

8TH SEPTEMBER 2023

St Ethelwold's VA School

Our Christian values and high expectations will equip our school community with the resilience and skills required to be ambitious, enterprising, healthy, and ethical members of society.

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to school and welcome back to your weekly St Ethelwold's VA School newsletter.

There are some changes to the newsletter this year. You will continue to receive a weekly bulletin with school diary dates, important information, safeguarding updates etc but we are moving to a monthly round up of news from the school. As it is the start of the new school year, I will give a brief overview of how the term has started.

Mrs Blackburn is not yet back at school but in her absence, Class 2 are in the more than capable hands of Miss Gorrell. The children in Class 2 all know Miss Gorrell from the time she spent here last year and the class have made a wonderful start. Mr Griffith has been off this first week but will be back on Monday and his class has been covered by Miss Barnett who the children are very familiar with. Again, the class have made a fantastic start as we knew they would with Miss Barnett.

You will no doubt have noticed that we are working very hard on punctuality, attendance, uniform, healthy snack and school rules and we will continue this push indefinitely. Punctuality is significantly improved and we have had only two late arrivals this week. We record any lateness and will work with those pupils and families so that we can soon report a week with zero late arrivals - it makes a huge difference to creating a settled start to the day and we thank you for your work in helping us to improve.

Pupils arrived in school on Tuesday with very nearly each and every one wearing the correct uniform which was great to see and helps school to create a sense of real belonging and community. I have had to have a quiet word with a couple of pupils since Tuesday about the correct trousers and footwear but they came back the next day with smiles and the right uniform - again many thanks for this, I know that it is not easy!

Healthy snack and drink are much improved also. Many of our pupils have approached me and told me they have a new found love of water after not liking it! We will clarify further what is and what is not allowed in school but essentially there are no sugary drinks whether fizzy or still (including artificially sweetened drinks), no caffeinated drinks and no sugary or fatty snacks. Most children are bringing fruit/ vegetables and water. Children bringing sugary snacks or drinks will not be able to consume them in school for snack or at breaks but we will provide cold water. We will start to look at encouraging healthy meals to pupils who bring in their own sandwiches further into the school year.

Speaking of healthy meals, you will be aware that Universal Free School Meals are available for all pupils from Reception to Year 4 with plans to bring Years 5 and 6 this academic year - more news on that when we receive it. School meals now include a salad bar and pudding bar where children can eat as much as they like, we started this week and I have included a couple of photos for you to see for yourself.

Your children may have told you that we have spent this week looking at our school values of Belief, Effort, Community and Kindness and relating them to our school rules. This work will continue next week where we look at the school vision and mission statement and how they fit in with our Learning Superheroes who, we are delighted to announce, appear on our new school signage. The children have been working extremely hard on these and we can already see a big improvement in how pupils line up, move around school and play together. We will continue this and also work on homework in the coming weeks.

You and the children have achieved a great deal in a short time and we are committed to working with you to, not only keep this up, but to continuously improve in the coming weeks, months and years.

We hope that the weather holds out for the weekend and that you enjoy some time with the people that you love and we are already looking forward to seeing you all on Monday.

Paul Oliver
Headteacher

Diary Dates

15th September- Flu Vaccinations

22nd September- Reception class photos

3rd October- Come and Cook with your child- Details to follow

26th October- Tempest Photographers

27th October- School closes for half term- 3.15pm



Dear God, At this time of year, it is important that we make the right start to our school year. Help us to take the good lessons that our teachers, important adults and other pupils give us in our school and turn them into a good foundation that will help and support us in the future. Amen.