

Newsletter September 2019



Welcome back to a new school year.

I am really happy to be back at school and when I look around the school the children appear happy too!

Home School Reading Scheme

This year we are launching a new Home School reading scheme. This new scheme is much more structure and only comprises of one scheme instead of a variety of schemes. We would like to share it with parents at a reading workshop on Thursday 12th September 9.00 - 9.45. There will be an introduction talk followed by an opportunity to visit 5 focus areas led by different teachers. During the session we will be giving you lots of information about how we teach reading at Coteford Infant School as well as tips and strategies to help you support your child with reading at home.

A form will be sent out separately for you to fill in and return so that we have an idea of the numbers to expect. If you are unable to attend there will be videos and handouts available on DB after the event.

This event is not suitable for toddlers.



Harvest Festival

We will hold our annual Harvest celebration on Friday 11th **October** this year.

Year 2 and Year 1 parents are invited at 9.15 a.m. Year 1 children will be leading this assembly.

Reception and afternoon nursery parents are invited at 2.45 p.m. Morning Nursery children will have a celebration in the classroom

and details will be sent home at a later date.

Please could all children bring in a food contribution for our harvest display on the Friday morning. Class teachers will send out reminders nearer the date. At the beginning of the assembly every child is invited to put their food on the display as part of the celebration.

Year 1 and Year 2 Teachers will be inviting parents in for short meetings next week about class routines

- Year 2 meeting is Friday 6th September at 2.45 p.m. the playground gate will be open at 2.40 p.m.
- Year 1 meeting is Monday 9th September at 2.45 p.m. the playground gate will be open at 2.40 p.m.

Playground after school

At the end of last year, we had a lot of problems with damage being done to school property and the new playground equipment after school. We had considered closing the playground at the end of the school day. However, this would be a shame. Please help us to take care of our school by supervising your own children at the end of the day. Please remember the playground is only open for Infant age children and their younger siblings. Junior School and Secondary School siblings should remain with adults if they come into the playground.

No children should come into the school once they have left the building at 3.20 p.m. unless they are with an adult. The school is being cleaned from 3.20 p.m. and this cannot be done if children come back into the building. This includes the toilets.

Mornings

I know that lots of you want to bring children into school in the mornings and although the school day starts at 9.00 we open the doors at 8.50 to allow you to bring children in early and settle them.

Children in Y1 and Y2 should over the next few weeks become more independent and say goodbye to parents in the playground and will be praised for coming into school by themselves. All Y2 children should be able to come in independently by the end of the month and most of Y1.

I would also like to ask for your co-operation in leaving prams and buggies in the playground to help make it more comfortable for children in the morning. Just a few buggies outside a classroom can make the area feel overcrowded. When I am in the playground I will happily watch little ones in buggies but you are of course welcome to take babies and toddlers out of buggies to accompany you into school if you prefer.

On wet days please leave umbrellas in the main school foyer so that the floor doesn't get too wet.

Bikes and Scooters at the end of the day

Children should not ride their scooters or bikes in the playground until after 3.30 p.m. when the playground is less crowded. This is as a response to concerns about safety raised by parents.

Last year a few scooters went missing so please make sure they are named. Do not allow your child to play on a scooter that doesn't belong to them. It may be in the scooter park because a child is at a club and will be collecting it later. We often have tears because scooters are "borrowed" and left on the field or in places that they can't easily be found.

Dates:

I know lots of you like to have these as early as possible. Please be aware that sometimes it is necessary to make changes as circumstances change.

- 9th, 12th, 17th and 18th September "taster sessions" for prospective parents and children from 1.30 p.m. If you have not seen a leaflet please approach the school office. If you have a friend who would be interested please also ask for a leaflet to pass on.
- 6th September Y2 parents meeting about class routines 2.45 p.m.
- 9th September Y1 parents meeting about class routines 2.45 p.m.
- 12th September Reading Workshop 9.00-9.45 a.m.
- 16th September Clubs start
- 17th September Nursery all in
- 20th September reception children full time
- 11th October Harvest festivals
- 14th -17th October whole school topic week
- 15th October consultation evening 4.00-6.00
- 16th October consultation evening 5.00-8.15
- 18th October training day - school closed
- 22nd -26th October HALF TERM
- 31st October PSA party after school (provisional date)
- WB 4th November RWI sessions for parents
- 8th, 15th and 22nd November Keeping Safe Fridays
- 8th, 15th and 22nd Y2 class assemblies - individual class dates will be notified nearer the time by class teacher.
- 6th December PSA disco for children after school
- 13th December PSA Christmas fundraising event
- Christmas concerts
 - Foundation morning 10th December p.m.
 - Foundation afternoon 12th December a.m.
 - Y1 13th December a.m.
 - Y2 16th December a.m.
- Christmas parties p.m. children can wear party clothes all day
- 19th December last day of term - school closes at 2.15
- 6th January first day of term
- 7th February PSA event Quiz night provisional date
- 12th February consultation evening 4.00-6.00 p.m.
- 13th February consultation evening 5.00-8.15 p.m.
- 17th - 21st February HALF TERM
- 6th March World Book Day - dressing up day
- 9th - 13th Arts week
- 26th March Exhibition Evening
- 31st March Easter Assembly led by Year 2
- 2nd April Easter Bonnet parade 9.00 a.m.
- 3rd April last day of term - school closes at 2.15 p.m.

- 20th April first day of term
- **8th May Friday - Bank Holiday (Change from Monday 4th)**
- 25th - 29th May HALF TERM
- 19th June PSA Fundraising event - provisional date
- **19th June Sports day Friday 9.00 (alternative 3rd July)**
- **27th June PSA Event - Summer Fair**
- 7th July Transition day - Provisional Date - All children meet new teachers reception, Year 1 and Year 2.
- Summer Concerts
 - Foundation 8th July p.m.
 - Foundation 9th July a.m.
 - Y2 10th July a.m.
 - Y1 14th July
 - Y2 Leavers 15th July
- 10th July PSA event - Y2 Leavers Party
- Last day of term 17th July - school closes at 2.15

I hope you all have a happy term.

Mrs Julia Thomas

Headteacher