



## Church Hill Infant School

### Newsletter

17<sup>th</sup> October 2014

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Syston and Thurmaston  
Education Partnership

### Welcome

A warm welcome to all of our pupils, parents and staff. It has been a busy start to the new school year and it has been lovely to see everyone settle into school life.

I would like to especially welcome our new FS parents and children. Our youngest have settled so well and all seem to be happy, getting used to school routines and making progress with their learning. The new transition arrangements worked really well and staff enjoyed visiting the children in their home settings.

The staff and I have enjoyed meeting and working with our new parents over the past few weeks; we hope these relationships will strengthen during the course of the school year.

I am very proud of our strong and committed team of staff and governors who want the best for our children and their families. I hope this year brings us many successes and that it will be happy and rewarding for us all.

### New staff

Welcome to the following staff who have joined the Church Hill Team

Miss Harris - Year 2 class teacher

Miss Samuel - Year 1 class teacher

Mrs Bailey - Year 1 Learning Support Assistant

Mrs Wren – School Business Manager

Mrs Hancox – Office Admin Assistant



As you may know Miss Samuel is covering Mrs Sarai's absence due to ill health. Although Mrs Sarai has been extremely poorly, she wanted to pass on her thanks for all of the kind messages and gifts she received. I am sure you will join me in wishing her a speedy recovery.

### Parent Forum Meetings

We hope you found the meetings informative and relevant. If you were unable to attend, please ask your teachers for the flyers that were handed out.



### Parents evening – Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> October

The staff and I are looking forward to our first parents' evening of the academic year. It is very important that you attend these meetings so that we are able to share information about your child's progress. Appointment letters have gone out so that mutually convenient time slots can be arranged. I will also be available in my office should you wish to discuss any matters with me.

As always, we have an open door policy. If you have any queries or problems, please do not hesitate to make an appointment to see your child's class teacher or if you feel it is appropriate please make an appointment to see me.

## **Our School Website** - [www.churchhillinfants.co.uk](http://www.churchhillinfants.co.uk)

We continually update our website. Over the course of the year a lot of useful information will be provided here. We also share a lot of our children's work on class pages. Please make sure that you regularly log on to keep up to date.

## **Year 2 Beaumanor Residential Trip Meeting - Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October 3.30pm**

It was good to see a lot of parents at the Beaumanor information meeting which was held this week. Our residential trip is one of the main calendar events for our Year 2 children. This year we have not limited spaces and we want all children to enjoy this valuable experience. So that we can finalise arrangements, the school will need all deposits by **Friday 7 November**. Please call into the school office if you require further information.



## **School Council**



Though our children are young, their opinions are very important to us. So, at the beginning of term each class nominated their two School Council Representatives. Mrs Lissaman meets regularly with the school council to discuss whole school issues and matters that are important to the children. I am sure that these children will make valuable contributions to the life of the school and work hard in their important roles. Minutes of the school council meetings are available on our website. Our school Council Members this year are:

**FS:-** Lillie Timlin, Charlie Johnson, Vishay Tailor, Ellie Gamble, Ariya Kaur Budwal, Alfie Garner

**Year 1:-** Louise Manger, Alfie Taylor, Sienna Lindsay, Corey Hodges,  
Owen Taylor, Zofia Jedrzejewska

**Year 2:-** Orby Crick, Summer West, Izabelle Reynolds, Keegan Winder, Ellie Daffey, Kai Hunter

## **Free School Meals – Pupil Premium**

Funding is very important for a school to run effectively. Under new Department for Education regulations, parents can help a school secure extra funding if they receive benefits. This is called the Pupil Premium.

Registering your child as eligible for Free School Meals will bring approximately **£1300** more to the school and help your child achieve better. Please see our website on how this money was spent last year.

Applying and registering for FSM is always confidential and taking up the meal is recommended but still optional should you wish to continue to provide packed lunches from home. If you receive benefits and feel you could help the school in this way, please contact the school office. Alternatively you could call School Food Support directly and apply over the phone.



Contact details- School Food Support Service – 0116 3056588/3057093/3056409

### **Taking your child on holiday during term time**

As you will be aware from recent media coverage; new amendments to the **Education (Pupil Registration) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013** came into force on 1 September 2013. Amendments to the regulations remove references to family holiday and extended leave as well as the statutory threshold of ten school days. This now means that schools are no longer allowed to **authorise holiday requests** during term time, unless there are **"exceptional circumstances"** which support the request being made.

It is important that you are aware that as Leicestershire Local Authority has a statutory responsibility for admissions; they may issue penalty notices to parents if they take leave during term time **without written consent** from the school. At present the fines are £60 per parent.

The school does however recognise that there will be **Exceptional Circumstances** during which, absence from school will be unavoidable, for example; a family bereavement. If this is the case, please do not hesitate to contact the school and let us know. Exceptional Leave forms are available on request from the school office. If your circumstances are of a personal nature please make an appointment to speak to me directly.

### **Save the date - Christmas Activity Day will be on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November**

We are aware that a lot of parents take time off work to attend one of the most special days of the school year. We thought we would try to give you as much notice as possible so that you are able to join your little ones for this fun packed day.



Save the date –

We will be having two showings for the annual Year 1 and FS Christmas production on **Tuesday 16** and **Wednesday 17 December**.

The year 2 evening carol service will be held on **Monday 15 December**.



### **Divali Week at Church Hill Infant School**

The children learnt about Divali – "The Festival of Lights" this week. We set up a variety of activities to make "Divali Week" at school fun, engaging and an enriching cultural experience. As every year, we held our Mendhi design workshops. The week ended with a special Divali assembly and party, where all the classes shared their learning with each other. Thank you to Mrs Bell for organising the event.

### **Being Sporty at Church Hill**

To enhance the quality of sports provision at the school we have arranged for a variety of Sport coaches to work with our children over the course of the year. The children will experience Dance, Cheerleading, Gymnastics, and Multi Skills. We are also very excited to be teaming up with Leicester City Football Club who will also be running sessions with the Year 1 children after half-term.

### **Harvest Time**

We received a phenomenal amount of donations for our harvest hampers. The children were visited by Project 5000 who talked to the children about how the food parcels would help people in the community. Thank you to all who donated!





### **Keep Warm**

Now that the weather is getting colder we would like to remind you to send the children to school in with suitable outdoor clothing. Wellies, a warm waterproof coat, a hat and gloves will be essential items for the next few months!

### **Reading Eggs**

All children will have a logging in password for this website. We hope the children use it often in the half term break. Remember that completing activities on this site will also count towards the star reader challenge!



### **Drama Club**

We are really pleased with the provision of clubs after school. This year we have also introduced a drama club run by The Helen O'Grady Drama Academy.

### **School Refurbishment**

There was a lot of renovation work over the Summer break. We have completely refurbished the children's toilets and the remaining girls' toilet will be done over the half term break. The foundation stage base has also had a complete makeover too. We are very proud of how this work has improved the quality of the learning environment at the school.

### **Governors**

Mrs Eloise Hollis was elected as the new chair of the Governing Body. Mrs Hollis is a former parent and has been a Governor at the school for the last three years.

- Parent Governors – Sunita Bhal, Ryan Ludlam, Ian O' Flynn
- Community Governors – Naynesh Karia, David Hill
- Staff Governors – Dan Corcoran, Lisa Clarke, Meera Bulsara

As always, the Governors and I look forward to working with you this year.

**School closes for half term  
Friday 17 October.  
Next half term will begin on  
Monday 27 October.**