

Headteacher Newsletter – January V2 2022

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It has been another calm week in school and it is beginning to feel like it used to in terms of events, assemblies and activities. Let us hope it continues. We have a few positive cases in school but these are currently low numbers and at the moment, contained. There are of course the usual bugs around affecting some children with tummy ache and sickness.

We have lots of things planned for the Spring and Summer Term so please note down on calendars – 'Dates for your diary'. As parents, we all know that managing school children's events is a full time job – ensuring they have the right thing on the right day and that you've completed the form for every event.

We have increased Forest School this year to run every Wednesday consecutively rather than just once per term for each year group. Every class should have a session once every 7 weeks. We are very fortunate to have great facilities on site and the outdoor learning that Forest school offers is a great opportunity for all children. It enables learning not to be limited to just the classroom.

Finally, on a personal note, I'd like to say thank you for the many messages and face to face contact I have had from families regarding my news about leaving in August. Everyone has been very supportive and kind (even if a little surprised and concerned). We still have a lot to do and achieve before I finish and as such, we will continue with our aim of giving our children the best possible education and chances that we can. I am very confident that a wonderful successor will be recruited over the next few months and the school will continue to get even better.

Dates for your diary:

26.1.22 Forest School Y4
26.1.22 School Council Meeting
26-27.1.22 Book Fair
27.1.22 YR School Nurse Healthy Child Checks
2.2.22 Forest School Y3
3.2.22 Y6 Sea City Trip
8.2.22 Safer Internet Day
8.2.22 Visit from Zoolab (whole school)
9.2.22 Forest School Y2
10.2.22 Y3/4 Gym competition
14.2.22 Reception Class balance bikes
15.02.22 Y4 Fishbourne Trip
16.2.22 Forest School Y1
17.2.22 Visit from an Imam (whole school)
18.2.22 Last day of half term
28.2.22 INSET
1.3.22 First day of new half term
1.3.22 Fairtrade Fortnight
3.3.22 World Book Day
9.3.22 Forest School YR
11.3.22 SPH Dance Festival
28.3.22 Dance House, Bognor Regis

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.

Instagram:

You can follow us on:
#st_philips_arundel

Before school clubs: Please try to get here for 8am start for morning clubs. It is disruptive to the session if children arrive part way through and the provider or class teacher cannot leave the club to let latecomers in. Thanks.

Ofsted report: Hopefully you have all managed to read the report sent out at the beginning of the week. If not, it is available on the school website.

Parent teacher meetings:

These are booked in for the week before Easter (4th, 5th and 6th April). Details and timings will be sent out before this time. We are anticipating that these will be in person so parents can look at work too.

If, in the meantime, you are concerned about your child and would like to speak to their teacher then please make an appointment via the office or email into the office. It is a tricky time for many children at the moment and friendships and worries can cause anxiety. Please let us know if we can help. We will always try and see families as soon as we can.

Book Fair:

The annual Book Fair will take place in school next week. As was the case last year, the children will be given a 'wish list' and on Wednesday and Thursday they will be able to look at the books and write their selection on their list. If parents would then like to buy any of the books, this can be done online. A letter has been sent home this week explaining how to do this. The school benefits hugely from the commission of the sales which replenishes the library stock in school. Last year we were able to spend over £600 on new books.

New Play Equipment:

This is now installed and up and running. The funding was taken from the Sports Premium Grant which is given to every school each year and is ring fenced to be spent only on keeping children active.

PE kits:

Please send in spare socks for PE days if your child is wearing tights during the Winter. The office staff are loaning lots of pairs out at the moment especially in the younger years.

Houses:

House point scores for this week:

Houses	Weekly scores
Howard	321
Brotherton	360
Warrenne	366
Fitzalan	300

World Book Day:

This is taking place on Thursday 3rd March. All children are invited to come to school dressed up as their favourite book character.

We will also be announcing the winner of the Books to Shout About on the day.

There will be reading activities happening in the classrooms.

Altar Servers:

The Cathedral are looking for altar servers to join the church. If your child is interested and has made their First Holy Communion in the catholic church, then please contact the cathedral office arundel@abdiocese.org.uk

Sport:

The Year 4 girls football team will be representing the Locality at the School Games tournament on 2nd February at Angmering school. This is the final after they won the Locality group of school's tournament. Year 3 and 4 will be attending a Gymnastics competition on February 10th. The girls are earnestly learning the routine at home in readiness.

We are hoping there will be a Year 2 football tournament in the next few weeks. More details about this will be sent out soon.

Dance House:

There are two upcoming events for the Junior Dance Club to take part in.

The first one is at St Philip Howard on Friday 11th March in school time and the second is at the Alexandra Theatre in Bognor on Monday 28th March.