



St. Sampson's Church of England Primary School



www.st-sampsons.wilts.sch.uk

Term 1 - Number 1

Thursday, 8th September 2022



@StSampsonsPri

Dear parents and guardians,

Welcome back to the new school year! I hope that you all had a wonderful holiday and enjoyed some quality family time. It is lovely to welcome the children back and I have enjoyed hearing all about their holidays. Thank you for all your help ensuring that all the children have come back looking very smart. It has been delightful to see the children so eager to work in their new classes and get on with their learning.

We have welcomed our new children in Reception this week. We are so proud of the way that they have come in to school each day. Next week, they will be staying for lunch as well. We have also welcomed Mr Robinson and Mrs Kerr to our staff team and are delighted that they have taken up posts in our school.

I will do my best to try to keep you up to date in my weekly newsletters, which I will send out every Thursday. There will also be information on our website. Key dates for events throughout the year are already on the school calendar on the website. In addition, do follow our Twitter feed to find out what we have been up to. This also appears on our website and only children who have permission from you will have their photograph on this feed.

Here's to a fantastic year! ☺

Jennifer Bayne

Meet the Teacher Sessions / Year group information

As per my parentmail on Tuesday, we are running parent information sessions over the next fortnight. These sessions are a chance to hear about the curriculum, timetable and homework arrangements this year. Any written information shared will also be sent out via parentmail and if you are unable to make these sessions, but would like to see your child's classroom, please feel free to pop in with your child after school one day in the next fortnight,

The Year 6 session will be held via Zoom and includes information about SATs, school residential and Secondary school applications. The rest of the sessions will be held in your child's year group classroom, with any children being supervised in the other classroom. A reminder of dates and times are as follows:

Reception - Friday, 16 th September @1:15pm	Year 1 - Wednesday, 14 th September @3:15pm
Year 2 - Wednesday, 21 st September @ 3:15pm	Years 3/4 - Thursday, 15 th September @ 3:15pm
Year 5 - Tuesday, 13 th September @ 3:15pm	Year 6 - Tuesday, 13 th September @ 6pm via Zoom

Our value that we are exploring this term is 'Perseverance'

Jeans for Genes - Friday 23rd September

On **Friday, 23rd September**, children are allowed to wear denim (or their own clothes) rather than uniform in exchange for a donation for this charity.



10p Toast

10p Toast will start on Monday, 12th September for children in Year 1-6 and for Reception on Monday, 19th September.

The children can collect their toast (buttered or unbuttered - range of white, brown and wholemeal bread) from either hall as they arrive in school in the morning. Toast is only served until 8:50am and so therefore only available for children who arrive on time.



Toast can either be pre-paid for via parentmail, a term in advance, or children can bring in 50p on a Monday or 10p each day. Where toast is pre-paid, or 50p is brought in at the start of the week, there are no refunds if a child is not in school or does not want toast.

Children who are entitled to pupil premium can have toast for free; their names are automatically added to the pre-paid list.

Attendance and Punctuality

The start of a new school year is always a great time to remind everyone about the importance of good attendance and arriving in school on time. Remember, that the doors open from 8:45am-8:50am off either the bottom or middle playground and the children start personalised learning from the moment they get to their classrooms as part of their I-learn time.

If your child is unwell, please telephone the school from 8am to inform us. If we do not hear from you, we operate a first day calling system to ensure that you are aware that they aren't in school and to find out the reason for their absence. All absences will need a written note for our records which are also scrutinised by the Education Welfare Officer.

Government targets for attendance are 97% for every pupil. Those children with less than 90% attendance are considered persistent absentees, **even if the reason for absence is authorised**.

Percentage %	How much has your child missed?	
	School Days	School Weeks
99	1	
97	5	1
94	10	2
92	15	3
89	20	4
86	25	5
84	30	6
81	35	7 (or 2 full years over the course of their school career)
78	40	8

Clubs

Over the next week, you will receive information about clubs that the staff will be offering this term. As always, thank you to staff who offer to run these.

Clubs will run from 26th September - 2nd December.

The only opportunity to sign up to a club will be as this information comes out via parentmail. Children will not be permitted to join clubs at a later date as this can cause confusion about attendance (and therefore safeguarding) in the office. If a child is signed up to a club it is the expectation that they attend that club if they have attended school that day.

Thank you for your support with this.

Collective Worship and Assemblies

We meet as a whole school for worship on Mondays, in the school hall. This worship is based around our value for each term and / or the Christian calendar. On a Tuesday, we meet either as a lower school or upper school for singing worship.

Every Wednesday, the 'Open the Book' team - a team of volunteers from the churches in Cricklade - come and deliver productions of Bible stories to the school. These are popular, interactive sessions with lots of audience participation!

On a Thursday, there is class led worship. Often a challenge or an idea for following up Monday's worship is set.

At the end of the week, we meet as a whole school for Celebration Assembly. This is exactly as it is named - a chance to celebrate success, achievement and effort across the school. Sometimes an individual, or a class will bring in work to share or show. There are plus point certificates and other rewards given out. In addition, each class teacher will choose two stars of the week and share the reason they have been chosen. Their names (and reasons) are added to the board outside my office and the children can wear a 'Star of the Week' badge for the week.

We also like to celebrate successes and achievements outside school. If your child has a certificate or trophy or similar that they would like to share, they are welcome to bring it to school on a Friday. If you would like me to add this to the newsletter as well, I would be delighted to - please email to the school admin email address: admin@st-sampsons.wilts.sch.uk.

Three Peaks Challenge Achievement!

Damien Davis, father of Harrison (3/4C) and Harley (1CS), climbed 3 mountains last weekend for charity. He climbed the highest mountains in Scotland, England and Wales in 22 hours and 51 minutes, raising over £26,000 for MIND, the Mental Health Charity. His story was featured on BBC News and people can still donate on his JustGiving page

- <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/3peakschallengethereturn>.

Well done from all of us on this amazing achievement and raising a phenomenal amount for a brilliant cause!

