



Newsletter

SUMMER 2017 – NUMBER 1 – THURSDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back! I hope, as ever, that you had a lovely summer break and are ready to return your children to our care for the rest of this term. It has been a very positive start back. I have visited all classes yesterday and today and they have been happy, productive and working hard. Both schools feel really good. This will be a fairly lengthy newsletter and I hope you manage to read all the way to the bottom! There is a lot happening this term and it's important that you know all about the changes that have happened, are happening and will be happening across our federation. As usual, we will update you with texts, letters and via our Facebook page.

Welcome

You will know that we had a number of staff changes at the end of last term, with some people leaving and others preparing for different roles across the federation. To put faces to names, I would like to introduce you to five new members of the Whipton team. The first is our new coordinator for special education needs and disabilities (SENDCo), Ali Hirst. Ali has a wealth of experience of inclusion and special needs. She has been a teacher, Headteacher, school governor, artist in residence and has a wide range of interests including horse-riding, running and travelling. At the moment, Ali is working on Monday and Tuesdays only but will be with us full time after October half term.



We would also like to welcome Mrs Kelly Pedley into Year 5. Mrs Pedley really impressed us at her

interview when she challenged the children to find out if girls were better than boys at computer games. I've popped in to Mrs Pedley's class a couple of times already and the children are having a great time. If your child is in Mrs Pedley's class, I'm sure they will tell you all about it.



Mr Jared Evans joins us from London town! Mr Evans has relocated to Devon with his family and is teaching alongside Mrs Grogan in Year 2. Mr Evans, amongst other things, is a keen musician who up until recently ran a big soul band. I am sure the children will give Mr Evans lots of "Respect" and that they will be "Dancing in the Streets" because they are enjoying themselves so much.



We welcome two additions to our teaching assistant team. Mrs Sharran Singh is working with our reception. Mrs Singh has worked as a teaching assistant at Stoke Hill and we are really lucky that she has joined us.



We also have Mrs Anna Balsdon, who is a qualified Teacher joining us as part of our SEND TA team. As you can see, she is happy in her role!



You will have seen the flyers, perhaps seen the Facebook advertisement and maybe even heard the radio jingle in one of Exeter's leisure centres. Our Oasis Day Nursery is open for business! The only downside is that our lovely new nursery building is clearly not ready for occupation. You will have seen that preparation work is well in hand and that we have had to temporarily re-house our older nursery children in Sycamore Class in the old Year 2 block. The new building will be arriving on 12th September and will be assembled on site. We will record this and share the progress with you. Below is a picture of our new nursery team, led by our EYFS Leader Mrs Williams. Don't they look great in their Oasis Day Nursery tops?



School Uniform

A quick look in the junior school playground at break today and I saw a sea of really smart looking children, proud in their Whipton Barton Uniforms. I thought it would be helpful to actually show you what perfect uniform and PE kit look like, so would like to introduce Leah and Tyler modelling girls' and boys' uniform and Harrison in his house colours and Dovaine in the basic kit, modelling our PE kit. This is what Whipton children should look like! Shoes and sweat-tops are often the first things to go, so make sure that your child doesn't come in with a hoody instead of a school top, call it a coat and try to wear it all day. Simply make sure your child is dressed like our glamorous models below.



Changes to Infant and Nursery drop-off and pick-up

Because of the changes in the Infant and Nursery School, we need to change arrangements for dropping off and picking up. The new nursery building and the re-location of Year 2 into the old Year 1 corridor means the flow around the site has been disrupted. I will outline the changes below. It is important that you read and understand them and pass the information around to your friends so everyone knows what to do.

- **Ash class** (our youngest Nursery children) enter the nursery at the top of the drive past the main entrance to the school office near to where the builders' vans are currently parked. They will be collected from the same place. Gates are opened at 9am, 12 noon and 3pm
- **Sycamore class** (our older Nursery children) are now in a different part of the school. They should come in through the main gates (along the drive and turn right at the school building) and walk across the playground to their Nursery base. Gates open at 3pm at the end of the day and children can be collected from the same place. However, if your child leaves or starts at 12 noon, they can be collected and dropped off in Ash Class (the old nursery building).
- **Reception children** – Come to school through the main gates but go home through the reception class garden area.
- **Year One** – Come to school through the main gates and enter the building via the door closest to the Year One classrooms (down past the greenhouse). At the end of the day children will be brought out to the bottom of the playground and adults should wait here to collect them.
- **Year Two** – Come to school through the main gates and walk across the playground and enter at the top of the building before walking down the steps beside the hall and entering the classroom. Children will go home the same way so parents should wait at the top of the playground by the climbing equipment.
- **Buggies** – This is likely to prove controversial, but with the movement of the Y2 group, we have no alternative. From tomorrow, buggies and prams will not be allowed in the school building at the beginning and end of the day. We need to ensure that you leave all prams and buggies in the shelter at the top of the playground. You can either talk to friends about staying with the babies and toddlers until you have dropped off, or carry babies in to the building. The only reason we are doing this is that the congestion in the corridor is now at a potentially dangerous level. There is simply no way we could safely evacuate the building in the event of a fire. I hope you understand this and will do your best to make this work.
- **Bell** – We have a new bell system in the infant and nursery school. A bell will ring just before nine to indicate that it is time for the teachers to take the register. All children should be in the classroom by this point and parents can then leave when this bell sounds. This will help us keep good time during the day and is the same system as is used in the junior school.

I do hope you understand the need for these changes. If you have any questions, please come and see Mrs Wills or me. We will both be around tomorrow morning.