



Church Hill Infant School  
Being the best we can be!  
Newsletter  
11<sup>th</sup> October 2013  
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### 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 settled into school life.

I would like to especially welcome our new FS parents and children. It is lovely to see our youngest children 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 you 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.

### Teachers

We will soon be saying goodbye to Mrs Elliott and Miss Myler who are both leaving to have their babies. Mrs Elliott will be leaving on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October, whilst Miss Myler's last day will be Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November. We wish them all the best and look forward to hearing about their good news.

Mrs Lorna Pickavant will be covering Mrs Elliott's share of the week and Jessica Gilbride will be teaching Miss Myler's class.

To enable a smooth transition for both pupils, parents and their new teachers, we have arranged for Mrs Pickavant and Ms Gilbride to join Mrs Elliott and Miss Myler during their last week at school.

### Learning Support Assistants

Welcome to our new support staff; Mrs Farida Lidder and Mrs Kathryn Thompson. All our support staff play a vital role in children's learning at our school. I am very pleased that we have been able to expand our team this year to improve the support for all of our children.



Ms

### Family Learning

**Year 2 Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October 1.30pm**

**Year 1 Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October 1.30pm**

Our children were really excited about our Family Learning sessions. These events have proved to be both an enjoyable and rewarding experience for all. The staff plan these sessions to complement, share and extend the learning that has already taken place at school. The children are always proud and confident in sharing their learning with so many of you. Please look out for pictures on our school website!



If you were unable to attend this time, there will be further opportunities to attend Family Learning sessions during the year and we hope you can make one of these. As always, we value your partnership so that we can work together to enhance the development of our children.

### **Family Learning for Foundation Stage**

These sessions will be held after half-term – further information with the dates and times to follow.

### **Parent Forum Meetings**

We have held these meetings for the second year running. We hope you found them informative and relevant. If you were unable to attend you will have been given the flyers that were handed out. As some parents have requested that evening workshops are more preferable due to working hours, we have scheduled some future events later into the afternoon. More information to follow.

### **Parking**

A few of our parents and neighbours have expressed concerns over inconsiderate parking. I would like to make a big request for parents not to park on the zig-zag lines or pavements. This causes serious hazards for all pedestrians; including our young children who cannot be clearly seen. It also causes a lot of inconvenience for residents who live on Church Hill Road. I hope that all parents can support the school by considering **children's safety** outside of school as we are all aware that space on Church Hill Road is limited.



### **Parents evening – Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November**



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. Letters will go out soon so that a mutually convenient time slot can be arranged. I will also be available in my office and you will be more than welcome to come and have a chat with me should you wish to discuss things further.

During these two evenings, the governors will be using the opportunity to gain your views and opinions on how the school is getting on so far this year.

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.

### **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 3.30

Our residential trip is one of the main calendar events for our Year 2 children. Although the trip is not until next term, important information will be shared with you at this meeting. If you are unable to attend, please come in and ask your child's class teacher who will be happy to provide you with 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:

**Year 1:- Sam & Maisie (JM), Jack & Skye (P/B), Franco & Isobel (BS).**

**Year 2:- Keira & Vir (L/E), Sianna & Oliver (FI), Beth & Jack (WK).**

School Council members from Foundation Stage will be elected later on this year.

## Diwali Week at Church Hill Infant School



The children will be learning about Diwali – 'The Festival of Light' after half term. We have a variety of activities set up to make 'Diwali Week' at school fun, engaging and an enriching cultural experience. As every year, we will be holding our Mendhi design workshops. Also this year, some of the children in Year 2 will have the opportunity of working with a local artist and learning how to use traditional Indian art techniques with some of the work forming a permanent display in our school hall. There will be many other activities planned for individual classes too. The week will end with a special Diwali assembly and party, where all the classes will be able to share their learning with each other.

## Being Sporty at Church Hill

To enhance the quality of sports provision at the school we have arranged for a variety of Sports coaches to work with our children over the course of the year. The children will experience Dance, Outdoor and Adventurous Activities, Gymnastics and Multi Skills. This will begin after half term with the Year 2 children.

Mrs Sarai has been busy organising more after school sports clubs. Information about this will be available soon.

### **Phonics Work Shop**

Foundation Stage Parents (Supporting your child with early reading and writing)

– **Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October 6.00 – 6.30pm**

Year One Parents - (Information about the Phonics screening test for Year 1 children)

– **Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> October 6.00 – 7.00 pm**



### **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 **£900** 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

Please look out for information about Free School Meals and the pupil premium which will soon be available on our school website.



### **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 have 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 or a close family wedding. 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 make an appointment to speak to me directly.

### **Save the date - Christmas Activity Day will be on Friday 29<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.

**School closes for Half term Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October.  
Next half term will begin on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October.**