



All Saints Primary School Newsletter

January 2014

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope everyone had a happy and healthy Christmas and the children are ready with renewed enthusiasm for the new term!

Staffing

We extend a warm welcome to Miss Victoria Hosegood who joins our team at All Saints as Diamonds class teacher for the Spring and Summer terms. She is excited to be starting at our school and is very keen to get to know as many of you as possible so please do say hello and introduce yourselves to her.

Another change is that Mrs Powell is reducing her working days for the Spring and Summer terms 2014. She will therefore be teaching Sapphires class on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays of each week. This gives me a wonderful opportunity to teach Sapphires on Mondays and Fridays! Mrs Powell and I will work closely together on planning and assessment to ensure that the learning experiences for the children are continuous and of the highest quality. Most of my teaching experience has been with Years 5 & 6 and I will really enjoy being more involved in their learning.

Due to this arrangement I will not be available for other teaching commitments I had in the school. This was to release teaching staff to give them planning and assessment time and time to fulfil leadership duties within school. It is essential that members of staff have this time to enable our school to grow and develop towards excellence. Therefore I am very pleased that Mrs Rachel Harris, who was working with Sapphires class before Christmas, has enthusiastically agreed to provide regular cover in our school. Again, this will be jointly planned with Diamond and Ruby class teachers to ensure that the learning is optimal.

I believe that we have secured the commitment of a strong team and I look forward to a fabulous new term ahead! Mrs Chalke has regrettably made the decision to retire from All Saints at the end of this term. Having been a dedicated part of the team at All Saints for 28years(!) she feels she would like to spend more time with her grandchildren and pursuing other interests. Whilst we respect Mrs Chalke's wishes for more time with her family she will be much missed at the school.

All Saints Reading Reward Scheme

I was delighted to present so many Book Rewards for home and independent reading at the end of last term. I hope you enjoyed sharing them with your children over the break and that it kept reading a high priority over the holidays.

At staff training yesterday we worked together on our approaches to nurturing a love of reading in the children. We believe a love of reading will bring lasting benefits and that access to books and the ability to read should be a fundamental right for all children. Indeed it is the most effective means of increasing educational outcomes and employment opportunities. Children who have an early introduction to books benefit in many ways; educationally, socially, culturally and emotionally. We believe that encouraging families to share stories and books as early as

possible can help start an introduction into a wide tapestry of knowledge and culture, which can help children understand who they are and the place they have in the world. Stories enable children to take risks, test their courage, face their fears and indulge their humour. They provide a safe environment to test out personal feelings and responses through others' experiences.

As a result of our discussions we would like to 're launch' the Reading Reward Scheme with children at All Saints **from Year 2 upwards.**

The children will be bringing home a leaflet about this on Friday having discussed the re launch in class. This will explain our role at school in this and the children's responsibilities in achieving an award. Please be assured that the aim of the scheme is to develop a love of reading in the children who will then read more and achieve their best. We all enjoy what we're good at and so we all need support at times to improve at certain skills. Increasing ability gives us the confidence to grow and improve further. As it is vital that all children learn to read well, once they enjoy reading this becomes easy. The scheme is fully inclusive and achievable by all. It is not about rewarding the 'best' readers or those who read the most pages, although children will read more and that will impact their progress. Thank you in anticipation for your support.

Attendance at All Saints

Thank you for supporting the school in its drive to improve attendance. Whole school attendance for 2012-13 was 95.9% which is around the national average. Last term our attendance was 97.2% with 69% of pupils achieving 97+% overall. This is a great improvement and it would be brilliant to sustain this throughout the year.

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Diamonds early morning

For the Autumn term, in order for the reception children to settle into school, they have been coming into school from 8.45am. This term the children in Reception and Year 1 will remain in the playground until the early morning whistle. However, Miss Hosegood would like me to mention that she is available should any parent/carer need to speak to her. She would also like to invite parents/carers in to the classroom from **8.45am every Friday** to read with their children. Younger siblings are welcome too! I think this is a lovely idea and maybe some of our bus children's parents would be able to make it in some Fridays.

A reminder please for children to have extra clothes for PE outside in the colder weather. Also please could they bring a plastic carrier for muddy trainers!! Thank you.

We look forward to a term of exciting learning based around our local area and comparisons with other places. If you or someone you know in the local community has some interesting information to share, the school would love to hear from you.

As always if you have anything you would like to discuss the door is always open. Wishing you all the very best that 2014 can bring and another great year in partnership,

Anne Crumpler