

Headteacher Newsletter – September 2021

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It has been so wonderful to be able to come together as a whole school over these last two weeks. We had almost forgotten what it was like to be together in assembly and on the playground. For children in Years 1 and 2, bubbles and separation were the norm so they will need to adjust to these new routines.

Thank you for keeping your distance from the school building, although it seems busy at the end of the day, it makes life a lot easier for us to get the children to you when you are not all gathered directly in front of the main doors. The congestion will be eased next week once after school and before school clubs start.

I know some children have been a little wobbly over these last couple of weeks and the battle to get them as far as the main door can be exhausting, but stay strong, your children are very good at spotting any signs that they think you may waiver and let them stay at home. I promise you that once they are in school, they settle very quickly and enjoy the rest of their day. It is a horrid feeling, when you have to leave your child and they are upset but it is the quickest way to help them settle. If we had concerns we would contact you. Transitions are harder for some more than others and it is only to be expected that they may feel nervous about moving to a new classroom or indeed moving from the downstairs Reception Classroom to a busier classroom area upstairs with different routines.

Reception Class children are now in full time as of Monday and seem to be a resilient bunch, joining us for Mass this week and having lunch in the hall.

We are already starting to have parents contact us to say they are testing positive for Covid 19. Please remember to keep distance where you can and to keep your child at home if they start to have symptoms. We can easily revert back to bubbles but the children are really enjoying their new freedom and it would be a shame to have to change back again because of too many cases.

Dates for your diary:

22.9.21 Year 1 Forest School
23.9.21 Year 3/4 Football tournament (TLA)
25.9.21 Allotment Tidy up at 2pm
29.9.21 Year 2 Forest School
6.10.21 Year 3 Forest School
7.10.21 Year 5/6 girls football tournament (TLA)
13.10.21 Year R Forest School
13.10.21 Y6 Residential (PGL)
14.10.21 Year5 Football tournament (TLA)
18.10.21-20.10.21 PTC meetings
20.10.21 Year 4 Forest School
21.10.21 Theatre Workshop Y6
22.10.21 Arundel Clean Up Day
Half term 23rd October to 1st November.

Pastor Steve:

Pastor Steve, who is a good friend of our school, has resigned from his role as Pastor at Arundel Baptist church due to illness. Please pray for him and his family at this challenging time.

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 ensure all children have their full PE kit in school everyday. We still have kits that are not in school for lessons.

Clubs: After and Before school clubs start next week. This will ease the amount of parents collecting at 3.15pm.

Parents in school: It is lovely that the school is beginning to feel more of a whole again now that the restrictions have lifted. However, we are still remaining cautious. Please try and email or call the office or use the office outside window rather than come into the main entrance. This helps to protect both you and the staff/children. Thank you.

Harvest Donations:

This year we have been contacted by several food bank charities to ask for help with donations of food. We have chosen to support UKHarvest (<https://www.ukharvest.org.uk/>).

The children will have an assembly from the team to launch the collection and they will then collect the donations before half term.

Please send any food donations into school with your child. They must be non perishables e.g. pasta, tinned food, biscuits, dried food. Thank you!

Mayor's Service:

On Sunday 3rd of October at 2pm, it is the Mayor's Service. He has invited the two Arundel school choirs to sing at the event.

If your child has joined choir, you will receive a letter inviting your child to come and sing at the event. It is an important event in the school calendar and we ask that all children attend and represent the school. Please save the date in your diaries.

Open Day:

We will be holding our Open day for prospective parents on November 10th. This is for any children due to start school in September 2022.

Please spread the word amongst friends and acquaintances. The date is on the school website along with our school promotional video.

Google Classroom:

Your child will have been sent an invitation to join their new year group for Google Classrooms. This will have been sent to their school email address on Google Classroom.

Please ensure they accept this invitation and then click on the year group they are in and the year 2021-2022 to access the new Goggle Classroom. This will be used for Parent meetings and a few other things. It is good practice to have it ready for any eventuality. Many thanks.

Allotment Tidy Up:

Our allotment is looking very sorry and needs help from some strong weeders! Please come along and help next **Saturday 25th September at 2pm**. All help is greatly appreciated – you do not need to be a gardener, just a willing pair of hands.

Covid-19 close contacts:

If your child comes into close contact with a positive case of Covid-19, they do not have to isolate but it is recommended that they take a PCR test. If they show any symptoms of C19 then they must isolate until a PCR test is carried out. If they test positive, they must isolate. We need to ensure we do not get a spread of infections within school.

If your child has symptoms of C19 but has not had a confirmed close contact then please keep them at home until the symptoms have passed or a negative test has been carried out.

First Holy Communion:

We have been asked by Arundel Cathedral to share with you the details for First Holy Communion in 2022.

The 2022 course will begin in the late Autumn for children who will be in Year 3 or above from September 2021.

An application form is available here: [First Communion 2022](#) or via the Cathedral Website.

Parent/Teacher Consultations:

These meetings will take place over the days of 18th, 19th and 20th October. The meetings will be conducted via Google Meet. More information and timings will be sent out soon.

Houses:

House point scores for this week:

Houses	Weekly scores
Howard	198
Brotherton	176
Warrenne	204
Fitzalan	178