



Newsletter 2

11th September, 2015

Happy Friday!..... Thank you for all of the positive feedback about the website. It has been really nice to start the new year with a fresh way of communicating with you, and next week I hope to start blogging more frequently with little bits of news from time to time. How we communicate and interact with you is really important to me, as our partnership is crucial for the children we jointly care about, and something that came through very strongly in your vision for the school last year was the desire to be able to pay online for various things. Governor Karl Stringer and Viv Alderson have spent a great deal of time researching possible options and I am really grateful to them both for this. Please see Viv's message below about how we intend to move forward with this in the next few weeks.

You may have heard from your children that this week we started to hold our collective worships and assemblies towards the end of the day at 2.50pm. It has proven really successful - it is a lovely time to come together to share, reflect and celebrate, and the children responded brilliantly. It also means that when the children arrive in the morning the teacher can settle them into their classroom and into their learning more quickly. So, it has been a really positive and enjoyable start to the year, and next week our new Reception children are joining us for the first time. We cannot wait to welcome them in to start their journey with us. Have a lovely (hopefully sunny) weekend.

Andy Bowman

ParentPay - our new online payment service..... We are pleased to announce that we will shortly be accepting payments online for items such as dinner money and school trips. Using a secure website called ParentPay you will be able to pay online using your credit or debit card. ParentPay will be our preferred method of making payments to school. Further details will follow.

Parentmail..... If you are not yet registered for parentmail, please complete a slip at reception and we will add you to our parentmail system to receive communications from us by email and text. This is especially important with Autumn and Winter just around the corner when the weather can occasionally cause disruption to the local area and affect the school. Thank you for your support.

Library Open for Autumn.....The library is back in business! Your children are coming for their class sessions and Mrs Brocklebank & Mrs Smith are open after school until 4pm on Monday, Tuesday and Friday. See you there!

Fireworks Safety Poster Competition..... Your child will be bringing home a poster this week. If they would like to enter the competition, they can design and return their poster to the office no later than **Monday 28th September**. Each child that enters will receive a free voucher to exchange for an entry ticket (when purchased with an adult ticket) to the Rotary Club Fireworks Display on 7th November at The Recreation Ground.

Administration of medicines.....If your child is well enough to attend school, but needs to take medicine during the school day and you are unable to come in to administer it, please hand it into the office and complete a medical consent form.

In these circumstances, Mrs Darch will administer the medication, but it is your child's responsibility to go to her at the appropriate time. Due to the increasing number of children who require medicine on a short term basis, Mrs Darch is not able to monitor and follow up pupils who do not go to her. So, if your child does need to take medicine and you are not able to come in, please ensure your child goes to Mrs Darch at the appropriate time their medicine is due. Unfortunately we will have to ask you to give your child the medicine if they do not remember. Thank you for your support.



Parking around the school....Although we appreciate that parking is very difficult around the school, can I please remind everyone to park thoughtfully, so as not to inconvenience our neighbours. If parking near the school could be kept to a minimum and you could please avoid leaving your cars for extended periods of time, this would help the situation greatly. Thank you for your support.

Message from our Parent Support Adviser.....Hello everyone, hope you are all settling back into the new term and welcome to those parents whose children have just started in reception. Although my children are teenagers now I still have to remind them about the importance of getting enough sleep and getting back to a good routine now they are back at school. As a parent I have often wondered about and worried if they were getting enough sleep and I thought that you may like to see what the guidance is. The following are average needs for each age group so some children will need more or less, but it's a good starting point.

Age	Average sleep (hours)
4	11 1/2
5	11
6	10 3/4
7	10 1/2
8	10 1/4
9	10
10	9 3/4
11	9 1/2

It's not always easy to get a good bedtime routine established and I'm happy to help. Speak to school to ask to be referred or give me a call for a quick chat over the phone in the first instance if you prefer.
DebbieParent Support Adviser 07530 263289 Deborah_youngs@bathnes.gov.uk

PTA News.....PTA Meeting – 29th September

The next PTA meeting will be held in the staff room at school on Tuesday 29 September at 7pm. I know it's a tricky time but do come along if you can, you will be very welcome! Meetings are held every term and last around an hour. If you are unable to attend the meeting but would like to help organise a fundraising event, please get in touch.

The PTA's new e-mail address is: pta@st-stephens.bathnes.sch.uk

Gardening volunteers – can you dig it? Our site manager Nigel Cox is looking for some gardening volunteers to dig, clear and generally spruce up the school grounds. There is also a lovely seating area to construct. No experience necessary, but if you can spare a couple of hours it would be really appreciated.

Second – hand uniform sale will be held in the hall after school on Friday 18th September.

Have a lovely weekend and good luck to all the children (and parents!) starting in reception next week.
Angela PTA Chair

Coming up in September.....

- 17th – New Parents Social Eve 7-8pm
- 18th – Second hand uniform sale after school in the hall
- 24th - Foundation Stage Reading Evening 6pm-7pm
- 25th – Harvest in church 9.45am
- 29th - PTA Meeting 7pm

October

- 5th EYFS start full time
- 5th-9th inclusive Abernant Residential trip
- 8th EYFS homework meeting 2:30pm
- 12th Full Governing Body Meeting
- 16th Olympic Sprinter in school
- 21st and 22nd Parent Consultations
- 22nd children finish school
- 23rd INSET

A little request from the office – if you are emailing in to advise us of your child's absence from school or a last minute change to pick up arrangements, please give your child's full name and Form number on the message to enable us to get it to the right place as quickly as possible. Thank you.

