

Headteacher Newsletter – April 2021

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I hope that everyone had a lovely Easter break and managed to enjoy the sunshine and the benefits of some of the Covid restrictions being lifted. The warmer weather makes a big difference to us at school. Key Stage 2 children have all been able to have their packed lunch on the school field for the week which makes life far easier in terms of ensuring bubbles are not bumping into each other in the school corridors.

The lighter morning and evening makes afterschool activities easier too. It is great to see so many children signed up to clubs both before and after school although it is a shame that the numbers have to be capped at 15 due to DfE regulations. I know some children will be disappointed not to have been able to get into the club they chose. Hopefully though, with a wide selection on offer, they have been able to access another one.

The School Council met this week. Some of the requests included eating lunch outside, going swimming, having a school pet (we have duck eggs being delivered to Reception Class soon), discussions about library books and access to them and a request for bird tables on the school grounds. If any families know where we can get bird tables from, then please let us know. Sometimes the hand crafted ones are sturdier than shop bought ones.

Another request was for some more outdoor equipment. We are looking into buying some outdoor gym equipment which we can use our 'Sports Premium funding' for. We are waiting for a site visit to assess whether we have the space to install them into the ground without losing too much 'running around' space. These will be designed for primary aged children.

We are finally having the mulch base on 'Monkey World' replaced next week. It had to be closed off when the base turned black and was leaving a charred residue on school uniforms. The children will be delighted to be able to access it again.

Dates for your diary:

26.4.2021 Curriculum info and homework sent out to parents

27.4.2021 Mass of the Risen Lord

28.4.2021 Forest School Y3

28.4.2021 Fire service visit for Yrs R, 1, 2 and 5

3.5.2021 Bank Holiday

5.5.2021 Forest School Y1

10.5.2021 Y4 and Y5 Sports Leader training

12.5.2021 Forest School YR

14.5.2021 Swimming for Y1-6

16.5.2021 First Holy Communion at Cathedral

Sun protection:

With warmer weather arriving, please ensure your child has a cap or sunhat in their school bag each day. This does not need to be a specific colour. A reminder that the school's sun policy can be found on the website – all day sun cream is requested for all children unless they have a medical need.

Many thanks.

General info:

Website: All information is regularly updated on the school website www.stphilipsarundel.org.uk

Facebook: Please go on to our school website www.stphilipsarundel.org.uk and click on the Facebook icon. Click the 'like' button on the page to ensure you receive updates.

PE kits: Please make sure these are returned to school after clubs each day, thank you.

Planting: Thank you to those who sent in pictures. It's not too late to send in any that you may still have – office@st-philips.w-sussex.sch.uk

French conversation: Mrs Banks (a parent) has kindly offered to come into school once a fortnight to practise French conversation with groups of children in Y5 and 6. This will be on Monday afternoons.

Flowers for the cross:

On Tuesday at 11.15am, we will be celebrating mass in the Cathedral for the Mass of the Risen Lord.

We are able to go as a whole school and sit within class bubbles. Unfortunately, we cannot invite parents due to the number limit in the Cathedral. However, parents can watch via live stream from the Cathedral website <https://arundelcathedral.uk/>

We will be decorating a wooden cross with flowers as we do every year. Could you please send any flowers or greenery from your garden into school on the morning of the 27th (Tuesday).

These will be cut and put onto the cross which will then be placed at the front of the school, bearing witness that we are all Easter people, celebrating the Risen Lord.

Swimming:

Swimming starts at the Lido on Friday 14th May. Year 1 will begin at 9am. We are asking parents to drop their child (Y1 only) at the lido from 8.45am where Mrs Tipping will be waiting for them. Years 1-4 will have lessons in the morning and Years 5 and 6 in the afternoon.

A letter with consent and more information will be sent out soon.

The lido will have swimming teachers and life guards according to ratios. The sessions run for 8 weeks.

Homework:

Please encourage your child to complete their weekly homework task in their homework books.

Spellings are also sent home weekly and the children should also be practising their times tables. Active Learn also has lots of maths games for all children.

Thank you for your support.

Houses:

House point scores for this week: (None this week)

Houses	Weekly scores
Howard	77
Brotherton	86
Warrenne	78
Fitzalan	80

Testing:

This year there will be no formal testing for Years 2 or 6 (SATs). There will not be Phonic Testing in Year 1 in June (this is postponed until Year 2 Autumn Term) and Year 4 will not have to sit the Multiplication Test which was due to become statutory last Summer.

However, all children will have their usual assessments that take place throughout the year. This enables teachers to track progress and assess gaps in learning. Years 2 and 6 will not have 'official' tests but they will sit papers in their classroom throughout the term. These will be past papers and carried out in a far less formal way to the usual SATs testing week.

Food vouchers:

We have been given some more food vouchers for Morrisons. They are donated through the Diocese and so far we have given out over £2,000 of vouchers to families.

Please contact the office if they would be helpful to your family during this period.

Blue bag donations:

The Friends have organized another clothes recycling event. Please bring any unwanted clothes to school in black sacks on Thursday 20th May. The collection is taking place mid morning, please note that we are not able to store bags brought before the collection date. Please leave the bags at the bottom of the school steps. The Friends, and therefore the school, receive payment based on weight. Acceptable items include: Clothing, Paired shoes (tied together or in an elastic band), Handbags, Jewellery, Socks, Soft toys, Household linen and curtains. **NO** duvets, pillows, blankets or school uniform.

A planning meeting for the Summer Fair will be held on Thursday 29th April, after drop off, at The Black Rabbit. Everyone is welcome to come along.

Hockey coaching for Year 1 and 4:

Year 1 and 4 will have 4 weeks of hockey coaching starting from 28th April.

Please make sure children have their PE kit in school for these sessions each Wednesday.