



Dear Parents

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all the children back after the summer break and introduce myself to you as the new Headteacher at St Lawrence Church of England Primary School.

Firstly, let me begin by saying what a privilege it is to have been chosen to lead this school forwards in the next part of its journey. I have spent a large part of my career working as an Assistant Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher in Milton Keynes and it is wonderful to be able to take a post in a village school.

Children's education, including their spiritual, moral education and physical wellbeing, are at the heart of all I do. I believe strongly that all children should enjoy learning, be actively engaged in their learning and know what experiencing success looks and feels like, are motivated, make consistent progress and have high expectations of what they can achieve so they can succeed in their chosen future.

Underpinning this is the provision of a rich, exciting learning experience for all children and this cannot be done in isolation, as the school should be at the heart of its community. Therefore, I will be seeking your views as I meet and get to know as many of you as I can over the next few weeks and months. I plan to be around or in the playground as much as possible before school and at home time to meet you so please come up and introduce yourselves to me. Likewise, I hold an open door policy. Should you need to talk to me about anything, please contact the school office and they will ensure a mutually convenient time is made for us to meet.

Year Groups / Class Names

Each year group now has a new name and I would like to introduce you to our new classes as follows:

Nursery – Ducklings	Year 2/3 - Hawks	Year 5 – Kites
Reception – Robins	Year 3/4 - Owls	Year 6 - Eagles
Year 1 – Penguins		

The new names will also be reflected on the school website.

School Photographs

The school photographer will be in school to take individual pupil photographs on Monday 17th September. For children in Penguins and Hawks that have PE on a Monday, please ensure that they come to school in their uniform on that day so that they can have their photograph taken in full school uniform. Children must however, bring their PE kit into school with them.

New Pupil Forms

There are still a number of new pupil forms that have not been returned to the school office. Please ensure that this information is provided as a matter of urgency to ensure that we have the most up to date contact information and that we comply with the new GDPR regulations.



Parentmail

We also have a few parents that have not yet signed up to Parentmail. This is our main communication tool and it is therefore important that all parents are registered to receive emails and texts ensuring that you do not miss important information.

Piano

Piano lessons with Mr Dawson commence this Friday 14th September. If your child is interested in having piano lessons on a 1:1 basis each week (open to children in Years 2-6) please speak to Mrs Howells in the school office for further information.

Celebration Assembly

Each Friday we hold a Celebration Assembly. Two children per class will be nominated for our certificate of achievement and parents of these children will be invited along to the presentation. You will be notified by text or email on the Thursday morning prior to the assembly taking place on the Friday. I realise that this is quite short notice, but hopefully parents will be able to attend. The assemblies will commence at 9.00 a.m. every Friday, apart from the week of Family Praise. However, this week only, due to Working Together meetings, our Celebration Assembly will take place at 2.45 p.m.



Collecting children from school

Now that we have had a few days to monitor the procedures for collecting children from school, it has been decided that those parents with children in KS2 (Years 3-6) who have younger siblings in Reception and Year 1, should collect the younger siblings first from the Church Lane playground and then walk around the perimeter pathway to the Manor Lane playground to meet the older children. This will hopefully ease the congestion of the KS2 children walking through school to the Church Lane playground.

I would also like to remind parents to ensure that the class teachers are aware of the adults that have permission to collect your children in the case of an emergency etc. This should be written in the home-school liaison books or school planners. We cannot allow children to go home with adults who are not listed in the home-school liaison books/planners unless we have been advised of this in writing or a call to the school office. Home-school liaison books will be sent home by the end of this week.

Morning Snack

Children in KS2 (Years 3, 4, 5 and 6) require a morning snack at break time. As part of our Healthy Schools Award, could we please ask that either a piece of fruit or a healthy cereal bar is provided.

Caterlink

Unfortunately, Caterlink are still experiencing technical problems with their on-line payment system. We will advise you as soon as this has been resolved. Please speak to Mrs Howells in the school office if you do not have log-in details in order for you to create an on-line account.

In the meantime, we have been advised that the price of school meals will be changing to reflect full primary school status. For the time being school meals will remain at the same price of £2.15. However, the pricing structure proposed is as follows:

Nursery / Years 3 and 4 - £2.10

Years 5 and 6 - £2.20 (Year 5 and 6 will receive a larger portion)

We will advise when the above pricing comes into effect.

Universal infant free school meals are still available to all children in Reception and Years 1 and 2; an initiative that was introduced by the government in September 2014. We encourage as many children as possible to take these up.



Reception children enjoying their school lunch

External Before and After School Clubs

Tennis, gymnastics, dance and football all start next week. Please ensure that you have booked a place on-line or sent in the necessary booking forms to guarantee your child a place.

Mobile Phones

Children in years 4, 5 and 6 that have permission to walk or cycle to and from school independently are allowed to bring mobile phones into school. The phones will be stored securely in the school office during school hours and returned to the children at the end of the school day.



PTA AGM

The PTA AGM will take place on Monday 17th September at 5.00 p.m. in the school hall. If you are interested in becoming a member, or able to offer help at events, please do come along to find out more.

An example of some of the PTA fundraising events are:

School discos, Joules sale, Mother's Day and Father's Day gift shops, Christmas cards, subsidising cost of transport for school trips, Christmas and summer fayres etc.

Car Parking

As part of the new classroom project our staff car park has been relocated to a part of the playing field. This car park has a limited number of spaces and these are for staff use only.

We have been asked by the Parish Council to remind parents that the Cemetery Car Park adjacent to the new staff car park is Parish Council land and this parking area is for the use of Cemetery visitors only.

On Manor Lane there are yellow zig zag lines painted on the roadside. These are outside our school to ensure optimal safety for our children. I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that waiting, parking or even stopping momentarily to drop off or pick up on these lines is prohibited between the enforcement hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4.00 p.m.

Thank you for your co-operation and I look forward to working with you all.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Bush
Headteacher

Important Dates for your diary 2018-19

17th September – School Photos – individual and siblings in school / PTA AGM 5.00 p.m. in the School Hall

21st September – 1.30 p.m. Sports Day/BBQ – details to follow

Parent Consultations:

9th / 10th October (Reception – Year 6)

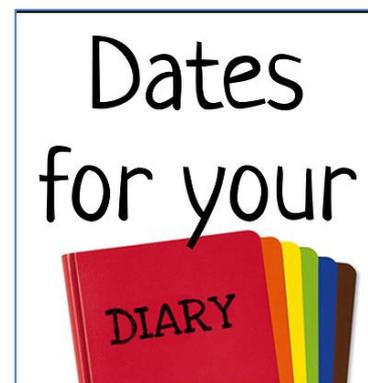
10th / 11th October (Nursery)

11th January - Interim Report to Parents

26th / 27th March (Reception – Year 6)

29th March – Interim Report to Parents

A separate letter will follow with details of how to book an appointment with the class teacher.



Term Dates for 2018-19

We have chosen to mirror the Sharnbrook Academy term dates and full details can be found on the school website.

22nd – 26th October - Half Term

29th October – Staff Training Day

19th December – 2nd January – Christmas break (children return to school on Thursday 3rd January)

2nd January – Staff Training Day

11th – 15th February - Half Term

8th – 22nd April – Easter break (children return to school on Tuesday 23rd April)

27th – 31st May – Half Term (children return to school on Monday 3rd June)

19th July – Break for summer

11 th September	Y5 swimming lessons commence (6 weeks)
17 th September	School photos
w/c 17 th September	External before and after school clubs commence
17 th September	PTA AGM
18 th September	Reception/Year 1 Parents Learning Together Meeting (Phonics and Reading)
21 st September	Family Praise 9.00 a.m. in the school hall Sports Day and BBQ
2 nd October	Y5 Residential Parents Evening
5 th October	Harvest Church Service
12 th October	KS2 (Years 3 & 4) Autumn Sports Competition – Sharnbrook Academy p.m.
15 th October	Years 5 & 6 – Tag Rugby Competition – Bedford Modern School
7 th November	KS1 (Years 1 & 2) Autumn Sports Competition – Lincroft Academy a.m.
9 th November	Pupil Remembrance Church Service
14 th -16 th November	Year 5 Residential, Kingswood, Staffordshire
23 rd November	Family Praise 9.00 a.m. in the School Hall
29 th November	KS2 (Years 3 & 4) Sports Hall Athletics Competition – Bunyan Centre, Bedford
30 th November	Flu Vaccine – Years R - 5
6 th December	Years 5 & 6 Sports Hall Athletics Competition – Bunyan Centre, Bedford
7 th December	PTA Christmas Fayre
12 th December	Christmas Lunch (TBC)
13 th December	Christmas Jumper Day
14 th December	EYFS Nativity 9.30 a.m.
17 th December	Cinderella – Castle Theatre 10.00 a.m. Years R - 3
17 th December	KS1 Christmas Performances 2.00 p.m. & 6.00 p.m. Years R - 3
18 th December	KS2 Carol Concert Years 4-6
19 th December	Cinderella – Castle Theatre 10.00 a.m. Years 4 – 6
19 th December	End of term