

St Mary & St John CE Primary School

Headteacher: Elizabeth Burton



Newsletter 1: 11.09.19

Dear Parents and Carers,

A warm welcome in this first newsletter of the 2019 - 2020 school year and a special welcome to all our new children and families who have joined us this September. We've had a very positive first week back with everyone settling down to new routines, class teachers, teaching assistants and classrooms. I enjoy seeing lots of you every morning on the school gate for a friendly word and it helps me to connect with families. I hope you had a relaxing summer holiday and, if it was, please try and hold on to the good of it for a while.

We've had an extremely busy summer holidays at school with huge refurbishment works. Here are some of the things we've done:

- ❖ We now have a large room for our breakfast and after school club with its own entrance. This is something parents have expressed concern about for a while so we're delighted with the improved space. This will be a huge bonus in the winter months when the outside is not so accessible;
- ❖ We have a fabulous library where the computer room was. It is stunning with bespoke library furniture in a smartly refurbished room. We have moved all the useable books into the library but they all need electronically cataloguing. This will take time so the library will be in use later on this term;
- ❖ We have new toilet blocks for the children in Years 3 – 6 which are bright and cheerful with some visibility from the corridor into the space without intruding on privacy. The aim is for children to feel safe in the toilets as they are too often cited as places where trouble arises;
- ❖ We have had the whole of the outside tarmacked replacing the uneven paving slabs, providing an all year round playing surface. We will decorate it with some playground markings in time;
- ❖ A tucked away cloakroom is converted into a large store room with the cloakroom now in an open corridor which feels safer (we have some more pegs on order as it's a bit congested at the moment, please be patient!);
- ❖ We have a friendship bench in the large playground, hewn from a nearby tree and beautifully carved. This was requested by lots of children and thank you to the PTA for paying for it.

I did not believe so much could be achieved in a six-week period and my thanks must go to our brilliant builders, our site manager Grahame Godby and to the staff for working heroically on order and organisation at the beginning of term. The school is looking really smart and we will continue our refurbishment works in the year ahead.

Our Harvest Service is on **Monday 30 September at 10.00** in St Mary and St John church. We collect donations for The Porch which supports vulnerable people locally. We will send out a list of suggested contributions separately. Please feel welcome to join us for this service.

We have a sharing assembly at Key Stage 2 once a term and this term it is on **Friday 25 October at 9.10** and will be led by year 6. There will be refreshments beforehand and everyone is welcome.

We will try to put upcoming events on the website calendar so please check for updates. Your child's class teacher will communicate specific information via Parentpay.

My newsletters are never longer than one side of A4 (you'll be relieved to know!) and they are just one of the many forms of communication we have. I'm enjoying the new school year with everyone already – thank you!

Best wishes, Liz Burton