

St. David's Primary School



Newsletter

September 2019



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St David's Primary



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REACHing with Faith
Dream, Believe, Achieve



Head Teacher's note

Dear Parents/ Carers,

We've had a busy month with everyone settling back in to the school routines and it has been lovely getting to know all of our new pupils and families. We hope that this newsletter will give you some information about our school but please remember that our school blog and social media platforms are also great places to find out what is happening at St David's. As always, if you would like to get in touch or share any feedback about any aspect of this newsletter please pop in to see us or give us a call.

Linda Berry

Uniform

We would like to thank you for your continued support with our uniform. The children are an absolute credit to you and are always so well turned out. We always receive lovely compliments when we are out and about on how smart our pupils look and it gives them great pride to be recognised as part of the St David's community. Just a reminder to please ensure that you label all of your child's belongings as uniform items can be very similar and are easily misplaced. Also, as the weather is beginning to turn more autumnal, please ensure that your child comes to school with a jacket everyday- we aim to have children outside playing and learning every day. Our Outdoor learning focus for September was to take a story outdoors - Primary 2 have shared a fantastic blog post about how they took the story of The Lorax outside. Why not ask your child what they have been doing outside this month?

Water Bottles

Just a reminder that all pupils are invited to bring a water bottle to school with them. It is important that the bottle can be sealed to prevent leaks in school bags and in the classroom. There are water fountains around the school where they can fill these up when they need to. We all know the benefits of staying hydrated and also that plain water is the best choice. Fruit juice/squash can be provided in packed lunches or snacks but is **not** permitted for drinking during class time.

Health and Wellbeing

At this time of year, we know there can be many nasty bugs about. To keep us all in good health, please support us in the following ways:

- *Flu Vaccinations:* Ensuring your child takes up this opportunity at school. You should already have received and returned a letter to give consent for this. Contact the office for more information if required
- *Hand Hygiene:* Reinforcing the message about good habits when washing hands. Mrs Kinney has been reinforcing this message with all classes during their science focus.
- *Headlice:* Unfortunately there is nothing you can do to prevent them - they are very common in young children and don't have anything to do with dirty hair! You can reduce the risk of them spreading by regularly combing your child's hair with a special fine-toothed comb (these are cheaply available from shops and online). If you think your child has headlice, you need to treat them as soon as possible - the minor ailments service at your local pharmacy will help with the best treatment. Once treated, there is no need for your child not to attend school.

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- *Sickness and Diarrhoea:* Children **must stay away from school for 48 hours** after their symptoms have gone. When you call/text to inform us this is the reason why your child is absent, you will be reminded of this policy - please adhere to it to prevent the spread of germs.
- *Coughs and colds:* It is fine to send your child to school with a minor cough/cold. Encourage your child to throw away any used tissues and to wash their hands regularly. However, if they have a fever, keep them off school until it goes away.

Please be aware that only prescribed medicine can be administered at school - if it is essential that your child receives medication during school, please ensure that you have completed the relevant form at the school office. Pupils must not bring non-prescribed medicine to school and we must be informed, even if they are carrying it themselves. We are currently in the midst of health plan review meetings to ensure we have accurate information and an appropriate plan for your child. Please assist us by attending these meetings or contact us to let us know if you think you need one but have not yet been contacted,

Parent Council

The Parent Council currently have two fundraiser events planned:

- Friday 11th October 2019 - Race Night at the Lilybank Bowling Club - Children Welcome (accompanied by an adult). Tickets for this event are £4 per adult available from the school office - Children go free.
- Wednesday 30th October 2019 - Hallowe'en Disco - Tickets will be on sale nearer the time and at the door.

Please support the parent council wherever you can - all funds raised are used to support the pupils in St David's directly and without your support, events such as the Summer Trip and Panto Trip cannot go ahead.

Home Shared Learning

Thank you to everyone who managed along to the first Sharing the Learning event where we offered you the opportunity to hear about our Home Shared Learning Approach throughout the school as well as a chance to go to your child's class and meet the teacher. Home Shared Learning helps to create a home-school link so that we all work together to share and support your child's learning journey. If you still have any questions, or would like to find out more, please don't hesitate to get in touch. Home Shared Learning Grids are distributed on the 1st of each month (or the nearest Monday) and are also available on the class blog.

School Holidays

You will have recently received the finalised calendar of events for 2019 - 2020. Please note the change to some of the holiday dates as well as two additional in-service days to this year's calendar. If you need an additional copy, this can be found on the school blog or just ask at the office.

Pizza Clubs

As you are all aware, the Pupil Equity and Attainment Challenge funding that we receive as a school is used to pay for our Family Learning Pizza Clubs - over the last few years these have been provided for pupils throughout the school with a focus on Literacy, Numeracy and Health and Wellbeing. These clubs continue to be highlighted as an excellent example of partnership working and family learning. The feedback we get from pupils and family members is overwhelmingly positive and we know they are a valued part of our school calendar with 72% of our families attending annually.

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This session, our P1 Pizza Reading and our P6 Pizza Time sessions have already started whilst our P7 Pizza Time programme is ready to launch just after the October Break. The clubs are open to all of our families at St David's and are held in the Learning Centre on campus after school and it is not too late to join! The staff are extremely friendly and provide a warm welcome to new and returning families.

If you're not already attending, please consider giving it a try - the sessions provide an excellent opportunity for you to spend some quality time with your child, build relationships with other families from the school community and also have the stress of making a dinner removed at the end of a long day. The Pizza Clubs also offer a crèche and can be attended by all the family.

If you have any questions about the sessions, please speak to any member of staff either in the school or the Learning Centre on campus. We would love to welcome even more of you this year.

Active Schools

Our Active Schools Coach, Amy Couttie, has provided another brilliant timetable for our campus. The best thing of all is that our clubs are still absolutely free of charge! If you would like to sign your child up to attend, please do so at <https://rl-stdavids.class4kids.co.uk/>. We have plans for our pupils to represent the school in local sports festivals and events and the clubs are an excellent training ground for not only the game but good sportsmanship as well as skills to manage their own personal health and wellbeing.

Families First

We're delighted to announce that we will once again be able to work with Families First to launch a Cooking Club on campus after the October break. If you're interested, please get in touch with the school office or call Families First direct on 01505 335 006 to book a place.

Attendance

Excellent school attendance is key factor in achieving your full potential. We fully understand that there are times when your child is too unwell to come to school and we know that you are best placed to make that decision about your own child. When this is the case, we ask that you please contact the school office to inform us that your child won't be in and also to give an indication of when they expect to return. Wherever possible, please make appointments outside of school hours however where this isn't possible, please show us your appointment letter (if you have one) and let us know in advance of the absence. This helps us to ensure that the absence is marked correctly on the register.

We all know the value of family holidays and the positive impact these can have on young people however, wherever possible these should be booked during school holiday periods and not term time. Family holidays cannot be authorised unless in exceptional circumstances.

Aldi Stickers

Many of you will have spotted the giant poster in the lower corridor where we are collecting the Aldi school stickers. Thank you to everyone who has already sent these in - we are making great progress. Just a reminder that if you are shopping in Aldi, please ask for one of the stickers and send it in to school with your child who can add it directly to the poster in the corridor. Once completed, our school will receive a sports kit from Aldi and we will also be in with a chance of winning £20 000 to create a health legacy for the pupils here in St David's.

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