

William Shrewsbury Primary School

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Newsletter No 1 September 2015

Dear Parents

Welcome back to school and the academic year 2015-16! I hope you have all had a very enjoyable and restful seven weeks with your families.

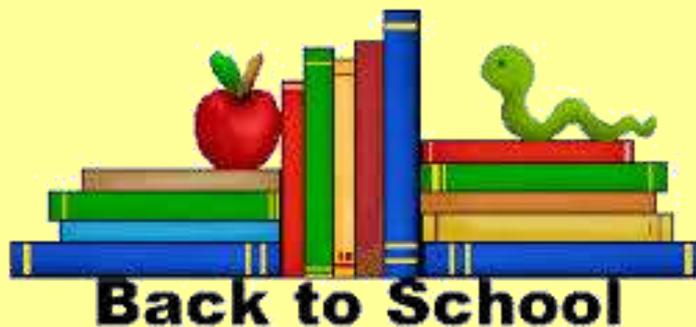
A very warm welcome to all our new children in school, especially those in Nursery and Reception, and welcome to our new families and our new members of staff. We hope they will all be very happy during their time at William Shrewsbury Primary.

The children have all returned looking very smart this term and we are really pleased that everyone has been arriving at school on time and ready to learn. Thank you very much indeed for your support with preparing the children so well for the new term. All the new children have settled in really well this year.

Enclosed is a list of dates for the forthcoming term. Please keep it somewhere safe as it contains many useful dates.

We look forward to working in with partnership with you once again this year to ensure your child gets the best possible all round education.

Bernadette Hunter
Headteacher



Harvest Week

This year we will be celebrating Harvest during the week beginning 5th October. Instead of asking for donations of produce on Friday 9th October, the children can come in their own clothes in Autumn colours of red, green, yellow, brown, orange etc and bring a contribution of money. This year we will be sending our donations to **Burton Salvation Army** to use to help needy families in our area.



Holidays in term time

Parents are reminded that holidays in term time can no longer be authorised. Absence due to exceptional circumstances, such as a family funeral, may still be authorised. Families who take 5 or more days' unauthorised holiday may incur a penalty notice and a fine. Please see attached letter for details.

Learning and Growing Together



Please continue to give your children lots of encouragement and support with their reading and homework activities. We know that it makes a huge difference to how well a child progresses with their education when you are involved and supportive. Thank you for all your help.

Some of the things you can do to help your child with learning at home:

1. Make sure your child completes their homework and offer support and encouragement
2. Read with your child regularly
3. Encourage your child not to give up and to stay positive when things are hard. We call this developing resilience and it is a very important life skill.

You can help your child to learn their times tables and spellings in lots of fun ways. Some children have brought in games they have made at home, sometimes with the help of parents. Some children enjoy games and apps using new technology to practice these vital skills. This way of supporting your child makes learning motivating and fun and of course impacts positively on your child's progress.



MacMillan Coffee Morning

Please join us for coffee and cakes to raise funds for MacMillan Cancer Support in the Main Hall on

Friday 25th September
9.00 a.m. - 11.00 a.m.

Please join us for a coffee and cake to help raise money for this very worthy cause. We all know families who are affected by cancer. Let's make it the best coffee morning so far!!

WE ARE
MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT



Reminders....

Uniform

Please remember that jewellery is not permitted, apart from watches and **one pair only of plain stud** earrings (not jewels). A few children are forgetting about this. Hair bands should be plain and it is our school policy not to permit extreme hairstyles and nail polish.

The uniform is grey trousers or skirts, not black.

Collecting children

Please can Infant parents remember to let the teachers know if someone different is collecting their child? This is particularly important at the start of term as the teachers have to get to know many new faces.

Remember that parents and children must not walk through the area outside the boiler house with the white fence. This is out of bounds and the gates are now locked.

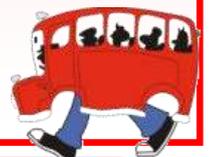
Walking Buses

We are always keen to take on more drivers for the walking bus. If you are interested please contact Mrs Cullen via the school office.

The routes are: Co-op bus at 8.25 a.m. and Moor Furlong at 8.30 a.m.

To ensure the safety of the children please do not squeeze past or go in between the children on the walking bus on the pavements.

Thank you



Emails

Would you rather be sent this newsletter direct to your computer in colour? Sign up for our email newsletters - we already have over 350 families using this service.

Contact the office on

office@williamshrewsbury.staffs.sch.uk to get all your letters by email. Please remember to use the office email address if you are reporting any absences and not the class email. Thank you.



Important Medical Information

Two of our children are receiving medical treatment and this puts them at serious risk if exposed to measles, chicken pox or shingles. Please let us know immediately if you suspect your child has any of these conditions. Your child is not at any risk. We depend of the cooperation of all parents and know we can rely on your help.

Epipens and Medicines

If your child has an epipen, inhaler or other medicine in school please make sure that it is up to date and replace it when the expiry date is reached. If you are not sure, please check at the school office.

Staffordshire Funding

The way the government funds schools is a mess. As a result, schools around the country that are similar can get very different budgets and children with the same needs can receive very different levels of financial help depending on where they go to school. It's a postcode lottery! Staffordshire is one of the worst funded areas in the country and we are one of the worst funded schools. A campaign group called f40 made up of low funded local authorities has been fighting for fairer funding for many years with some success. If you want to help address this problem please consider writing to our MP Andrew Griffiths or to Rt Hon Nicky Morgan at ministers@education.gsi.gov.uk and ask them what they propose to do about fairer funding for all schools. To find out more go to www.f40.org.uk

Music Tuition Years 3 - 6

If your child is interested in learning to play a musical instrument at school please contact the office staff who will be able to give you details of lessons. Instrument tuition is available for violin, brass, clarinet, saxophone, flute, piano, drums and electric guitar.

Parent/Grandparent Helpers

Are you interested in helping out in school from time to time? We would really welcome more parent helpers in school and we particularly need more people to listen to children read. Please contact Mrs Russell via the school office if you can help.



Internet Safety

We strongly advise parents to take all necessary actions to protect their children on the internet at home. This includes not allowing them to watch or visit unsuitable sites, DVDs and TV programmes. If you are not sure how to set parental controls or privacy settings we can help you with this. Children under 13 should not use Facebook. The following is taken from the Facebook site:

'Facebook requires everyone to be at least 13 years old before they can create an account. Creating an account with false info is a violation of our terms. This includes accounts registered on the behalf of someone under 13.'

If the school believes that children are at risk we will have no alternative but share our concerns with other agencies.

Breakfast Club

Thank you for supporting the new system of paying for Breakfast Club online using ParentPay. It has been a huge success and has substantially cut down the queues when children first come in.

If anyone else would like to attend and does not have a login please contact the office. Cash payments are no longer accepted.

Thank you



New school website

We are in the middle of developing our new school website and hope to be able to launch this near half term. Please bear with us whilst we complete all the new pages. We know our old website is a bit 'tired' but our new one will be much improved. If you have any suggestions for things you would like to see on the new site, please let us know.

Child Protection/Safeguarding Policy

A reminder about our school Child Protection procedures (taken from page 11 of the school prospectus). 'Parents should be aware that the school will take any reasonable action to ensure the safety of its pupils. In cases where the school has reason to be concerned that a child may be subject to ill treatment, neglect or other forms of abuse, staff have no alternative but to follow County Child Protection Procedures and inform Social Services of their concern.'

A reminder that school Child Protection Procedures do not cover clubs run by independent bodies but held on school premises, and parents may wish to satisfy themselves that such providers have robust child protection procedures.

Privacy Notice - Data Protection Act 1998

We **William Shrewsbury Primary** are a data controller for the purposes of the Data Protection Act. We collect information from you and may receive information about you from your previous school and the Learning Records Service. We hold this personal data and use it to:

- Support your teaching and learning;
- Monitor and report on your progress;
- Provide appropriate pastoral care, and
- Assess how well your school is doing.

This information includes your contact details, national curriculum assessment results, attendance information and personal characteristics such as your ethnic group, any special educational needs and relevant medical information.

We will not give information about you to anyone outside the school without your consent unless the law and our rules allow us to.

We are required by law to pass some information about you to the Local Authority and the Department for Education (DfE). Where appropriate we will send to relevant National Health Service Personnel (e.g. school nurses, NHS Health Informatics Team) information on individual pupils changing school (or address) to ensure continuity of health care.

If you want to see a copy of the information about you that we hold and/or share, please contact **Mrs T Nicholls**

If you require more information about how the school, Local Authority (LA) and/or DfE store and use your information, then please click on the link [Your Data](#) or go onto the website www.williamshrewbsury.staffs.sch.uk

If you are unable to access these websites we can send you a copy of this information

School Vacancies

We currently have 2 vacancies for lunchtime staff:

Playworker - 6.25 hours per week

To help plan and run a range of activities for the junior children over lunchtimes
£7.43 per hour

Lunchtime Supervisor - 5.5 hours per week

To help supervise the junior children in the playground and while they eat lunch.
£7.11 per hour

If you are interested in either of the posts please call in at the office for an application form and job description.



Changes to our KS2 Behaviour System for September 2015

This academic year, we have made some changes to our Behaviour system to recognise those children whose behaviour is always excellent, of whom we have many. Instead of an inverted triangle, we have introduced a behaviour diamond. As before, all children will begin on dark green and will be 'Ready to Learn'. If they display excellent learning behaviour, they will move up into the 'Outstanding Behaviour' section (Bronze). This child then gets the opportunity to move up to Silver, then Gold. Children can move up the chart for excellent behaviour, or down the chart if their behaviour does not follow our school rules.

For children who move up to the 'Outstanding Behaviour' section, they will be given a raffle ticket every time this happens. At the end of the half-term they will be entered for a prize draw. Therefore, the more tickets they achieve the greater chance they have of winning.

Reward System

We are also changing our reward system in school. This will be based on the idea of 'Tokens' which can be given out for all kinds of things such as fantastic behaviour, great effort, excellent learning. There will be more information about this new system over the coming weeks.

Colour Families

This academic year, we will not be having 'Planet Families' and instead we will be running a new house system called 'Colour Families.' Each class will be linked to another 'Colour Family' who will then meet at least every half-term. As well as this, the colour families will ALL meet together throughout the year too!

Children in year 6 will be selected as 'Colour Family Ambassadors' and will be responsible for supporting the organisation and delivery of the meetings.

M. Runacus

New Infant Library and Find a Name Competition.

We are very excited to announce that we have a brand new Infant Library! During the summer holidays a mezzanine structure was put in the old Bear Library which provides more space to display books and areas for quiet working. However, there is a bit less room for adults so from next Monday there will be a new rota for using the Infant Library. It will be open to classes on the following days for changing books:

Mondays	Reception	Thursdays	Year 1
Tuesdays	Year 1	Fridays	Year 2
Wednesdays	Year 2		

You will be asked to sign in at the Main Office when you come to use the Library. Please remember that we can't allow pushchairs or food in the Library.

In addition, we are going to have a family competition to find a new name for the Library. You can fill in the slip below and the winner will get a £10 Book Token and have the opportunity to cut the ribbon at the Opening Ceremony.

Closing date for entries Monday 5th October 9.00 a.m.



✂ -----

WILLIAM SHREWSBURY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Name the Infant Library Competition

My suggestion to name the Infant Library is: _____

Name of Child _____

Class _____

Please return your entry form to the school office by Monday 5th October 9.00 a.m.



William Shrewsbury Primary School

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Headteacher: Bernadette Hunter
Curtis



Deputy Headteacher: Elaine

16th September 2015

Dear Parents,

At the beginning of the new academic year I would like to remind you again about the changes that have come into force regarding school attendance and the issuing of penalty notices and fines for unauthorised absence, following Staffordshire County Council's updated Code of Conduct which I sent to you last academic year and is available on their website. A copy of this letter was also sent to all parents on 10th July.

The changes that have been made are as follows:

- Removing the requirement for attendance to be below 87% before a Penalty Notice can be issued.
- That a parent can now receive more than one Penalty Notice per academic year.
- That ten sessions (**ie 5 days**) of unauthorised absence (**including holidays**) do not have to be consecutive and only two sessions have to be for unauthorised leave of absence
- That the period for calculating the ten sessions will be based on the previous three school terms

I am not sure that many parents were aware that the Code of Conduct states that penalty notices should be issued after **5 days unauthorised absence** so I am sending this letter to draw your attention to this.

I also wish to remind you that legislation directly prevents Headteachers from granting ANY leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. I appreciate that some parents think holidays are exceptional, but regulation states that this is not the case. It is essential that an application for leave of absence form is submitted in advance of children being taken out of school for a planned absence.

I am grateful to the vast majority of our parents who make sure that their child's attendance levels and punctuality are good. Regular attendance makes a very positive impact on the learning of your children.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely,

Bernadette Hunter
Headteacher