

# Headteacher Newsletter – May V2 2021

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Next week is half term and there is an INSET day on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June after half term. I know that no parent will underestimate how pleased we all are that schools have opened fully and there seems to be a light at the end of the very long Covid-19 tunnel in terms of school closures. Both children and staff are ready for the half term as they all readjust to being back into normal school routines. I do hope you all have a wonderful break.

I am really hoping that by June 21<sup>st</sup>, the Government will make it very clear about what restrictions can be lifted in school. It would be great to say goodbye to masks, to zoned playtimes and separate lunchtimes and assembly times. It would be lovely to welcome parents to events and meetings in the school. We will of course follow recommendations and keep parents updated as and when we know.

As I sit writing this email, the sun is shining, the hall is filled with children carrying out an experiment on sound and communication, there are children building a camp in the Forest area and other children are laughing and having fun on the playground. We are very fortunate to have very happy, well-adjusted children here and the space to be able to give children many different opportunities. We really do have a wonderful group of children at St Philip's and credit must go to you as parents. Thank you.

Some families who have been at the school for a long time will know the North family. Their three children all came to St Philip's. Tragically, Jess died a couple of weeks ago aged just 20. I know that our families will want to pray for the North family at this dreadful time. I think it makes us all reassess our priorities when something like this happens and makes us hug our children all the tighter.

## Dates for your diary:

**28.5.2021** Last day of half term.

## Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June INSET day

**8.6.21** Zoolab visit for Y3

**9.6.21** Forest School Y3

**16.6.21** Forest School Y4

**23.6.21** Forest School Y2

**25.6.21** Summer Fair (subject to restrictions)

**30.6.21** Whole School Sports Morning (subject to restrictions)

## Book Fair:

Thank you for supporting the Book Fair. This is the first time we have run it without allowing parents into school.

It is lovely to see so many children so keen to have new books to read. Some books are out of stock and will be ordered after half term.

## General info:

**Website:** All information is regularly updated on the school website [www.stphilipsarundel.org.uk](http://www.stphilipsarundel.org.uk)

**Facebook:** Please go on to our school website [www.stphilipsarundel.org.uk](http://www.stphilipsarundel.org.uk) and click on the Facebook icon. Click the 'like' button on the page to ensure you receive updates.

**Positive test during half term:** Please contact the school office email if your child tests positive during the half term holiday. We will make sure we check the emails and take action if required.

**Blue bag donations:** Thank you for the many bags of clothing donations we received last week. The Friends will receive funds for this.

**Absence requests:** Please note the policy for WSCC is that only 'exceptional circumstances' can be authorised. Holidays that are deferred to school time from Lockdown will not be authorised. More details can be found on the school website <https://www.stphilipsarundel.org.uk/images/PDFs/localityleave>

**Year 6 trip:**

Year 6 have been unable to have their Residential Trip this year. To make up for this, we have organised for them to have a day trip instead.

They will come into school and have breakfast made for them (Continental) and then they will travel by coach to Out of Bounds in Rustington.

They will be able to take part in bowling, footgolf and use the new climbing nets. They will also have lunch in the café.

Parents are covering some of the cost with The Friends paying for the top up.

**Behaviour:**

We are noticing that some children in classes across the school are behaving in a way that they would not normally. This is nothing huge, just fall outs, unkind words, pushing, wanting to be 'in charge' in the game. We recognise that for the classes, they are constantly together. Previously, they would be able to use all the space at playtimes and mix with all children, whereas now, they are together for lunch, for playtimes, for assembly and in class. They are becoming more like a sibling relationship rather than class mates. I think we all know that 'cabin fever' feeling.

As a school, we will continue to keep our same boundaries and routines and we are very grateful from the support I know that we get from parents about reminding the children that are all working together and saying the same things.

**Swimming success:**

The whole school swimming has so far worked really well, despite the chilly weather. Thank you for your support with this. The children have been very resilient and generally keen.

**Houses:**

House point scores for this week:

Houses	Weekly scores
Howard	100
Brotherton	67
Warrenne	54
Fitzalan	75

**Father Charles:**

It has been wonderful to be able to welcome back visitors into school.

Father Charles has delivered the RE lesson this week in every class and was able to give children the Church's viewpoint on many things.

Both Father Charles and Canon David usually (pre-Covid) come in once a week on a rota basis to teach RE. The children are very good at saving up 'Big Questions' to ask the priests. We are very grateful for their support.

**Staffing for September:**

As far as we can plan for, all the current class teachers will remain in the year groups that they are currently in for September.

The only change will be that Mrs Fairlie will move to Year 5 and Mrs Foster into Year 6.

I appreciate that this will be a surprise for the children and some may be disappointed that they will not have the teacher they were expecting.

There are logistical reasons for the change and as a school we are very lucky to have exceptional teachers in each year group. The children will not know this information prior to this newsletter.

**Year 6 football this week:**

This week was the first interschools competition we have attended since Covid began in March 2019.

Year 6 boys were able to enter the event within a Covid secure environment.

It was great to be able to see normality starting to peek through. We were delighted to reach second place. Congratulations!

**Year 4 trip to Fishbourne:**

Year 4 went on their visit to Fishbourne Roman Palace this week. Luckily the rain held off and the children were able to cement the learning they have done in class through a hands on experience. The organisers made a point of complimenting the children on their excellent behaviour and attitude.

Thank you to The Friends for funding the goodie bags from the gift shop.