



SHINFIELD ST MARY'S CE (VA) JUNIOR SCHOOL AUTUMN TERM 2018 NEWSLETTER NO. 2 12th September 2018



admin@shinfield-st-marys.wokingham.sch.uk
0118 988 3663

shinfield-st-marys.eschools.co.uk

Dear Parents,

The time is passing very quickly now the children have settled into their classes. The Year Three children seem very confident and happy, and their voices greet me wherever I go all over the school. They are very polite and really seem to understand our values, which of course we share with our sister school at the infants, and with yourselves, the parents. I'd like to thank all of you for the many positive ways in which you support us and our values; the children really thrive as a result.



Support for Year Three and New Children and their Parents

Mrs Lawless says,

'Welcome to Year 3! Your children have settled in brilliantly to life here in the junior school, and are enjoying their new classes. We appreciate that there are a lot of things to organise when you start at a new school and new systems to learn. With this in mind, the Year 3 team will be holding a talk on Wednesday 19th September after school in Wrens classroom, to familiarise parents with the reading and homework programs. Please come along with any questions or queries, we are happy to help.'

Following this, Mrs Lawless will be running a Homework Helpdesk for half an hour after school on Wednesdays – from 3.30 until 4 pm. This will be for all children and their parents.



Project in School



Miss Martina Minesso, a young lady who came to support one or two of our EAL children last year, will soon be back with us, running an investigation into gender preferences in children between the ages of 7 and 11. Some decades ago, research was done into this in terms of toys and colour, but little has been done since, and as part of her own learning about the ways in which school-aged children think and learn, Miss Minesso will be talking to children in our school, and asking them to take part in a number of activities. Parents will be receiving emails about this with all the information you need, later today, which will have a permission slip attached. This permission slip will also come to you in hard copy on Friday. Please return it by October 5th if you are happy for your child to take part in this investigation.

Trips and Visits

Parents of children who have been with us for some time will be aware that we ask parents each term for a contribution of £15 towards our trips and visits. This goes a very small way towards all the curriculum enhancements we provide here at Shinfield: pantomimes and plays, workshops, the Life Education Bus, Online and other Safety Performances, assembly guests, visiting authors, trips linked to History and Geography, coaches, extra staff for the safety of children on visits – all costs considerably more than £15 per head, of course. We are very grateful for the donations of £15 per term that you give us, so please keep them coming!



Pupils who are eligible for pupil premium funding are not expected to pay this money, but we ask you to make any contribution you can.

Attendance for the week: 98.4%

Theme for the Week: Our values

PTA

Our PTA AGM is tomorrow evening, Thursday 13th September at 7 pm here at the school. We are hoping for a good many new faces, and so will be using one of our classrooms for this. Please come to the main entrance, where I will be waiting for you and will show you to the classroom we will be using. There are a good many exciting items on the agenda!



Rhos Y Gwhaliau



Next week our first group of Year Six children will be heading towards North Wales, Bala Lake and the wilds of Rhos Y Gwhaliau. This is always a very enjoyable trip for them, during which they amaze themselves with what they are capable of (zip-wiring, kayaking, going down a tin mine, hiking), and bond together in this shared experience. It stands them in good stead for the rest of the year: the grow in stature, have renewed respect for each other, and form friendships across the classes.

This is the first year in which we are doing the trip over two weeks: we now have 90 children in Year Six! I'm looking forward to hearing all about it on their return.

This, like all other terms, is a very busy term. We are all enjoying the sense of 'gearing up' for another very successful year at Shinfield St Mary's! This year our church is 950 years old, and we will also be remembering the fallen heroes of WW1 as we reach the centenary of its end. This, added to the usual celebrations and challenges will, I am sure, make it a memorable time for us all.

Onward and Upward!

Best wishes,

Sue Runciman



Dates for the Diary

- Thursday 13th September—Rock and Pop Foundation Assembly
- Thursday 13th September—PTA AGM at 7pm
- Sunday 16th September—First group of Year 6 children leave for Rhos-Y-Gwaliau
- Monday to Wednesday 17th to 19th September—Year 6 Bikeability 2nd group
- Clubs start this week, apart from Church Club
- Thursday 20th September—Piano Assembly
- Saturday 23rd September—Children return from Rhos
- Sunday 24th September—Second group of Year 6 children leave for Rhos-Y-Gwaliau
- Monday to Wednesday 24th to 26th September—Year 6 Bikeability 3rd group
- Thursday 18th October—School photographer in school
- Friday 19th October—End of the first half of term. School finishes at 3:30pm as usual.

Please find attached information from Wokingham Libraries.