



Friday 8th February 2019



Newsletter 20

Every child fulfilling their potential in a nurturing learning environment underpinned by Christian values.

Parking

I have received a complaint from a neighbour regarding parking. Thank you to the parents who, this morning (Friday):

- Did not park all over the pavements so that pushchairs could get past. Parents and toddlers were not forced to walk in the road to get round vehicles.
- Did not pull up in the middle of the road, outside the school gate, letting their children climb out onto the road.
- Did not block neighbours' drives.
- Did not park on the yellow zig-zags which say "Keep Clear."

You are teaching your children good road awareness and therefore, keeping your children safe.

Stafford House Fire

Across Stafford, you may have heard, schools have been asked to raise money for the family of the four children who perished in a house fire. There are a number of collections taking place. I have been made aware that Castlechurch Primary School is planning to create a memorial garden in memory of the children who attended the school. If you would like to donate any money to Castle Church Primary School please seal your donation in an envelope labelled, "Castle Church Memorial Fund" and hand it into the school office by Friday 15th February. I will ensure all funds are forwarded to the school. Our prayers and thoughts go out to all who have been affected by this tragedy.

KS2 Cross Country Club

Miss Cawley has invited children in Classes 5 and 6 to attend a cross-country running club each Thursday lunchtime. The club will begin at 12.00pm. The children will need to get changed into running clothes (PE Kit). Miss Cawley will take a register and plot the progress of each child. The first run will be Tuesday 12th February, weather permitting.

World Book Day – Thursday 7th March

In order to celebrate World Book Day on Thursday 7th March, the children are invited to come to school dressed as their favourite book character. In response to the children's requests in a recent writing survey, they will also be asked to become authors on this day and create their very own story books. More details will follow closer to the time.

Sports Activity Day and Two New Clubs

For some time, Miss Cawley has been planning some additional activities for the children, during school, and before and after school. On Wednesday (13th February), Premier Education have been invited to lead a day of activity. Children in Reception Class and Classes 1 and 2 will be doing Glow Sports. Children in KS2 (Classes 3, 4, 5 and 6) will be doing Battle Zone Archery. The activities will last about 35 minutes each and will be done one class at a time. The children will not need to change into their PE kits. At the end of the sports activity day, children in Classes 1 - 6 will receive a letter about two clubs we are trialling. The clubs are as follows:

Years 1 and 2 before school activity club - The first club is for children in Classes 1 and 2. The club is called Glow Sports and will take place in the school hall. It will be held before school from 8.00am until 8.50am. The cost of the club will be £2.50 per week. The club will start after half term (Tuesday 26th February) and will take place each Tuesday morning until Easter. The club will not be part of CHILL. There will be 20 places available. However, if a child gets a place at the club and parents need to drop children off at CHILL before the club from 7.45am, they will be charged £1.50 and the child offered breakfast. Doors for the activity club will open at 8.00am (unless a child is attending CHILL for the first 15 minutes). You will receive a letter on Wednesday explaining how to book for the club. It is an online booking, directly through Premier Education and will be on a first come first served basis. The children will not need to get changed for PE; they can do the activities in their school uniform. CHILL of course will still be available as normal.

Years 3 – 6 after school activity club – The second new club will be for children in Classes 3 - 6. The club is called Battle Zone Archery and will take place in the school hall if the weather is cold and wet. The club will be on every Thursday until Easter and will start after half term (Thursday 28th February). There are 20 places in the club and the cost will be £4.00 per week. The club will start at 3.20pm and finish at 4.30pm. Again, it will be an online booking, directly with Premier Education, details of which you will receive next Wednesday. Bookings will be on a first come first served basis. The children will need to get changed for PE.

Reception children will not be offered places because they currently are being offered gymnastics, after school, on a Friday.

Chill

St. Andrew's Primary School is now registered to receive payments for Chill via Tax-Free Childcare, a scheme run by HMRC. Parents with children under 12 may be able to get up to £2,000 per child, per year, towards their childcare costs. It is up to parents to open an online childcare account and manage payments each month. Payments will be paid directly to a school account accompanied by a reference number for each child. To see if you are eligible, information can be obtained from www.childcarechoices.gov.uk Please inform the school office or Mrs McCoskry if you intend to pay using this scheme. Thank you.

Absence Request Forms – for any planned absence

I would like to clarify a point around absence. If parents or carers plan to take their child out of school, for half a day or more, then an absence request form must be completed and handed into the school office. Absence request forms are not just for holidays. I will consider the absence request based on the information provided on the form and let parents and carers know my decision. All absences will be followed up by the office and sometimes other agencies. If parents and carers cannot give a satisfactory explanation for their child's absence then it will be marked as unauthorised. This information will be forwarded to the local authority and may lead to a fine. Please make an appointment to speak to me if you have any concerns about absence.

Year 6 SAT meeting – Monday 25th February

We would like to invite all Year 6 parents and carers to a meeting in Class 6 on Monday 25th February at 3:30pm (the day we return after half term). The purpose of the meeting is to explain the process of the SAT testing that the children will experience, outline the tests that they will take and discuss how they will be prepared. We will of course also answer any questions that you may have. A range of SAT papers will also be available for parents and cares to view.

Parents of Year 6 children often ask us what they can do to support their child at home. As part of this, we therefore recommend some revision guides. These will be available to look at and buy (if you wish to do so) at the SAT meeting.

(Mrs Beardmore and Mrs Collins)

Bag2School Collection



STAA has organised their next Bag2School collection. Please drop off your bags on the first Tuesday (26th February) after half term. Thanking you in advance for your donations.

This Week's Celebration Assembly



Merit certificates, spelling and maths certificates and a 10 mile challenge award, were all celebrated this week. Well done children, we are really proud of you. And, well done to Class 1 who shared their learning this week with parents and families.

A Winter Prayer

Lord:

In the midst of Winter, when the days are cold and wind can pierce remind us of the warmth of your love.

In the midst of Winter, when days are short, dawn comes late, and dusk arrives early remind us that in the darkness your light still shines.

In the midst of Winter, when the flowers of spring still lie hidden in the earth, when leaves are off the trees, and the world can seem bleak remind us that Easter is but a short time away.

And when in our lives we feel as if we are experiencing a season of winter, reach out to us with the power of your resurrection so that we may feel the warmth of your love and see your light that alone can take away the darkness of our soul.



OFSTED Inspection

I have received the final letter from OFSTED and will release a hard copy to all families this week. The letter will appear on the OFSTED website on Friday 15th February. Thank you.

Finally...

The dates for next year's INSET days have been set. St Peter's, Colwich and St Andrew's will share the following INSET days for 2019 – 2020.

Monday 2nd September 2019

Tuesday 3rd September 2019

Monday 4th November 2019 (First day back after half term break)

Monday 1st June 2020 (First day back after half term break)

Monday 20th July 2020 (Last day of the summer term break)

Mr Hayward

Term Dates and Events

Spring Term 2019

Friday 8 February	Class 1 Assembly
Wednesday 13 February	Sports Taster Day
Thursday 14 February	Years 5&6 Bench Ball Competition at St Peter's

Half-Term Break Monday 18 February – Friday 22 February

Monday 25 February	School opens
Monday 25 February	Full Local Governing Body meeting 6.00pm
Tuesday 26 February	BAG2SCHOOL Collection
Tuesday 5 March	Book Fair arrives
Wednesday 6 March	World Maths Day
Thursday 7 March	World Book Day
Friday 8 March	Mid-Term Reports to Parents and Carers
Tuesday 12 March	Book Fair leaves
Friday 15 March	Red Nose Day
Monday 18 March	Handball tournament Y5 and 6 at St John's
Wednesday 20 March	Parents' Evening 3.30pm – 6.00pm
Thursday 21 March	Parents' Evening 3.30pm – 6.00pm
Thursday 21 March	World Poetry Day
Friday 22 March	Reception Class and Class 6 weights and measures
Friday 29 March	Class 3 Assembly
Tuesday 2 April	Autism Awareness Day
Friday 5 April	Abecedarian – Special Assembly 2.30pm
Thursday 11 April	Reception Class and KS1 Easter Bonnet Service – 10.00am
Friday 12 April	End of term – School closes at 2.30pm

Easter Break Monday 15 April – Friday 26 April Easter Sunday 21 April

Monday 29 April	School opens
Monday 6 May	Bank Holiday – School closed
Monday 13 May	End of KS2 SATs week

Half-Term Break Monday 27 May – Friday 31 May

Summer Term 2019

Monday 3 June	INSET DAY
Monday 10 June	Year 1 Phonics Screening Week
Friday 14 June	BAG2SCHOOL Collection
Friday 21 June	Class 2 Assembly
Monday 24 June	Year 6 pupils visit Isle of Man
Monday 1 July	Values week begins
Friday 5 July	Sports Day/Summer Fair/Family Picnic Day

Monday 8 July	End of Year Reports to Parents and Carers
Tuesday 9 July	KS2 Performances 1.00pm (Community) and 6.30pm
Wednesday 10 July	KS2 Performances 1.00pm and 6.30pm
Friday 12 July	Abecedarian – Special Assembly 2.30pm
Tuesday 16 July	KS2 and Leavers' Disco 6.00pm – 7.30pm
Friday 19 July	School closes 2.30pm
Friday 19 July	CHILL closes 5.00pm
Monday 22 July	INSET DAY

Summer Holidays Tuesday 23 July – Friday 30 August

Staffordshire County Council Term Dates for the Academic Year

Autumn Term 2019

Inset day: Monday 2 September

Inset day: Tuesday 3 September

Term starts: Wednesday 4 September

Half term: Monday 28 October - Friday 1 November

Inset day: Monday 4 November

Term ends: Friday 20 December

Holiday: Monday 23 December - Friday 3 January

Spring Term 2020

Term starts: Monday 6 January

Half term: Monday 17 February - Friday 21 February

Term ends: Friday 3 April

Holiday: Monday 6 April - Friday 17 April

Easter Sunday: Sunday 12 April

Summer Term 2020

Term starts: Monday 20 April

May Day: Monday 4 May

Half term: Monday 25 May - Friday 29 May

Inset day: Monday 1 June

Term ends: Friday 17 July

Inset day: Monday 20 July

Holiday: Tuesday 21 July - Monday 31 August

Emergency Telephone Number – 07561821107 – School visits only