

Chilham St Mary's CE Primary School

Newsletter 1st September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to the start of the new academic year – I do hope you all had a wonderful summer break and the children are feeling refreshed and re-charged. We are all very much looking forward to seeing Years 1-6 on Monday morning and our new Wrens on Wednesday morning ☺

As a staff team, we had a really productive development day on Friday 1st September. Part of the day was spent reviewing our school vision to ensure that it continues to be at the heart of everything we do, permeating all aspects of school life, enabling all members of the school community to flourish.

We are a diverse, loving community, committed to providing firm foundations built on God's love and forgiveness for all. Within our family of learners, guided by Jesus' example, we nurture and encourage every individual to have the confidence to achieve their own potential, now and in the future.

Our core values of *love, trust, respect, honesty, forgiveness and perseverance*, together with our Bible narrative, the story of The Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11–32), underpin our vision. We will spend time with the children at the start of the year helping them to understand our vision by exploring the values and Bible narrative so that we have the foundations to work well together.

I do hope that for our existing families, returning for the new school year, this resonates with you and for new families joining us, it gives you a clearer understanding of who we are as a school and what we are striving to achieve.

A very warm welcome to Mrs Vanessa Robinson, our new Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO) who has joined our staff team. We are excited to work with her and she is very much looking forward to meeting the children and their families – she will be on the gate with me on Tuesday morning ☺

Class welcome letters and curriculum maps:

These will be sent out on Monday with details for the term ahead.

School lunches:

- The price of a school meal for pupils in Years 3-6 is £2.70 per day / £13.50 per week. Caterlink is the external provider for our school meals and the company is very clear that accounts must not go into debt.
The lunch register is taken at 8:55am each day and all accounts must have sufficient funds to pay for your child's meal for that day.
- Year 3 – Caterlink has informed us that your accounts are now ready for you to add credit.

- If you think that your child may be eligible to receive means tested free school meals, you can find full details and apply directly via this link: <https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/free-school-meals> or contact Mrs Woodland and she will be happy to assist.

Timings for the school day:

The school gates open at 8.35am and lessons start at 8.55am. Children arriving after the gates close, must come in via the school office and will be recorded as a late arrival. The school day finishes at 3.15pm.

School uniform:

Should you require any items of school uniform, do please ask as we have many items of pre-loved uniform available, where we just ask for a small donation to the PTA funds.

PE Kits, Water Bottles, Playtime Snacks:

- The children will need their PE kits and water bottles from Monday, so please remember to send them in to school.
- Children in years R – 2 are provided with a healthy morning snack, and the Tuck Shop for years 3 - 6 will run from Monday. KS2 children do not need more than 20p a day and this should be kept in a named wallet/purse. Alternatively, they can bring in a small snack from home; however, please remember no sweets/crisps or products containing nuts.

Key Dates for Term 1:

- *Term 1 starts for Years 1-6 – Monday 4th September*
- *Parent Teacher Consultations – Monday 16th and Tuesday 17th October 3:45 – 6:00pm*
- *Harvest Festival in St Mary's Church – Friday 20th October at 2:00pm*
- *Nativity Service in St Mary's Church – Tuesday 12th December at 2:00pm*
- *End of Term 1 – Friday 15th December*

I can definitely sense the start of autumn - the hop tractors are out in force, cobwebs galore in the garden, early morning dew – so much to look forward to with such a beautiful season and for the term ahead.

Kind regards

Delia Cooper

