

ALL SAINTS' CE(A) FIRST SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2018

Welcome Back

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the start of another school year. We hope that your child, whether returning to a new class or joining us for the first time, will have a successful year. I hope that you will join us in working together to achieve the best outcomes for your child. Therefore, I would like to remind you that we always have an open door policy.

If you need to talk to your child's class teacher, or other members of staff, including myself, please do so. Class teachers are nearly always available at the end of the day. If I am available you are always welcome to come and talk. If not, the office staff are happy to make an appointment.

Please take some time to read through this Newsletter, as we are making some changes to school events and routines. In addition, the newsletter contains general information reminders, which you may find useful.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs E Allbutt
Headteacher



AT THE END OF THE DAY



Please can we remind you to stand **well back** from the area in which you children are dismissed. It is hard for class teachers to see parents if you are crowding around the entrances. In addition, we must make sure that your children are dismissed safely.

If you are picking up from Red and Orange Class, when you see your child waiting to be dismissed, ***please can you go to the gate to collect your child.*** We will not send them to you, as we need to know they have reached you safely.

If you are picking up a child in an older class, please can you stand where we can see you clearly and are able to watch them reach you easily. If you stand at the top of the driveway or further away, we will not dismiss your child until the driveway is clearer and we can watch them get to you.

Please understand that it will take longer to dismiss the children in the first few weeks, whilst class teachers are getting to know everybody.

Please can we also remind parents that we cannot let children go with people who are not on our emergency contact list, unless we have had a phone call or letter informing us. If you have someone who you may collect your child on a regular basis, please inform the office.

PARKING

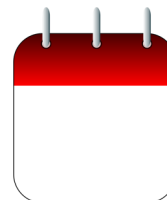
Please park considerately when picking up your children from school. We are grateful that most parents already do this, but would like to remind everyone that parking on yellow lines, zigzags and in front of driveways and the main school entrance causes problems for our neighbours, is hazardous for our children, and is not legal.

PLEASE DO NOT PARK ON SCHOOL PREMISES, EVEN WHEN PICKING UP FROM AFTER SCHOOL CLUB.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Please note that these dates are provisional. We will let you know of any changes. An up to date parents' calendar is always available on our website.



1/10/18	Harvest in church 10.45am for Y1 children (including Orange Y1 children) to Y4
10/10/18	Harvest in school 9.15am for Nursery, Red Class and Orange Reception children
25/10/18	School Photographs
29/10/18	School Closes for half term
5/11/18	Children return to school
6/11/18	All Saints OPEN Day and Eucharist (2pm)
14/11/18	Parents' Evening
15/11/18	Parents' Evening
2/12/18	Christingle Service in Church – 4pm
7/12/18	Pantomime (funded by the PTFA)
10/12/18	Reception/KS1 Play 6pm
11/12/18	Reception/KS1 Play 6pm
12/12/18	Reception/KS1 Play 2pm
13/12/18	Christmas Party Red/Orange
14/12/18	Christmas Party Yellow/Green
17/12/18	Christmas Party—Indigo(Y3)/Blue
18/12/18	Christmas Party – Indigo(Y4)/Violet
19/12/18	Christmas Dinner
20/12/18	Whole School Carol Concert 2pm

COMMUNICATION

Find out what is happening within school:

- Look at our facebook page—we will post regular information, photos, and other items of interest to parents. Search for 'All Saints' First School Facebook'. You DO NOT have to be a facebook user—just go to www.facebook.com/allsaintsleek.
- Use our Parent Text service. You will receive texts to keep you up to date. Keep us up to date with your mobile number. If you are not getting regular texts, we do not have your correct number. Please call into the school office to update your mobile phone details.
- Use the online Parents Calendar—go to our website, it is on there. It will keep you up to date on events that may be of interest to you.
- Add our school website to your favourites (www.allsaints-leek.staffs.sch.uk). It has lots of information on the curriculum, school policies, general information, and lots, lots more. It also has forms you might need, like holiday request forms and jewellery forms.
- Letters home—We still send letters home in your child's school bag. Please check your child's bag daily.

SCHOOL MEALS

School meals remain free for all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. If your child is in Nursery, Year 3 or Year 4, the cost of a school meal is now £2.30. You may be eligible for a Free School Meal in Nursery, Year 3 or 4 if you are in receipt of some benefits. Please call into the school office for more information. If you are eligible, you will also receive a £50 school uniform voucher.



FRUIT AND MILK

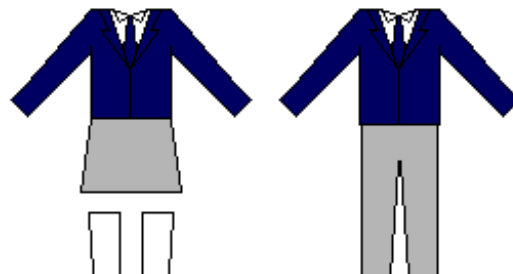
Fruit and milk will still be offered to children this year. However, we will only offer fruit and milk on an annual basis, as a result of ordering restrictions and payment issues. If your child would like fruit and milk, please fill in the separate letter, which will be sent home, then pay for the year using PARENTPAY.

UNIFORM

It is All Saints' C.E. (A) First School's policy that all children wear school uniform when attending school. It is also something that all parents agreed to as part of signing the home-school agreement on entry to school. School uniform options are designed to be flexible, and can be bought from many retailers, including Supersports and Kidwise in Leek, as well as supermarkets and other shops.

Children may wear:

- burgundy school jumper, cardigan or fleece,
- white or burgundy polo shirt (with or without logos),
- grey or black trousers, skirt or pinafore,
- a burgundy school dress/shorts as an option in warmer weather.
- We would like to remind parents that children need to:
 - Wear sensible black school shoes and **not trainers** (other than for PE).



- Have a named school PE Kit for use in school with trainers/pumps that fit.

Please note that PE kits should be a T-shirt and shorts (no football kits).—either the burgundy school PE kit (preferably) or a white T-shirt and black shorts. If you are buying a new PE Kit, we ask that you buy the burgundy PE kit. If children already have the black/white kit, this is perfectly fine. Children may bring tracksuit tops and bottoms during cold weather if they would like to do so.

- Have their name on all items of uniform, coats, PE kit, shoes, etc.
- Remove jewellery before they come to school. *If your child needs to wear items of jewellery for cultural or other reasons, please call into the office for a permission form if you have not already done so.*

Please note that we will be reminding your children about wearing appropriate uniform, and letters will be sent home with your child if needed. However, please do come and talk to us if you have any questions or difficulties about school uniform, as we may be able to help.

Attendance Guidelines Letter issued by Staffordshire County Council

Staffordshire Attendance guidelines, which our school must follow, is now in force, and is detailed below.

Penalty Notice for leave of absence (holiday) in term time

Any period of unauthorised leave may result in a parent receiving a penalty notice fine. The head teacher is the only person able to authorise leave in term time, but can do so **only in exceptional circumstances**. Any unauthorised absence must be referred by your head teacher to the local authority.

Penalty Notice for persistent lateness

Previously a pupil had to achieve 20 unauthorised late marks before a penalty notice warning could be issued. This has now changed to **10 marks**, and late marks do not have to be one after the other in order for the penalty notice to be issued. You are therefore encouraged where possible to ensure your child attends school on time. However, if your child is late you must inform the school of the reason(s) why, as they may be able to offer you some form of advice or support.

Please remember that children who enter through the main entrance, when the children's entrances are closed, are given a late mark. If your child regularly does this, please be aware that they may receive penalty notices for persistent lateness under the new guidelines.

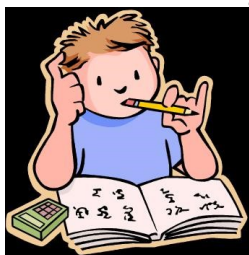
Period of time used to measure persistent absence and lateness

If your child has had 10 days unauthorised absence or is late 10 times over a twelve week period, you may receive a penalty warning notice and also potentially a fine. Further details and a copy of the revised Code of Conduct for issuing Penalty Notices can be obtained from the council's website :

www.staffordshire.gov.uk/education.

Remember that a holiday request form can be downloaded from the Useful Information/Useful documents section of our school website. This must be completed prior to any period of leave as we cannot authorise absences retrospectively.

HOMEWORK



To support the new national curriculum, we have updated our Homework Policy, which is now available in full on our school website.

One of the key messages for parents and carers is that *all* primary school age children should read to (and with) their parents or carers for at least 10 minutes every day. If children are fluent readers, parents could also support and encourage them to read on their own at times. In addition good mental maths and spelling skills are vital. All children in KS1 and KS2 will be given mental maths activities (such as number bonds, times tables etc) each week, and spellings appropriate to their ability. Younger children will have a letter which shares what the children have/will be doing, and games/activities that parents could do with their children to support their child's learning at home.

Usually homework will still be sent home on a Friday (starting on 20th September) and will be expected to be completed and returned by the following Wednesday.

EXPECTATIONS

- Parents are expected to sign their child's homework each week, and ensure that it is returned to school.
- Teachers are also expected to review homework, and sign it to show parents that this has been done. They will also set homework regularly to match children's needs.
- Children are expected to do their homework each week.

QUICK NOTES

- If your child has asthma, please can you ensure that you have provided us with an up to date inhaler and filled in an Asthma Form from the office.
- Our Harvest Services have been split into two services this year—one for Early Years and one for KS1/2. Please look at the calendar dates for more information.
- If your child has a medical condition that you have not informed the school of, or a medication condition that has changed since informing the school, please can you contact the school office as soon as possible to make sure our information is up to date.
- Don't forget that parents will be invited to Achievement Assembly at the end of each half term if their child has been awarded a Vision and Values certificate. However, the date and time of all the assemblies will be on the Parent Calendar (on the website) should other parents wish to come along.
- We encourage children to walk or come to school on their scooters/bikes. If your children would like to come to school on their scooter or bike, we have a bicycle rack outside the office where scooters/bikes can be left (at owner's own risk). We would like to ask you to ensure your child walks their bike/scooter down the drive, for safety reasons.
- If your child is interested in starting guitar lessons, please call in at the school office for more information.
- Home Reading Books will be sent home with your children over the next few days. At the moment, reading books will be based on summer term assessments. Class teachers will assess your child's current reading attainment over the next few weeks and home reading books may change as a result. Younger children will be introduced home reading books when they are ready.
- If you have any time during the school week, and would like to volunteer in school, for example to hear readers, please contact the school office.

