



# Chilham St Mary's CE Primary School

## Term 1 Newsletter 24<sup>th</sup> September 2021

### A great start to the new term!

I can't believe we are already half way through this term – it has certainly felt good to be back to a greater sense of normal and lovely to see you all on the gate. The children have settled in really well to the new school year – a special mention to our Wrens who really have taken school in their stride 😊.

We have spent time this term strengthening our understanding and commitment to our school vision and values and have introduced the children to the story of The Prodigal Son (Luke 15 v11-32). This parable provides us with the basis of our school's Christian values – **love, trust, respect, honesty, perseverance and forgiveness** are all to be found in the story – the children were certainly quick to identify them.

### Dates for this term

At last we have been able to plan some events in the church and can extend an invitation out to you all:

- **Harvest Festival Celebration - Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> October at 9:30am**
- **A Christingle Service – 8<sup>th</sup> December at 2:00pm**
- **Nativity – 14<sup>th</sup> December at 2:00pm**

We really hope you can join us for these celebrations in the church. The charity we have chosen to support for our harvest this year is Pastos Verdes <https://pastosverdes.co.uk/home> - there will be a collection outside the church for any money you would like to donate to this charity please. (Please note, we are not asking for donations of food).

- **Our school Christmas dinner day for the children will be on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December**
- **The last day of term for the children will be Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December**

### Online Safety – Parent Information and Support

As a school, we continue to subscribe to the National Online Safety resource and, thanks to so many members of our school community completing training modules (including parents) we achieved our accreditation last year. For those of you who would like to do the training, there are 2 courses available **Annual Certificate in Online Safety for Parents and Carers of children aged 3 - 7** and **Annual Certificate in Online Safety for Parents and Carers of children aged 7 - 11**. You can access these courses, along with a whole range of really useful resources for parents and carers so that you feel confident and informed to support your child to be safe online by following the link:

<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/enrol/chilham-st-mary-s-c-of-e-primary-school>



### Morning and After School Clubs

Thank you very much to those parents who have responded to my letter seeking your opinions and requirements for after school provision – this has been really helpful. I had responses from 8 families and will continue to work towards finding the best solution for those of you who need regular provision and whose children would like to take part in an after school club.

### School Photographs

Sarah Prescott our school photographer will be coming in on **Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> October** to take individual school photos. Please note that we will not be inviting pre-school siblings to take part this year again, we do hope you understand.

### School Dinners

Just a reminder that the price of a school dinner for years 3 – 6 is now **£2.30** and we are getting closer to having an online payment system up and running for this. We had a spot check visit from the Environmental Health Officer last week and once again we achieved a 5 star rating! Congratulations to Pip for the wonderful job she does 😊

### Forest School

Unfortunately we are currently unable to use Chilham Castle for our Forest School sessions. However, Reverend Cathy Sigrist and the PCC have offered us the use of an area of the churchyard which is wonderful. We hope to have our Forest School sessions up and running very soon and will send details of when each class will be going.

### Parent / Teacher Consultations

We will be organising these for term 2 and will send out further details in due course. We are hoping to welcome you into school for those meetings this year.

### It's Good to Grow

We have registered for the Morrisons 'It's Good to Grow' scheme. For every £10 spent in store, we will receive a grow token. We can then exchange these tokens for gardening equipment. All you need to do is download the My Morrisons app and select our school. Thank you!

<https://my.morrisons.com/blog/community/good-to-grow/>

Thank you all for your continued support and let's hope this glorious autumn weather continues.

Best wishes

*Delia Cooper*

