



Christ Church CE (VA) Primary School

Wednesday 5th April 2017

Head Teacher: Mrs M Long

Deputy Head Teacher: Mrs E Quigley
& Miss K Taylor

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Reminder we finish at 2.00 on Friday 7th April and return on Monday 24th April

Parking

A reminder that parents need to park safely around the school site and under no circumstances should parents be parking on the Health Centre carpark or using the carparks of local businesses.



Lottery Bid

We have been successful in receiving a £10,000 lottery bid for our community project. This will be to enhance the outside environment for the children by involving the local community and parents. We hope that this will take place around the 24th June. We will keep you posted!

Attendance Officer

Miss Blackwell (soon to be Mrs Bruce) who currently works in the office will now be our Attendance Officer. Her new role will involve discussing all leave of absence/holiday requests with parents following consultation with the Head Teacher; calling parents to discuss absence and in some cases conducting home visits. Mrs Bruce should be your first point of contact for all absence.

Mrs Parkes

Mrs Parkes will hopefully be returning after Easter and will rearrange her SEND meetings with parents. In the meantime please speak to Mrs Jones or Mrs Long if you have any urgent issues.

Tuck and Toast

After Easter we will no longer be selling toast however we will be selling a range of other healthy snacks. You may wish to send your child with 10p—20p to spend.

SinglePoint

A reminder that our Community Room SinglePoint is at the front of the school and is able to offer a range of activities and support to help parents. They offer a range of courses, before and after school club, as well as team of Parent Support Workers who can offer 1:1 support with a range of issues from housing, benefit advice, behaviour strategies, etc. There are other benefits to becoming registered with SinglePoint including discounts on family day trips. Pop-in and speak with the friendly staff about what they can offer you!



BUS!

As you are probably aware the bus on Key Stage 2 playground is now ready for use. It has taken sometime to get the furniture fitted and equipped ready for use with the children. St Michael's staff have done a fantastic job (with the help of Year 6 pupils) to spray paint the outside. The children will be using the bus for some group sessions as well during dinnertimes. It is initially kitted out to support reading activities but the hope is to use it in a more diverse way as the year progresses.

Homework Policy

Following feedback from children and parents we have adapted our homework policy—for fully policy see the school website.

Learning Log homework will be given out on a Thursday and **MUST** be in by Tuesday at the latest. There is a slip at the bottom of the page for pupil, parent and staff feedback.

In addition it is expected that the children read daily at home for at least 10 minutes (not necessarily their school reading books); undertaken a maths and SPAG activity as well as learning their weekly spellings.

Where answer sheets are provided it is expected that parents sit with their child and mark the work as a means of supporting, offering instant feedback and ensuring children correct answers.

If homework is not completed and brought into school by Wednesday the child will spend dinnertime in homework club to complete it. Regular none submission of homework will result in parents having to attend a meeting with SLT/governors. Your cooperation in helping support your child is very much appreciated.

Attendance

Following a recent Governors meeting we have changed our attendance policy (full policy available on school website: www.christchurchsandwell.co.uk).

Please be aware of the changes which are being implemented with immediate effect to improve attendance.

Holidays

ALL holidays will continue to be unauthorised. Where a child is off school for more than 3 days and it is suspected a child may be on holiday a home visit will be conducted and/or medical evidence will be requested if illness. All holiday leave will be referred to the Attendance & Prosecution Officer.

If you are thinking of going against our advice and taking a holiday you **MUST** complete a holiday request form and give to school as soon as possible. If your holiday has been booked you **MUST** bring flight information to show when you will be returning. Please be aware that if your child has more than 2 weeks off and we have not agreed this in advance then we may look to removing your child from roll and you may need to apply for a school place. Children who are 'missing from education' for a period of time may need referring to social care to ensure they are safe so it is **ESSENTIAL** you alert us if you are on holiday.

If you are thinking of having extended leave it may be worth enrolling your child in a school in that country. We will need written proof from that school that they have been attending to authorise this.

Absence

Any child whose attendance which falls below 90% is classed as a 'persistent absentee' and as such ALL future absences **MUST** be accompanied by medical evidence in order to authorise the absence. Please be aware that unauthorised sessions will be referred to the Attendance & Prosecution Officer.

Medical evidence **CANNOT** be in the form of a repeat prescription as this does not prove the child is ill. Where parents are unwilling/unable to provide medical evidence, the school may undertake a home visit to ensure the child is at home. If they are not at home it will be marked as unauthorised and may be referred to the Attendance & Prosecution Officer.

We have been working closely with Oldbury Health Centre and the local chemists to support parents in providing medical evidence for illnesses. From now on if your child has an appointment at Oldbury Health Centre please collect a form from the school office and take to the appointment. The doctor is then able to stamp the form to show you have attended. If your child is sick and the doctors will not see them but they need medication then again collect a slip from the school office and take to the chemist who will be able to sign to say what medication you have purchased. Whilst this may prove inconvenient it may well be cheaper than a fine for poor attendance.