

St Faiths' Primary School – Newsletter 1 – 09/09/2019

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Christian Value of this Half-Term:

RESPONSIBILITY

The Bible teaches that life is a gift from God and it is our responsibility to use our talents and abilities in the best way we can.

Welcome Back!

I can't believe the summer has been and gone but I'm so excited to see all the children back with their big grins and great tans!

Mrs Porter, the staff and I are excited for the year ahead and I know the children are too. We have lots to look forward to and I'm sure you'll support your children to get the most out of their learning.

Thank You

A big thank you to all adults and children for embracing our new morning and after-school routines. Please can I kindly reiterate that the yellow zig-zag lines are a 'Keep Clear' zone and so cars should not be parking or dropping off children in this area. We are aware of some safety concerns and would like to remind you that if you arrive before 8:45am the gate will not be open and this is when you risk standing by the busy road. The gate is open until 8:55am and children can arrive any time within this 10-minute window.

At the end of the day, if you're waiting for children in KS2, a member of staff will walk the class to the second gate and you can collect them from here. Nobody should be waiting on the playground or trim-trail.

Again, this is a trial and we will review it after half term.

Hello to our New Friends

I'd like to extend a warm welcome to all our new Reception children and the new children we have throughout our school. They're fitting in well to life in school with some Ducklings even waving goodbye at the gate on their first morning! It was like water off a duck's back, you might say...

ICT Refresh

Over the summer, something exciting happened in school. We have had our ICT update and each classroom has a brand-new Clever Touch Smart Board and all teaching staff have new laptops. Along with this, all of our iPads and existing laptops have been refreshed so we now have a bank of 16 iPads and 20 laptops for all classes to use.

Shakespeare Schools Festival

Rehearsals will soon be under way for the Kingfishers' performance of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'. The show is part of the Nebula's participation in the Shakespeare Schools Festival and will culminate in a performance in November at the Norwich Playhouse.



Weather-Appropriate Clothing

As this summer has shown, the weather can be completely unpredictable from one day to the next. Therefore, please ensure your child has a raincoat at school every day and a spare change of shoes or wellies, should they wish to go on the school field in the less-fair weather.

The Power of Reading

This year we are going to work hard with the children to promote and develop their love of reading. We have already started to implement the Power of Reading scheme to support our Literacy teaching but we are also going to issue all children with a Reading Record Journal to help keep track of the reading you do at home. In EYFS and Key Stage 1, as children learn to read, the books the children will be reading will be at their phonics level. As the children become more fluent readers, they'll be introduced to a variety of genres and text types to help them find books and stories they love.

Please ensure you read with your children regularly or – if they read independently – hold discussions about what they are reading. Children will receive merits for their reading at home. We recommend at least:

EYFS/Key Stage 1 – 10 minutes shared reading daily

Key Stage 2 – 20 minutes reading daily

Please make sure all reading records are in school **on a Monday** to be checked in class.

Volunteer Reading

If, now your children are back at school, you're finding some extra time on your hands, we are always looking for volunteer readers to help in school. We'll provide you with the skills you need to support the children and you will also gain a lot from the experience. If you'd like to volunteer, please email Sarah in the office.

Named Uniform

Please could I remind you that it helps to clearly name all uniform is named in case of mix-ups during changing for PE or Break and Lunch. If any uniform belonging to you previously belonged to an older sibling or student, please make sure the old name has been covered and replaced.

SeeSaw and Tapestry

Robins, Barn Owls and Kingfishers have all signed up to use SeeSaw this year. SeeSaw is an online platform that allows you to see the children's work in the classroom from the comfort of your own home! We'll use it to upload photos and messages regularly and it is also a place where the children can complete online activities and videos that we can share in their independent learning. Mrs Landles would have spoken to Ducklings parents about using Tapestry to share your children's work; please ensure you sign up!

House Captains

In-keeping with our Christian value of *Responsibility*, this week saw the children in Kingfishers put themselves forward to be considered for the roles of Captain and Vice-Captain for each of our house teams. They worked hard on their speeches and presented these to the school on Thursday. After a close vote, the following children were selected for each House:

Cromer

Captain – Emmeline S

Vice-Captain – Honey G

Sheringham

Captain – Eleanor H

Vice-Captain – Adam F

Waxham

Captain – Daniel

Vice-Captain – Casper

Wells

Captain – Nancy

Vice-Captain – Ethan

Those that weren't selected this year were incredibly gracious and even cheered for those that were successful. There will be another chance next year for the children in Year 5 and further opportunities for the Year 6 children to show off their mature and sensible attitudes throughout the year.

Attendance

Accompanying the newsletter this fortnight is a letter about our attendance policy at St Faiths'. We hope the children are in school every day and our whole-school target is 98%. Each week, the class with the highest attendance receive the 'Attendance Trophy' to display in class. In addition, each class that beats our target moves one place up the class Reward Board. Please can I ask you to help us by ensuring your children are in school, and on time, every day.

Key Dates for Your Diary

September

19th – Y6 Science Fair @ HHS 1pm – 3pm

25th – SSF at Norwich Playhouse 1pm – 4pm – Kingfishers

October

14th – Flu Immunisations – YR-6

18th October – Break up for Half Term

28th October – Return for Autumn Second Half Term

November

6th – SSF Performance at Norwich Playhouse – Kingfishers