

HEADTEACHER:
Ms Helen Comfort
(B.A.Ed.Hons, NPQH)



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'For Learning That Lasts A Lifetime'

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7th September 2015

Dear Parent/Carers

Hello and welcome to what promises to be another exciting school year. I hope you have all had a good summer. We are looking forward to getting to know all our new families over the coming weeks as well as catching up with all our returning families.

Thank you for supporting us with our school uniform; the children all look very smart and ready for learning! Thank you also, on behalf of all the staff, for the cards and gifts received at the end of last term – they were all very much appreciated.

SAFETY REMINDERS:

Cars

Please may I remind car drivers that **only staff** are permitted to drive onto the school premises between **8:30am and 3:30pm** and those parents who have a prior arrangement with the school due to mobility reasons. Please also be advised that the zig-zag areas outside the school gates are **not to be parked on between 8:30am-9:30am and 2:30pm-4pm**. These measures are in place to protect all members of our school community and your co-operation is anticipated and appreciated.

Play Equipment

Our play equipment in the playground is designed for children between 4 and 11 years old. The children are supervised during the break and lunch times by staff when using it. Staff are not responsible for supervising children before school or after school times and parents must ensure they are supervising their children at these times if allowing them to use the play equipment. Children under the age of 4 are not to use the equipment at all.

Scooters/Bicycles in the Playground

For the safety of all our children, please you ensure that your children (including pre-school children) do not ride their scooters or bicycles in the playground of the school at any time.

READING BOOKS AND HOMEWORK

All children will bring home a reading book and reading contact book by Wednesday, 9th September. Homework will be set during the week beginning 7th September for all classes. Further information regarding homework and home reading expectations will be shared at the forthcoming parent/teacher meetings for Classes 1-6 (see dates below) and via the class newsletters.



Reception class parents – please ensure you have bought your child a Reading Book Bag which can be purchased from www.pmgsschoolwear.co.uk. Remember to use our voucher code **STMCF** for free delivery.

TERM DATES

As you will know from previous correspondence, holiday during term time will not be authorised and Penalty Notices (a fine) will be issued to parents who take children on holiday during term time. To assist you in booking holiday outside of term time term dates for 2015/2016 have already been published, but I note again below for ease of reference. Information regarding our five staff training days is also indicated below. Please note that children are not required to attend school on staff training days.

<u>TERM 1 2015</u>	Thursday, 3 rd September – Friday, 23 rd October 2015
<u>TERM 2 2015</u>	Monday, 2 nd November – Friday, 18 th December 2015
<u>TERM 3 2016</u>	Monday, 4 th January – Friday, 12 th February 2016
<u>TERM 4 2016</u>	Monday, 22 nd February – Thursday, 24 th March 2016
<u>TERM 5 2016</u>	Monday, 11 th April – Friday, 27 th May 2016
<u>TERM 6 2016</u>	Monday, 6 th June – Friday, 22 nd July 2016

Staff Training Days (children not required to attend school)

Thursday, 3rd and Friday, 4th September 2015
Friday, 23rd October 2015
Monday, 4th January 2016
Monday, 6th June 2016

Important dates for 2015/2016 Academic Year

I thought it would be helpful to give you advance notice of some of the events, meetings and festivals that will be taking place during this academic year. Please make a note of these dates in your diaries.

Term 1

08.09.15	Class 2 Parent Teacher Meeting at 2:45pm to discuss the year ahead
09.09.15	Class 1 Parent Teacher Meeting at 2:45pm to discuss the year ahead
10.09.15	Kent Test Day for Year 6 children who have opted to take test
10.09.15	Class 3 Parent Teacher Meeting at 2:45pm to discuss the year ahead
15.09.15	Class 4 Parent Teacher Meeting at 2:45pm to discuss the year ahead
16.09.15	Class 5 Parent Teacher Meeting at 2:45pm to discuss the year ahead
17.09.15	Class 6 Parent Teacher Meeting at 2:45pm to discuss the year ahead
17.09.15	PTFA Meeting at 8:45am in the After School Club room
22.09.15	School individual photographs
29.09.15	Class R Parent Workshop: Reading and Phonics at 2:15pm
07.10.15	Open Afternoon at 3:15pm – Come and see your child's workbooks and have an informal chat with the teacher
09.10.15	Classes 1 – 6 Harvest Festival at Church at 9:30am
12.10.15	Class R - Harvest learning activities in class at 2pm - parents invited to 'stay and play'
12.10.15 - 16.10.15	Class 5 Swattenden Residential Trip
16.10.15	PTFA Quiz Night
19.10.15	Class 6 Parental Consultations between 3.30 and 5.30pm (by appointment)
21.10.15	Class 6 Parental Consultations between 3:30 and 5:30pm (by appointment)



Term 2

04.11.15	Open Event for prospective new parents at 2pm
06.11.15	Class 4 Family Assembly at 9am
11.11.15	PTFA Film Night
12.11.15	PTFA Meeting at 8:45am in the After School Club room
12.11.15	Class 6 Parents' Hardelet information meeting 2:30pm
16.11.15	Classes R – 5 Parental Consultations between 3:30 and 6pm (by appointment)
18.11.15	Classes R – 5 Parental Consultations between 3:30 and 6pm (by appointment)
20.11.15	PTFA Mufti Day – Children Tombola
27.11.15	PTFA Christmas Disco
27.11.15	PTFA Mufti Day – Adult Tombola
04.12.15	PTFA Christmas Fayre between 3:15pm and 5pm
08.12.15 and 09.12.15	KS1 Christmas Play in the School Hall at 2:30pm
14.12.15	Class R Christmas activities in class at 2pm– parents invited to 'stay and play'
15.12.15	KS2 Carol Concert at 1.45pm and 6pm in the Church
16.12.15	Christmas Dinner Day
16.12.15	Open Afternoon at 3:15pm – Come and see your child's workbooks and have an informal chat with the teacher
17.12.15	'Party' Day

Term 3

11.01.16	Class 6 Cake Sale
14.01.16	PTFA Meeting at 8:45am in the After School Club room
27.01.16	PTFA Film Night
29.01.16	Class 2 Family Assembly at 9am
08.02.16	Class 5 Cake Sale
10.02.16	Open Afternoon at 3:15pm - Come and see your child's workbooks and have an informal chat with the teacher
12.02.16	Class 3 Family Assembly at 9am

Term 4

03.03.16	PTFA Meeting at 8:45am in the After School Club room
04.03.16	Class R Mother's Day 'Spring'themed activities in class at 9am to 10:30am – parents invited to 'stay and play'
07.03.16	Class 4 Cake Sale
08.03.16	Class 4 Parents' Swattenden information meeting 2:30pm
11.03.16	Class 1 Family Assembly at 9am
14.03.16	Parent/Carer Consultations between 3:30pm and 6:30pm (by appointment)
15.03.16 & 16.03.16	Year 4 Level 1 Bikeability
16.03.16	Parent/Carer Consultations between 3:30pm and 6:30pm (by appointment)
18.03.16	PTFA Spring Disco
23.03.16	Spring Concert . Class performances at 2:30pm in the school hall
24.03.16	Spring Concert. Class performances at 9am in the school hall
24.03.16	PTFA Easter Egg Hunt

Term 5

18.04.16	Class 3 Cake Sale
21.04.16	PTFA Meeting at 8:45am in the After School Club room
22.04.16	Class 5 Family Assembly at 9am
02.05.16	May Day – School Closed
20.05.16 to 24.05.16	Class 6 Hardelot Trip
23.05.16	Class 2 Cake Sale
25.05.16	Open Afternoon at 3:15pm - Come and see your child's workbooks and have an informal chat with the teacher

Term 6

10.06.16	PTFA Mufti Day – Children Tombola
13.06.16	Class 6 Bikeability Week
16.06.16	PTFA Meeting at 8:45am in the After School Club room
17.06.16	Class R Father's Day activities in class at 9am to 10:30am – parents invited to 'stay and play'
17.06.16	PTFA Mufti Day – Adult Tombola
20.06.16	Class Photographs
21.06.16	Sports Day at 9am
22.06.16	Reserve Sports Day at 9am
24.06.16	PTFA Summer Fayre between 3:15pm and 5pm
27.06.16	Class 1 Cake Sale
27.06.16	Musical Showcase in the School Hall at 3:30pm for children undertaking musical tuition
04.07.16	Class R Cake Sale
05.07.16	Provisional date only for Whole School Art Exhibition 6pm at the Pines Calyx - to be confirmed
08.07.16	Class 6 Play at the Village hall at 6pm
13.07.16	Open Afternoon at 3:15pm - Come and see your child's workbooks and have an informal chat with the teacher
21.07.16	Class 6 Leavers' Service at 2.15pm

Although this is a fairly full list of dates, it is not exhaustive and we will, of course, notify you of any additions or changes as soon as possible.

Parent/Teacher Meetings

As you will have seen from the above dates, there are some Parent Teacher meetings coming up for classes 1 -6. Reception class parents have already had a group meeting and will have individual appointments with the class teachers during the first week. The meetings will take place in the classroom at 2:45pm and are an opportunity to hear about the year ahead including: curriculum, homework/reading, forthcoming trips/special weeks/events, ways to help at home and school, ways to raise concerns and ask questions.

Ofsted inspection July 2015

I am pleased to say that our school inspection report has been published on the Ofsted website today and can be found at <http://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports/find-inspection-report/provider/ELS/118495>. As you will appreciate we are very pleased and proud to have been judged as an outstanding school. Look out for forthcoming articles in the local press.



We are looking forward to another successful year. Should you have any queries or concerns please do not hesitate to speak to any of the staff – we are always very happy to clarify any aspect of our work and to help you with matters related to your child.

Yours sincerely



Ms H Comfort
Headteacher