



Friday 9 September 2011

Autumn Term; Issue 1

Sharmans Cross Junior School

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Dates for your diary:

September

14-16 Y4 at Blackwell Court

15 - Destiny Africa evening concert

16 - Individual Photos

16 - Destiny Africa evening concert

19-21 - Y5 Environmental visits

21 - Induction Evening [Y4-Y6]

23 - Y6 Black Country Museum Visit

27 - Open Day [1-3]

29 - Parents' Forum [Communication] - 7-9

October

5 - Open Day [9.30-11 / 4-6]

7 - Coffee Morning

13 - Open Day [4-6]

18 - Assessment

Workshop [7-9]

24 - 28 Half Term Break

November

4 - Coffee Morning

14 - Anti-Bullying Week

17 - Parents' Evening [4-8]

December

2 - Coffee Morning

9 - Christmas Fair [Provisional]

15 - Christmas Parties

16 - Term Ends

January

4 January - School Improvement Planning

6 - Coffee Morning

26 - Parents' Forum [7-9]

INSET DAYS

23 April - to be confirmed

3 May - to be confirmed

Welcome back! It hardly seems like six weeks since the last newsletter, but I hope that you all had a good summer and are now ready for a brand new year full of brand new opportunities!

In particular, I would like to welcome the children and parents of Y3 to our community. We really hope that the next four years will go as successfully as the first day. It was great to see lots of smiling faces, both children and adults leaving the site after an enjoyable day in school.

Welcome also to the new members of staff who have already settled in to the school. This I believe is a testament to the open and friendly community ethos that we have in school. We wish them all every success and thank them for their approach to developing that community spirit even further!

We have spent this first week going over essential processes and procedures with staff and children in order to re-establish our sense of shared purpose, helping us to pull together and achieve our aim of a top class education within a caring community. My first assembly highlighted the key characteristics of a member of the Sharmans Cross community. We decided, thanks to our shared [mission statement](#), that this meant being positive, sharing, valuing others, taking risks, making good decisions, asking questions, being respectful of people, thoughts and property and achievement.

With some of these in mind, we have also talked about [uniform](#). We continue our focus upon ensuring that children take a pride in their appearance by having top buttons on shirts worn with ties done up, having ties fastened to the top button, having our shirts tucked in and wearing jumpers rather than having them fastened around the waist. We would ask that parents help us in this by having this conversation with the children before they come to school.

In a change to previous years, we are not asking for a £50 voluntary contribution to school fund this year. This money is essential for us to run trips and invite experts, like Professor McGinty into school. This year we will instead be requesting contributions for trips and events as they happen. Our hope is that this will help parents to associate the contribution with the activity. We will ensure that no parent is asked to contribute more than £50 in the year. As ever, should anyone have any issues with regard to these voluntary contributions please contact me to discuss them.

Finally, our congratulations go to Mrs Martin and her husband who are, as many of you will have noticed, expecting twins in the new year.

Have a great weekend!

Mark



Induction Evenings / Homework

On Wednesday 21st September Y4, Y5 and Y6 parents are invited to an induction meeting with their child's new class teacher. These meetings will provide you with the opportunity to more formally meet your child's teacher as well as to find out about the work and routines of the class over the coming months. These meetings will be at 7pm and last for roughly an hour.

These will include the setting and completion of [homework](#). Please note that whilst some homework may be coming home over the next few weeks via the Home / School diaries, this does not formally start until the 26th September. This allows teachers and children time to discuss the routines and for us to share these routines with you at the Induction Evening.

Keeping our children safe

The staff and governors of this school are committed to establishing and maintaining an environment where children are safe and secure, encouraged to talk and are listened to.

Arriving for and Leaving School

With this in mind, we would strongly recommend that any children in Y3 and Y4 be accompanied to and collected from the school site by a responsible adult. Whilst we would not necessarily recommend it, we feel that it is more appropriate for children in Y5 and Y6 to leave the school site unaccompanied and maybe met in a nearby street or meeting point by an adult. Children should not arrive at school before 8.30am.

Nut Allergies

We have several children in school with severe nut allergies. Please help us to keep them safe by being vigilant when sending food products, suncreams or modeling boxes into school. Please take care to ensure that, wherever possible, these are nut free. Individual classes will be made aware of classmates' needs.

Child Protection

Should any child disclose to a member of staff that they are in any way at risk, we will pass this information on to the appropriate agencies as part of our statutory duty of care for the child. This may or may not involve communication with parents prior to this happening depending upon the nature of the risk.

We would also encourage any parents with concerns about the well-being of any child in school to talk to either Mr Pratt, Mrs Martin, Mrs Ferguson or Mrs Whitcombe. These will be treated sensitively, confidentially but seriously, often resulting in a conversation with the parents of the child concerned.



Lost Property / Bags

Just a reminder that anything still in lost property on Tuesday 13th September will be placed in the recycling bin, given to charity or thrown in the general rubbish. Please check on Monday that no outstanding lost property of yours is still there.

Communication

We will be having a Parents' Forum on communication on Thursday 29th September from 7 until 9pm in the school hall. In the meantime please have a look at the [Parents' online forum](#) and share your thoughts.