



## Vernham Dean Gillum's Church of England Primary School

# Newsletter

Friday 15th September 2017

### Welcome Back

Welcome to the first Newsletter of the year. I hope that you had a great summer. It has been really interesting to hear all about what the children have been doing over the holiday. A warm welcome to all of our new children and families who have joined across the school. You should expect to receive a newsletter every other Friday by email and we always make sure it is on the website and a copy is posted on the classroom doors.

Welcome to Mr Reilly who will be our new lunchtime Active Play Leader. His role will help us to promote an active and healthy lifestyle. Active games help children to strengthen muscles and improve co-ordination. In addition, working in active team games can help with self-confidence and social skills.

**Katy Thompson**

### Dates for your Diary

Please see page 3 for a complete listing

#### **Church**

**St Mary's** Vernham Dean

Family Service

10:00am 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month

#### **St Peter's**

Hurstbourne Tarrant

Family Service

10:00am 1st Sunday of each month

### Latest News and Updates

- **House Points 2016-2017:** first place: Earth, 2387 points, second: Air, 2104 points, joint third: Fire & Water, 1768 points. Well done Earth! The school have voted to change the House names back to Yellow, Red, Green and Blue
- **Healthy Eating**— Thank you to all families for encouraging your children to eat healthily and for providing fruit and vegetable snacks— keep it up folks !
- **Kestrels** after school care club is now running 4 days a week; please contact Tracey Golding on 079322 10131 or 01264 736545 for further details

### Events

- **Countryside Day**—Our next whole School visit to Linkenholt Outdoor Centre is Wednesday 18th October. We are currently planning the activities taking place and we need volunteers to help us make this a fun and educational experience in the beautiful surrounding countryside. If you or any family members are able to help, please sign up in the Office by 2nd October. More details about the event will be sent out next week. Thank you for your support.
- **Apple Pressing** - Week commencing 2nd October, please save all home-grown and windfall apples. Children will need a clean plastic container and plastic bag.
- **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.
- **O2 Young Voices**—31st January 2018. Consent & ticket forms sent out today to Choir. Please return by Wednesday 20th September to reserve places and purchase parent tickets.

### Books, Comics, Book Swap and Library

- Wanted! children's comics (especially the Beano) and magazines for 'Free Reading Friday'. Please bring any unwanted comics to the School Office.
- A big thank you to Mrs Maguire for continuing to make our Library a bright and colourful area for the children to explore and choose books. Author and Poem of the week, Limericks, activity sheets and book recommendations are just some of the new features. Do pop in and take a look.
- Parents and Carers are welcome to change library books, with children after school, on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:30pm to 4:15pm
- There is a 'book swap box' in the library where children may bring in a book they no longer want and swap it for another in the box.

## Governor Parent Questionnaire

Many thanks for those families who took part in the 2017 Governor Parent Questionnaire. It was great to receive so many positive responses about the school; your responses are invaluable to us.

Some of the strengths you highlighted (there were many):

100% felt their child was safe at our school

97% felt their child was well taught

97% felt the school responded to concerns and knew who to talk to

100% felt that children were well behaved

100% felt the school was well led and managed

100% would recommend this school to another parent

## Things you felt we need to improve:

- You want to change the January Parents Evening to the Autumn term – we have now changed the date to Wednesday 1st November
- You felt strongly that homework should go out on a Monday - we have now made changes (you can read the changes in our Newsletter for Academic Year 2017- 2018 which was sent out at the end of last term. It is available to view on the website under the 'News & Events' tab in the Newsletters section or please see the office)
- You told us that our font needs to be bigger, and less on the page of our newsletter to make it clearer to read
- You felt the school should offer more sports clubs – we are working on this and hope to make a change after half term
- You felt that our interim report could be clearer on your child's strengths and areas to improve – we will be redesign our report to accommodate your requests



Our bright new Library boards



The Library is open to Parents & Carers, with their children, after school on Tuesdays and Thursday until 4:15pm



## Dates for your Diary

Please note these dates are subject to change but we will let you know as soon as possible

27/09	Whole School Science Day
27/09	Saxon League Rugby Hurstbourne Tarrant 3:30pm
28/09	PGL meeting for parents 3:30pm
29/09	KS1 Fire Safety
W/C 2/10	Apple pressing—bring windfalls & plastic bottle tbc
09/10-13/10	PGL Yr 5 & 6
05/10	Harvest Festival 2:00pm St Mary's Church
12/10	Year R (2018 intake) Open Afternoon 2:00pm
18/10	Linkenholt Countryside Day
20/10	Time to shine day—wear bright clothing
30/10	INSET Day
01/11	Flu Immunisations
01/11	Parents Eve 2:30—7:30pm
07/11	Individual School Photos
08/11	Saxon League Rugby Vernham Dean 3:15pm
09/11	Year R (2018 intake) Open Afternoon 2:00pm
09/11	Bags2school collection—recyclable clothes
17/11	Yr 5/6 Fire Service to visit
17/11	Curry & Murder Mystery 7:30pm
24/11	Planting trees Harmony Woods Year 6 & JST
01/12	Christmas Market and performance
11/12	Panto at Village Hall—whole school to attend
15/12	Governors Christmas Lunch—Whole School Village Hall
20/12	School Disco 3.45– 4:45pm
21/12	Christmas Service 10:30am St Mary's Church
31/01	O2 Young Voices
06/03	Saxon League Rugby St Martins East Woodhay 3:30pm
13/03	Saxon League Rugby Woolton Hill 3:30pm
15/03	Bags2school collection—recyclable clothes
28/03	Easter Service St Mary's Church 2:00pm
29/03	INSET Day
14/05-17/05	SATS week
18/06-21/06	Bikeability Yr 5 & 6
10/07	Sports Day 10:00am—family picnic lunch
12/007	Whole School Summer Production and Family Fun Evening
20/07	Leavers Service 10:30am St Mary's

### Term Dates 2017/2018

#### Autumn Term 2017

4th September—21st December

Half Term 23rd—27th October

#### Spring Term 2018

4th January—29th March

Half Term 12th - 16th February

#### Summer Term 2018

16th April—23rd July

Half Term 28th May—1st June

### INSET Days 2017/2018

4th September, 30th October, 4th January, 29th March 23rd  
July