

BISHOP JOHN ROBINSON CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Edition No.1 September 2018

Welcome to the first Newsletter of 2018. Children have been hard at work in school now for three weeks and the summer holiday is a distant memory. Thanks to our hardworking teachers, there a real learning buzz when walking around the school and the children are already stuck into high quality learning and are already producing some wonderful work.

This half term the children are learning about the **Christian Values** of Compassion and **Thankfulness** which will be the themes of Collective Worship. A focal point for this learning will be the collection of food for the Greenwich Foodbank for our Harvest Celebration on Wednesday 3rd October. This amazing charity provides emergency food supplies for families in need in Greenwich. Your child should have brought a list home of foods to collect this week, any donations will be gratefully received.



Academic Achievement: Striving for academic excellence, I am very pleased to report excellent outcomes last year for Reception, Year 1 Phonics, Year 2 SATS, Year 6 Writing and Year 6 Reading, Writing and Maths at the higher standard. The school however saw disappointing results

for Year 6 Maths and Reading at the expected standard. A full breakdown of results is available on the school website. As a result of this, the school has prioritised the teaching of Maths and Reading this year. In particular, class teachers will be focusing on deepening children's understanding and encouraging children to apply their skills to a variety of different contexts. We found that even children who passed Grammar School entrance tests last year, found the rigours of the curriculum a challenge. Please speak to class teachers as to how best to support this kind of learning at home.



Behaviour in School: I have been speaking to a number of parents regarding **behaviour** at BJR. While the vast majority of children in the school behave very well, there are a number of children who require additional support with behaviour. For learning to happen, we require the very best behaviour from all our children and communicating with parents is a very effective way to help improve behaviour in school. We know parents want to be informed if their child is not behaving well and teachers sometimes find it difficult to get messages to parents when children are being collected by child minders, aunties and family friends. I have asked teachers to report general behaviour issues to whoever collects your child so that you can be informed. If you would rather this did not happen, please speak with your class teacher. We will also strive to communicate through letters, phone calls and Class Dojo.

Nasal Flu: If you have not yet returned your child's consent for Nasal Flu vaccination, please do so at your earliest convenience. The nursing team will be in school administering the vaccine for children in Reception to Y5 on 7th December and it is vital that as many children as possible are vaccinated to avoid time off school for illness.



Other communications which will be coming home soon are:

- **Maintenance Fund:** Last year the school paid close to £40,000 for roof repairs. The bulk of this comes from parent contributions to the maintenance fund which is £30.00 per pupil per year. Non-payment of maintenance fund means that money designed for children's education will go toward these repairs. Letters asking for payment for Maintenance fund will follow so please complete and return this request at your earliest convenience.
- **GDPR Privacy Notices:** You may be aware of changes in the law regarding the information the school holds on your child. Please take the time to complete and send back the Privacy Notices when they arrive in book bags. Our newly appointed Data Protection Officer **DPO** will be coordinating this work.
- **Payments for school trips and residential visits:** It is vital that parents pay promptly if they wish their child to attend school trips and paid visits. Late payment may mean your child misses out.
- **Class Dojo:** More parents than ever have signed up to Class Dojo this year. This free app will allow you to see when your child is rewarded in school. Letters were given out last week so please ask your class teacher if you need a new one.

Booking Holidays: Families are reminded that leave from school can only be granted in 'exceptional' circumstances. Holidays booked in term time will not be authorised, this includes travelling time for family events.

School Uniform: Families are reminded that 'correct' school uniform jumper has the school logo. These can be ordered online from either www.stitchdesign.co.uk/ or www.tesco.com/ues

Packed Lunches: Parents choosing to give children a packed lunch are reminded that flavoured drinks, sweets and items containing nuts are not allowed. Parents are encouraged to provide a nutritious and filling lunch to keep the children going through the afternoon.

Parents as Partners: Thank you to the impressive number of parents who attended the parents meeting on Wednesday led by Mrs Ogabi. All parents are welcome! The next meetings are 31st October and 12th December.

Communicating with parents: One of the points raised at the parents meeting this week was communication. As a school we have invested in a number of systems to improve communication including an updated website, Parent Mail, a school noticeboard on the gate and Twitter. Paper letters often go missing or are left in book bags. If you have suggestions regarding how communications can be improved, please speak to a member of staff or come along to the next parents meeting with your ideas. We are also going to put a 'suggestions' box in the school lobby if you wish to write your ideas.

School office closure: The school office will be closed each Friday from 2PM-3PM to allow for staff training and planning meetings. Calls and matters of high urgency will of course be dealt with but please avoid visiting the office at this time for non-urgent matters.

Important dates for Autumn Term (also available on the school website)



October	
3rd	Harvest Festival celebration - Last day for donations for the Greenwich food bank
18th	Y3 Parent meeting for Night at the Museum
19th	Black History Month Day, Last day of ½ term
22nd-26th	Half Term Holiday
29th	Back to school
31st	Parents as Partners meeting
November	
6th	Parent teacher meetings
7th	Y4 trip to the cinema Parent teacher meetings
8th	Y3 trip to the cinema Reception trip to the cinema
9th	Wisdom Class trip to the cinema
12th	Y5 trip to the cinema Anti-bullying week
15th	Y5 Kip on a ship
16th	Y5 Kip on a Ship
23rd	Pop-up museum Y3 night at the museum
29th	EYFS storytelling evening
December	
12th	Infant Nativity Parents as partners meeting
14th	Christmas Jumper Day Christmas Dinner
17th	EYFS Winter wonderland
21st	Christmas Service, Last day of Autumn Term
January	
8th	Back to school