

Newsletter 10



4 May, 2018



What will Feathers look like? See P2

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DATES COMING UP

MAY

Tue 8th Football Cup Final

Wed 9th Y4 Viking Day

14-17th Y6 SATs

Sat 19 Beauty and Beast rehearsal

Tues 22nd Science WOW Day (whole school)

22 + 23: Beauty and the Beast

Thur 24th: Sport Celebration at Ashton Gate

Fri 25th: End of Term 5

Mon 4th Term 6 starts

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The countdown is on...18 days to go until Beauty and the Beast! Tickets will be available for general release at the end of next week

Dear parents,

This is an unusually long Term 5, so this newsletter is coming out to give parents an update on some important issues around transition and data protection, as well as a news round-up.

Transition week/classes next year

A full list of term dates can be found on the website, including dates for sports days, secondary transition days and the annual dance competition.

After last year's successful trial, we will again be having a 'transition week' in July near the end of term 6 to give children more opportunity to prepare for September. They will spend most mornings that week with their new teacher (unless they are not available) so that we can make the best possible start to next year.

Changing classes In the past we have generally mixed children up every couple of years: partly out of necessity to correct imbalances due to pupils coming/going, and also to give children the chance to mix with other children in the year group. However, the down-side is that a) it takes a long time to organise and b) it can be unsettling for quite a few children (and parents). This year we have decided to do NO wholesale changes in any year group, but we WILL carry out a few tweaks where the moving of a specific child would be in their, or the wider, interest. Any such move will be discussed with parents in advance. If parents have any particular concerns about next year, please communicate these to your child's teacher or Mr Freeman before half term.

Have a great bank holiday weekend – it looks like the sun is set to shine so I anticipate the smell of barbecues in the air!

Mark Freeman, Headteacher

Staff changes

Mrs Trafford (R/Y1 support) is sadly leaving us at the end of Term 5 to take up a nursery post. She started her teaching career here a while ago and will be very sorely missed.

There are a number of teachers who will be on maternity leave next year. Mrs Barclay (Y2); Mrs Cross (Y1); and Mrs Derrick (R2) will all be starting maternity leave in the summer holidays, whilst Mrs West (Y4) will go on maternity leave at the end of September. Mrs Brown (KS2 support) is due to return shortly, and Mrs Carter (Y4) returns in October.

All of this means we have a few, mainly temporary, appointments to make, and it will be a few weeks before all is sorted and we know who will be in which year group next year. I do not anticipate huge changes.

St Michael's CE VC Primary School, Stoke Gifford

Parent Survey

There was a very low take-up of this year's annual parent survey. Results will be posted on the website shortly, but we need to get a better response in future in order to know parent views on a range of topics.

Sports News

Our Y4 football team played in a tournament in Yate, and go through to the County finals at Ashton Gate. Our tag rugby team came 5th out of 16 in the regional finals, against teams for Bristol, Somerset and Wiltshire – a fantastic team performance. Our girls' team played really well in their cup semi-final, losing 2-1: a great effort all-round. Our boys' team won their semi-final 4-2, and go to the final next week against Bromley Heath. Good luck! Y6 children have enjoyed 10 weeks of NFL (American football) coaching, and came third in the recent tournament at the WISE campus. They all really enjoyed learning a new sport, and we hope this will continue next year.

LOTS MORE SPORT TO COME THIS TERM AND NEXT!

Data Protection

The new Data Protection law comes into force on May 25th (GDPR = General Data Protection Regulation).

This updates the 1998 Data Protection Act, since when data has become much more widespread and shared. All schools, businesses and organisations have had to do a significant amount of work to meet the terms of GDPR. There is a new page on the school website showing all of the revised policies and procedures we are in the process of adopting.

What does it mean for children/parents?

The new law is about making it clear what data is held, where it is stored and for how long. There are also new regulations on consent. We will shortly be issuing new privacy notices making it clear what data we keep and why. Much of the data we hold: names/addresses/contact details etc is a legal requirement; where it is not we need to review our consent policies (eg use of images; payment details etc). Although there is a huge amount of additional paperwork being generated by GDPR, in practice where processes are good (as in schools for the most part) there should not be major implications for parents.

I will be updating the GDPR section of the website regularly in the coming weeks to keep parents informed as the date approaches. Along with everyone else, we anticipate being fully compliant by then!



Chicken Designs

We had lots of great ideas for the Wallace and Gromit chicken (Feathers): the winner was Oliver D in Y4 with this fabulous entry. All of the children in the school will help paint the fish, and the model will be on display at the Mall over the summer holidays.

News around the School

Y1 had a super visit to Noah's Ark earlier this term: despite the dodgy weather they had a great time.

Y3 enjoyed an 'Egypt experience' in school, learning lots of things about Egypt in a fun and interesting way.

Y4 children have begun their ukulele lessons, and are enjoying these immensely.

Class 6.3 has begun drumming lessons: all children in Y6 receive 10 weeks of whole-class drumming during the year.

SUPERSTARS

SuperStars will again be running a Fun Multi-Sports Holiday Course at the school for the fast-approaching May Half Term (Tuesday 29th May – Friday 1st June).

The course is suitable for all children aged 4-11 and runs from 8.45-15.30 (Mini Stars - 4 year olds finish at 13:00, SuperStars - aged 5+ finish at 15:30).

For more information and to book please get in touch with SuperStars directly via their website <https://bookings.super-stars.org.uk/> or call 02920 090503