



ST. GEORGE CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL

TODDINGTON ST. GEORGE CHURCH of ENGLAND SCHOOL NEWSLETTER No. 7 – January 2018



Dear Parents/Carers, **Happy New Year!**

On behalf of all the Staff and the Governors may I wish you a very Happy New Year and a great start to the year.

Yet again staff were overwhelmed by the generosity of Parents and Carers and many of us had the pleasure of opening a few extra presents from under the tree this Christmas thanks to your kindness. Thank you so much for your thoughtfulness.

Good News for the start of the year for our school.

SIAMS Health check: We had our report from the Diocese following their mini inspection (or Health check) of how we are meeting expected criteria for as a Church school and were delighted to receive a report which summarised our current status as Outstanding. We were given a couple of good points to consider and these are being put into action this term.

Our Value for January is Hope. We will encourage the children to consider the question 'What are you hoping to learn or achieve in 2018? As a verse to start the year we will think about what it means to have '*Hope as an anchor*'.



Congratulations to Caitlin Gadsden and Oliver Scholes who were crowned 'King and Queen of TSG' for a day as part of our learning about Epiphany. Some European countries celebrate Epiphany with children dressed as Kings/Queens for the day and those children can write a blessing in code on to the door frames of the school (The code is 20+ C+ M +B +18). They also collect ideas for improving school and will give us their 2 ideas to school assembly. From last year's ideas we got a new friendship bench (generously donated by Mrs. Collins) and had healthy snacks on HHM days. I am sure we will have great ideas from this year's King and Queen!

We have been busy celebrating **Christingle** as a school today to mark Twelfth Night (Epiphany). Years N, R and 1 have made class Christingles. Children in Years 2, 3 and 4 will be bringing their own Christingles home. Some staff choose to donate to the work of the Children's Society (who work to support children experiencing difficulties) after this service.



New learning themes and opportunities for 2018

We have had some excellent work now the children have begun to settle back after their School holiday. Behaviour has been very good overall; only a few children have needed reminding that they must be 'Respectful to others, Ready to learn and Safe'.

Curriculum themes for this term are below and curriculum sheets will come home on Monday so you know what your child is learning about and any 'Take Home Tasks' or homework.

Year N Rhyme Time

Year R Once Upon a time....

Year 1 Through the Keyhole

Year 2 Turrets and Tiaras

Year 3 The Celts and Continents

Year 4 Food glorious food!

Healthy Hearts and Minds

We will be continuing our school emphasis on children having 'Healthy Hearts and Minds' from which to learn and to aid children's social and emotional health and well-being. This is being developed further in classes via an 'Active Maths' scheme, outside and at home via an 'Active 30' approach to physical activity each day and through Forest Schools work. Miss Elliot has been training to lead a Forest School and we shall begin to roll out Forest School for the younger children, building on this across the year groups in the year ahead.

Parent workshops will begin on Friday 19th January. Parents/Carers will be *invited* by letter to join a workshop with their child to help them feel confident in supporting their child as they learn phonics and reading in particular.

Inspiring Music will be offering Sing Up this term to Year 4, we shall be developing our work with the music offer from the BBC of 'BBC 10 pieces' further too. A HAST Music Festival is planned for the end of February too.

Play opportunities

Thanks to Santa new 'wet play' toys have been provided for the classes and we hope that, if the weather is not suitable for outdoor play, there will be plenty of new activities for the children at lunchtimes.

Office changes

Welcome to Mrs Barnish who has joined us as School Office Manager. I am sure you will get to know her as you are in school over the next few weeks. Mrs Pettitt and Mrs Voyce will be hosting the front office and will happily deal with daily enquiries for you too.

Mrs Spencer, Head teacher

Reminders

A few reminders to start the year off!

SNOW: Hopefully we have had enough snow for a while but please check the website and text information as necessary in the weeks ahead if snow is forecast.

CONTACT DETAILS: If you had a **new mobile phone** for Christmas or **changed your number** please let us know any change in details ASAP.

MEDICINES

Asthma, inhalers, medicines and epipens.

Please sure you have checked that your child's inhaler/epipen or medicines in date. Please see Mrs. Pettitt or Mrs. Voyce if you need to change any medical details for your child.



Wellies, jogging bottoms, waterproof coats, wellies /spare trainers.

The children can go out on the field when it is not too muddy - but only if they have the correct clothing to protect their uniform. Please bring the above items in a named drawstring bag if you would like your child to be able to play on the field through the winter months.

Attendance and Holidays

I am aware finances are tight for us all, especially after Christmas, but as you look ahead and think about booking summer holidays may I remind you **must avoid holidays in term time** (however much cheaper they might be!).

There is clear Government guidance on this as it disrupts your child's learning and wastes public money. **I am unable to authorise the vast majority of holiday leave requests** against government criteria. Please see the website or [back of the holiday form](#) for further details

Clubs, lettings and Music lessons this term.:

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri
Before school			Street dance		Street Dance
Morning or Lunchtime	Choir Signing Bible buddies	Choir	French Signing	Guitars	Drums and Keyboards lessons
After school	Netball My Theatre	Art Club Karate	Tennis My Theatre	Eco-specific dates.	Irish Dance
Evening	Ladies Dance	Hotshots Basketball		Adult Pilates (until 25/1)	Hotshots Basketball

SAVE THE DATE:

TSG 50th Celebrations - Saturday 21st April Please save this date in your diaries for next year. **All the children in school will be involved in an afternoon performance** at different times, according to their year group, throughout the afternoon. There will also be lots of photos and memorabilia to view in the marquee, and this space will be transformed in the evening to hold an adult **'Disco through the Decades'** party.

IMPORTANT KEY DATES:

JANUARY 2018:

Tuesday 2nd Teacher Training Day – School closed
Wednesday 3rd Children return to school for Spring Term
Tuesday 9th Year 4 to Bedford for Faith Tour

FEBRUARY:

Thursday 1st Sir Teachalot to visit Year 2
Friday 2nd Year 3 to Parkfields for Learning Futures Project
Monday 5th Year 3 Learning Futures Collective Worship
Monday 5th Parent Consultations 4.00 – 7.00
Wednesday 7th Parent Consultations 3.30 – 5.30
Friday 9th Year 2 Banquet – Turrets & Tiaras

HALF TERM BREAK

Monday 19th Children return to school

MARCH

Thursday 15th Whole School Photograph for 50th Anniversary
Tuesday 27th Year 3 Easter Performance to parents
Thursday 29th Easter & End of Term Service

EASTER HOLIDAY

APRIL

Monday 16th Teacher Training Day – school closed
Tuesday 17th Children return to school for the Summer Term
Thursday 19th Class Photographs

SATURDAY 21st

ST. GEORGE'S DAY 50TH CELEBRATIONS ALL DAY / DISCO IN EVENING

Monday 23rd Year 3 to Verulanium, St Albans

MAY

Tuesday 22nd Residential Meeting for Year 4 parents
Friday 25th HHM Day / Year 4 Bikeability Course

HALF TERM BREAK

JUNE

Monday 25th Year 4 to Mill Rythe for Residential trip x 2 nights
Wednesday 27th Sports Day for Reception & Nursery / Year 3 Camping Meeting pm
Thursday 28th Parkfields Intake Meeting for Year 4's
Friday 29th Move Up Day / Year 4 to Parkfields
Saturday 30th Art Exhibition at Poplars for one week

JULY

Monday 2nd Reserve Sports Day for Foundation Unit
Tuesday 3rd Parent Information Meetings for Years R, 2 & 3 next year at 9.00 am
Year 3 Learning Futures (Parkfields to TSG)
New Nursery Intake Meeting for September 2018

Thursday 5th Year 4 Parent Information Meeting at 9.00

Friday 6th Sports Day for Years 1 – 4

Monday 9th Reserve Sports Day for Years 1 – 4

Tuesday 10th Year 1 Parent Information Meeting at 9.30 am

Thursday 12th Year 1 Performance to parents at 9.30

Monday 16th Year 2 to Forest Centre / Year 3 Camping on field (tbc)

Wednesday 18th Residential Assembly to Year 4 parents

Friday 20th Year 4 Leaver's Tea Party

End of Year / Leavers Service