



Vernham Dean Gillum's Church of England Primary School

Newsletter

Friday 29th September 2017

Arrangements for Harvest and Apple Pressing

Our Harvest Festival is taking place on Thursday 5th October, 2:00pm at St. Mary's Church. The children will be walking to the Church, via the path at 1:30pm and we welcome parents to walk up with us. The children will walk back down to school and can be picked up at the usual time of 3:30pm from the classroom doors. Clubs will still take place after school. Please note children can not be collected from the Church. If wet, please provide wellies in a named carrier bag.

If you are driving we ask that you use our 'one way system' and arrive via Bulpits Hill, parking with care outside the Church, and departing away past the Manor.

We are collecting donations for Food Bank such as: coffee, tinned fruit and veg (not baked beans), tinned rice pudding, Mug Shot/Pot Noodles, tinned meat, tin/carton custard, chopped tomatoes, long life fruit juice. Please note they have plenty of rice, pasta, cereal and tea. Please bring in your donations to school next week. Thank you for your support.

Apple Pressing Mr Somerville and Miss Lunt will be pressing apples on Friday 6th October. Please bring in any **home-grown** and windfall apples on Friday 6th. Children will need a clean plastic container to take their juice home and a plastic bag. Please do not buy apples!

Dates for your Diary

6/10	Apple pressing
09/10-13/10	PGL
05/10	Harvest Festival 2:00pm St Mary's
12/10	Year R (2018 intake) Open Afternoon 2:00pm
17/10	Tractor afternoon
18/10	Linkenholt
20/10	Time to shine day— wear bright clothing
30/10	INSET Day
01/11	Flu Immunisations Yr R— Yr 4
01/11	Parents Eve 2:30— 7:30pm
07/11	Individual School Photos
08/11	Saxon League Rugby Vernham Dean
09/11	Year R (2018 intake) Open Afternoon
09/11	Bag2School
24/11	Yr 6 & JST tree planting Harmony Woods

Latest News and Updates

- A reminder that the old Pound coins go out of circulation on October 15th—please check any coins being handed into school.
- **Open Afternoons** for September 2018 intake. Thursday 12th October 2:00pm and Thursday 9th November 2:00pm. Please contact Office for further details
- **Where's Wally?** Wally is hiding somewhere on our Library boards and moves around every week; can you spot him? Library is open after school on Tuesday and Thursday until 4:15pm

Events

- **Countryside Day**—Our next whole School visit to Linkenholt Outdoor Centre is Wednesday 18th October. We have lots of different activities taking place and we need a just couple more volunteers to help us in the kitchen with teas and coffees. If you or any family members are able to help, please sign up in the Office by 2nd October
- **Curry and a Murder Mystery Evening (Part 2)** - Friday 17th November 7:30pm at the Village Hall. Tickets £15 each (bring your own drinks, £1 corkage). Please see Carol Ward, Jane or School Office.
- **Bag2School** Thursday 9th November—please remember to save any unwanted clothing, shoes, bags, hats, jewellery, curtains, soft toys etc for our collection

Homework

Thank you to all the parents who have said that the homework 'experience' has improved for their families and the decreased amount in KS2 is easier to achieve.

Following on from the letter to KS1 parents this week, please note that homework days are:

KS1 : Friday to Wednesday

KS2 : Monday to Thursday (unchanged)

Attendance and Absence

Our whole school attendance last academic year was 96.1% and I thank all the families who supported the school with ensuring their child's attendance was good. As Headteachers, we are accountable for our school's attendance and are often reminded by Hampshire County Council, and Government, about our duty to improve our attendance figures; this year is no exception. Our last year's attendance percentage falls slightly short of County targets. Therefore, I thought it would be a good idea to share with you some useful information and facts to support you as families.

Holiday Requests

Hampshire County Council have asked us to remind you that all Headteachers can no longer approve holiday requests unless in exceptional circumstances. If you wish to make an appointment to discuss what you feel might be an exceptional circumstance, please make an appointment before you make an absence request.

Penalty Notices

Unauthorised absence can lead to a penalty notice being served. These are triggered after the 10th session of school has been missed. This means the afternoon of the fifth day (schools have 2 sessions per day). I am duty bound to inform parents that if a penalty notice is issued twice, it can lead to a criminal record – please understand that this is not a school decision but it is a Government ruling we are bound by.

How we will help you this academic year

As with last year, we will continue to work closely with families whose child's attendance falls below 92% to ensure a rapid improvement. As a school, we continuously track these attendances to support you with any difficulties you may be having.

Hampshire County Council has requested that schools give out attendance letters alerting parents when their child's attendance drops. As a cluster of Bourne Valley Primary Schools, we have made the decision to create our own letters that unifies schools across the area. Colour coded letters will go out at the end of term, but red, half termly.

GREEN category (95%+)

AMBER category (92 - 95%)

RED category (below 92%)

Concerns about your child's attendance

If you have concerns about your child's attendance or any questions on attendance, please do not hesitate to meet with me.

Katy Thompson

Church

St Mary's Vernham Dean

Family Service 10:00am 2nd Sunday of each month

St Peter's Hurstbourne Tarrant Family Service 10:00am 1st Sunday of each month