generally the space between items is to give us time to hear what God is saying, rather than for applause. There will be an opportunity to thank the children at the end of the service.

### Yellow head injury slips

If a child bumps their head at play time, a yellow slip is completed and this is sent home in the book bag that day. This is a precaution in case an injury that appears insignificant at the time, results in concussion later. Please check your child's book bag each day. If a child has an injury that requires first aid, this will be recorded in the incident book and you will be contacted by phone.

### Parents' and Carers' evening

Bookings are completed on line. Details of appointment times will be made available **on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October via email**. Meetings with the teacher, for most classes, will be held on the **16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> October**. Parents are asked to sign up for a 10 minute appointment with the teacher. If you need to see more than one teacher, it is very important that you do not book back to back meetings as you will not be able to get to your second appointment in time. **6N parents' and carers' evening** will be held on **Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October** and **2W parents' and carers' evenings** will be held on **Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October**.

Research shows that parental interest in children's education makes a difference to outcomes for children so please do take this opportunity to find out how your child is getting on. The interest

and encouragement are more significant than the parents own levels of education, so even if you do not feel confident to help your child, your interest will make a difference to their achievement.

If you cannot manage any of the available times please see your child's teacher who will arrange to meet with you on a different day.

If you are late for your appointment, the teacher may be able to take the person ahead of you and fit you in afterwards. However, it is possible they may not be able to fit you in if you arrive late.

Mrs Pike, Executive Head Teacher and Mrs Hudson, Deputy Head Teacher and SENCo, are always willing to see parents. Please take the opportunity to talk to either of us during the evening if you have any concerns that have not been resolved by the class teacher.

### **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 is 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.

### **Christmas service led by Year 3 – Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 9.30 am**

This has a similar format to the harvest service. 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. The service is open to all friends and relatives. Parents and visitors who have dropped children off at school are welcome to come 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 a member of the church staff team welcomes us to the church. This service is planned and led by Year 3 and lasts about 45 minutes. The children then go back to school and continue with their day as normal.

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

Please do join this hard working band that raise money for the school. FCCS meetings are either held in the home of one of the FCCS or at the school. Look out for details of the venue nearer the time. 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.

Look out for information about events which will be sent out this term including the school discos and Christmas fair. The school discos are provisionally booked for the 8<sup>th</sup> November 5pm to 6.15pm for children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2, and from 6.30 to 8.00 pm for the older children. Parents or supporting adults are asked to accompany the younger children to the disco. Children can buy snacks and drinks at the disco, and sometimes teachers are on hand to ensure that children have a good time.

The Christmas Fair will be on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November from 11am to 2pm.

### **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.

### **Adventure playground**

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 the 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 may wish to bring a lock to secure the bikes and scooters. ***For safety reasons, children are not allowed to ride these on the school premises.***

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

September 2019