

Together we learn

Park Street Church of England Primary
School and Nursery
NEWSLETTER 2
17th September 2014



Together with God

Christian Value for this half term -*Sharing*



Rainbow Awards

Well done to the children who earned a 'Rainbow Brick' or whose names were entered into our 'Rainbow Book'. These children are Billy, William, Summer, Shea, Nathan, Lily, Florence, George, Katie, Joshua, Callum, Ben J, Lauren, Krisha, Ben F, Oakley, Sebastian, Molly, Rose, Jamie, Kirill, James and Ethan.



Parent 2 Parent

We are excited to announce that we are taking part in Herts for Learning's pilot parenting programme, Parent2Parent; an initiative that will support parents in understanding how they can really improve the learning of their children.

This programme has been designed specifically for parents, and will be a chance for you to understand how to raise your child's standard of learning. The programme will be delivered by specially trained parents and will explore how your child learns best. It will look at simple,

proven and manageable ways that you can assist your child in becoming the best learner they can be.

If sufficient parents are interested in learning more about this, please give your details to the school office and we might be able to run a programme in school.

School Governors

We would like to welcome our new Parent Governors Spencer Nash (Bonnie Y4, Fenton Y2) and Jo Waring (George Grantham YR) and our new Foundation Governor Diane Fraser to our Board of Governors.

School Meals

This term saw the beginning of free school meals for all our children in the lower school. I'm sure you are aware from the media that there have been some hitches with this. For us this has meant that we haven't had most of the equipment that we were promised by Herts Catering. Two of their managers have visited us and have promised that they will fast track the things we need for this to run more smoothly.

After a few early problems with our new family serving system we are now really pleased with the way it is working and the vast majority of the children are now saying how much they enjoy this. Instead of children waiting in a long queue at the hatch to be served, they are now served by the oldest children from serving dishes at each table. This is heavily supervised by kitchen staff and our midday supervisory assistants as well as some teachers. They ensure that portions are fair. This system encourages children to help one another and to socialise across the age groups as one would do in a family. By doing this, we aim to further develop their social skills, which are of course so important to the whole of life. NB Our Reception children sit apart and are still served by adults.



Free School Meals

The method of applying for free school meals changed from this summer. Please still apply for this even if your child is in receipt of Universal Free School Meals as we will only receive extra money for their education if you do so. The easiest way to apply is online at www.hertsdirect.org/freeschoolmeals. Those who do not have internet access can apply by calling the Customer Service Centre on 0300 123 4048. There is no need to reapply if you are currently eligible. There is a form at the back of this newsletter which we would like parents who are in receipt of the relevant benefits to complete. Thank you



Gardening Club

Our Gardening Club children have been harvesting their vegetables and picked a delicious crop of runner and French beans. These were given to Mrs Dimmer, our school cook, to serve with school lunch.

Harvest Celebration

We hope you will be able to join us at our Harvest Service at Holy Trinity Church at 9.30 on Friday 3rd October. Every class from Nursery to Year 6 will be taking part in this service. As always we welcome any parents that feel able to walk with us from school to the church. Just as we did last year, we shall be asking you for items of food to give to the FEED project which runs from The Vineyard church in St Albans. Your child will be bringing a letter home today with information about the FEED project including suggested items for donation.

SATs Results

These results were in the last newsletter before our summer break but we failed to include the 2014 result for Key Stage 1 so we are reprinting them in this newsletter.

KS2 SATs Results		2012	2013		2014
English	Level 4+	85%	Reading	88%	100%
			Writing	92%	90%
			GPS (Grammar, Punctuation & Spelling)	80%	96%
	Level 5+	33%	Reading	56%	76%
			Writing	48%	70%
			GPS	56%	68%
	Level 6		Writing		4%
			GPS	4%	12%
	Maths	Level 4+	78%	92%	
Level 5+		30%	48%		72%
Level 6			12%		20%

Please note that each child this year represents 4% as there are 25 children in this class.

As you can see from the table above, over the past three years the children's results at the end of Year 6 have steadily increased. Many different strategies have been put in place in order to improve the pupils' learning throughout the school and these have paid off. We have worked long and hard to ensure that our most able children are being sufficiently challenged so we were especially thrilled that such a large percentage of children attained level 6 in Maths, which is really difficult to attain.

KS1 SATs Results		2012	2013	2014
Reading	Level 2+	97%	90%	93%
	Level 3	45%	40%	44%
Writing	Level 2+	97%	87%	90%
	Level 3	31%	27%	28%
Maths	Level 2+	97%	93%	97%
	Level 3	35%	40%	41%

The percentages in both tables only show achievement and not the amount of progress that has been made across the school. The two tables below show progress. The first table indicates progress from the end of Year 2 to the end of Year 6 and the second table from the beginning of Early Years Foundation Stage to the end of Year 2.

End of KS2 2014 Progress	Proportion of pupils making expected progress or better	Proportion of pupils making better than expected progress
Reading	96%	13%
Writing	92%	33%
Maths	96%	38%

End of KS1 2014 Progress	Proportion of pupils making expected progress or better	Proportion of pupils making better than expected progress
Reading	97%	60%
Writing	93%	67%
Maths	87%	60%

These results are not only analysed by the staff and school governors but also by an adviser from our local authority. Quoting from his report:

Key Stage 2

- Attainment at the end of KS2 was the highest overall for the past five years.
- Trends are rising in reading, writing and maths over a three year period.
- Progress was well above that expected in writing and maths and above in reading.

Key Stage 1

- Attainment overall was well above the most recent national average.
- Progress was also consistently good from end of EYFS baselines

Of course we are thrilled with these results but we shall continue to make further changes in order to ensure that your children receive the best possible education that we can give them (which of course includes much more than academic results).



House Captains

Following our House Captain elections last week we are delighted to announce the election of the following children.

- Brocket Hall - Oakley Rennie-Sivell and Stephanie Anderson
- Gorhambury House - Danny Fowler and Melissa Riches
- Hatfield House - Charlotte Coogan and George Sippetts
- Knebworth House - Jessica Persaud and Jason Murphy



Excel Football Club (new arrangements on Tuesdays for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2)

When a club is run by any outside organisation it is their responsibility, along with the parents to ensure that the children are ready and prepared for the club and this includes any change of clothes that is required. My staff are only responsible for your children after school when they are running a club themselves. I know that many of you are able to come into school and supervise your child getting changed at the end of the day. However I do understand that this is not possible for everyone. Excel have agreed to supervise these children, however this cannot be done from the lower school as the corridors/classrooms are too far away from the field to ensure safe transfer. So from next Tuesday 23rd September **all Reception and KS1 children who are members of this club** will be taken by their class teaching assistants, with their belongings, up to our Year 5 classroom to change.

All parents who are able to come and change their own child should wait outside the Year 5 classroom at the end of the day until all Year 5 pupils have left their room at which point Mrs Edwards will invite you to come in.



Gymnastics

Due to the delay in starting the Gymnastics Club, the Tuesday club will now run until Tuesday 25th November. The Wednesday club will start next week and run until Wednesday 3rd December.



St Albans West
Local Partnership

St Albans West Local Partnership

There is a flyer attached with details of Half Term Activities organised by the St Albans West Local Partnership

Message from the Office

This is a reminder to parents that any forms or payments that are brought into school need to be given to your child and not brought into the school office. These are then collected up by the teachers and sent to the office with the register each morning.

Quiz Night

Don't forget the quiz night on Friday evening at 7.30pm. Come and support our PSSA who raise money for the school through this event!



Message from- Mrs Jorge re the School Crossing Patrol

I'm not sure if you are all aware but our lovely lollipop lady, Sandra, is very poorly. She has a major back problem and is presently housebound. I thought it would be nice if parents bought her a little something to show we are thinking about her. She is really missed at her patrol spot on Park Street Lane and I know she misses the children. She was particularly sad not to be able to wish good luck to the previous year 6 children as they moved on to secondary school.

If you would like to contribute to a collection, please give your donation to Jo Jorge (Reece Y1 and Ella Y4) or leave in the school office in a labelled envelope. Thank you



Dates for the Diary

Thursday 18 th September	Year 3 trip to St Albans Abbey
Friday 19 th September	PSSA Quiz night 7.30pm - <i>parents invited</i>
Thursday 25 th September	Kids on the Catwalk 6.30pm - <i>parents and children invited</i>
Friday 3 rd October	Harvest Service 9.30am - <i>parents invited</i>
Monday 13 th October	Individual Photographs
Friday 17 th October	PSSA Movie Night - <i>time to be confirmed</i>
Tuesday 21 st October	Parents Evening 3.30 - 6.30pm - (Children from Year 3 to Year 6 should attend with their parents) <i>details to follow</i>
Thursday 23 rd October	Parents Evening 3.30 - 6.30pm - (Children from Year 3 to Year 6 should attend with their parents) <i>details to follow</i>
Monday 27 th October	Half Term
Saturday 29 th November	Christmas Market 11am - 2pm <i>all welcome</i>
Tuesday 9 th December	Year 3 and Year 4 School Play 6.30pm - <i>parents invited</i>
Wednesday 10 th December	KS1 and KS2 to the Pantomime at Radlett - note change
Thursday 11 th December	KS1 School Play 1.45pm - <i>parents invited</i>
Friday 12 th December	Foundation Stage Play 9.30pm - <i>parents invited</i>
Tuesday 16 th December	Carols and Mince Pies 9.10am - <i>parents invited</i>
Thursday 18 th December	Christmas Lunch
Friday 19 th December	School ends 1.15pm
Monday 5 th January	Inset Day
Tuesday 6 th January	Spring Term starts 8.55am
Tuesday 27 th January	Choir to the O2 Arena
Monday 16 th February	Half Term
Friday 3 rd April	School Ends 1.15pm
Monday 20 th April	Inset Day
Tuesday 21 st April	Summer Term starts 8.55am
Monday 11 th May	KS2 Sats week begins
Monday 18 th May	Class Photographs
Monday 25 th May	Half Term
Monday 1 st June	Year 6 to PGL at Liddington
Friday 19 th June	Inset Day
Monday 22 nd June	Occasional Day
Tuesday 21 st July	Term Ends at 1.15pm
Wednesday 22 nd July	Inset Day

Dear Parent/Carer,

In addition to school funding received from Hertfordshire County Council/ the Education Funding Agency, Park Street School is able to claim a £1300 grant from Government each year called the Pupil Premium for children whose parents or carers receive any of the benefits below:

- Income Support
- Income Based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Pension Credit (Guarantee Credit element) or (Income Related) Employment Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit
-

We are asking all parents and carers to complete the slip below and return to the office by Friday 4th July in order that we can register the details provided and access the grant.

If you are in receipt of qualifying benefits your information will be renewed each year meaning that unless your circumstances change, entitlement to free school meals from Year 3 and other educational benefits will be automatically registered.

The information you supply will be treated confidentially and destroyed once processed.

Name of Child _____

Class _____

I am or my partner is in receipt of the following benefits: (please tick)

Income Support

Income Based Jobseeker's Allowance

Pension Credit (Guarantee Credit element)

(Income Related) Employment Support Allowance

Child Tax Credit with income below £16,190

Name and Date of Birth of person receiving the benefit:

National Insurance Number: _____

OR

Asylum Seekers Number: _____

I give permission for (name of school) to register my details