



AUTUMN TERM 2017 NEWSLETTER

Dear Families,

A very warm welcome back in to our new school year after witnessing and being part of an amazing summer of achievements by all of our children. During these fabulous sights we witnessed resilience, strength and depth of character, a desire to succeed, focus, persistence, seeking challenge and sheer grit and determination – all characteristics our curriculum promotes in our school. Over the summer my staff have been planning a broad range of activities to enthuse and excite your children's learning over the coming months.

I do hope that your children have had the opportunity to rest and have now fully re-charged those batteries and come back to school invigorated to learn. I also hope you have managed to get out and about enjoying the sunshine and the showers!

Please take some time to read this newsletter and check our website, school/class twitter pages and our new school communications app regularly for those all-important diary dates so you can add them to your family calendar at home. The website diary will be updated regularly so please keep your eye on it. Thank you and as always please pop in to make an appointment if you have any concerns to discuss or you would like to compliment your child's school and what we do.

Kind Regards,

Mrs Kathryn Magiera

Time Keeping & Attendance

Our attendance was in line with the desired 96% that the Government would like it to be but we are still striving for it to be even higher and with the support of our families we can do this. We did take a dip last year due to the increased number of holidays taken in term time which reduced our absence from above 96% to more in line with government guidelines.



Please take some time to read the 'Attendance Information Booklet' inside this envelope, as this explains our requirements for attendance and also explains that holidays will NOT be authorised in term time except under special circumstances and fines will now be administered again from September by Cheshire west & Chester Council.

Inside the envelope you will also find a 'Security Leaflet' and further information on how to download on new school app

Curriculum

This school year our curriculum continues to be studied using themes. Again each theme will be based on high quality literature and art. The themes are as follows –





Autumn Term – The World in Our Street

Spring Term – Seeds of Change

Summer Term – I wonder.....



Overviews for each theme will be sent out by the class teacher at the beginning of the term but they will also be on our website along with the yearly overview for the themes and more detailed progression of skills for each subject for each year group. These can all be found under the curriculum tab once you have clicked 'School Information'.

Two years ago we started to introduce the Characteristics of Effective learning across the whole school and we are beginning to see amazing results on our children's self-esteem, self-belief and 'have a go' attitude.

Staffing changes

I would like you to join me in wishing our new staff a successful career at our school. They are very excited about their new roles and the impact they will have on your children.

Miss Higgins shared some very exciting news with me over the summer. She and her partner are expecting their first child and I know you will all wish them well. Miss Higgins is expected to start her maternity leave after the Christmas break. Mrs Wilbraham will cover Miss Higgins's maternity leave and will start to visit the children after October half term to ensure a smooth transition.

New Build

As with any building in school there is always a delay! However, our new build is now completed and as well as using it for small group work and interventions, our before and after school club, Witton Acorns, will base themselves in there.

This additional space has freed up our community room to become a classroom and allows us to continue with all our family learning activities.

Office News

During the first two weeks of the term our office will have limited staff. Please be patient with us at this time whilst we train up our new member of staff, Mrs Bannister, and offer a warm welcome to her. Limited staff and knowledge will be from 8.30am – 9.30am and 2.30opm – 3.30pm. Thank you for your patience at this time.

As you know, letters usually go out on Tuesdays. As of next week, week beginning 11th September, our letter day will change to a **FRIDAY**. Please ensure you look in your child's bag each Friday for any letters and respond as appropriate.

New Staff

Miss Hayley Mogford –
Teacher Year 2

Mrs Amanda Fletcher –
Teacher Year 3/4

Miss Sian Simcock –
Teacher Year 3/4

Mrs Shila Burnell –
1-1 Teaching Assistant, Y 3/4

Mrs Lorna Bannister –
Clerical Officer

Miss Sarah Daynes –
Mid-day Assistant





Payments into school

I know I say this every year but just a gentle reminder.....We would like to reiterate that wherever possible, any payments made to school are made via ParentPay. If need help with your log in details, please contact the school office.

The following payments are now online so that you can pay small amounts weekly or monthly as it suits you –

Menai – Year 6 – November 2017

Pantomime – Nursery & Whole School – December 2017

Mount Cook – Year 4 – May 2018 – price not available yet but no more than £150

Tattenhall – Year 2 – July 2018

The cost of all these upcoming events/residentials are on ParentPay.

From 1st September a school lunch will cost £2.25 per day. Can you please ensure your child's lunch and snack account are kept in credit as it is unfair on the staff in the kitchen and your child when they are turned away because they already owe money.



If your child comes to our breakfast club at 8.20am then you need to pay the £1.50 charge on ParentPay, where your child's attendance is logged daily. Any purchases made will come directly from your child's snack balance on ParentPay.

Snacks are for children from Year 3 to Year 6, all Key Stage One and Reception pupils get free fruit and milk so please do not feel they need to purchase snack at break time.

Water is available freely all day and you are welcome to send in a HEALTHY snack with your child for break from home. Your child may bring in a bottle of water to drink throughout the day in class – juice is not permitted until lunch time.

Mother and Tots



Our school has a Mother and Tots morning each and every Monday from 9.00am to 10.30am, from Monday 18th September.

Mrs Selby will continue to lead the planning and organisation of this group with two of our teaching assistants, Miss Ward and Miss Ennion. If you are interested in attending please just come along on Mondays, bring your friends the more the merrier! During the morning you will be made to feel extremely welcome and your child or children can participate in a number of fun and messy activities.

Advance Notice - There will be a six week course called 'Supporting your child's health and wellbeing' for KS1 & 2 parents running from Thursday 21st September - 26th October, 9-11AM, in our new Community room. Refreshments will be provided. Sign up details to follow.





News from the Church

I hope you have all had a good summer break and are looking forward to the new term with all the opportunities it will bring. A special welcome to families who are new to our school and we hope that you will settle well and quickly into the school community. We greatly value the very special relationship that the school and church share together.

I wanted to let you know that I am getting on well after my recent illness, and, although I am still having treatment, you will see me around some of the time, though maybe not in school for much of this term as I have to be very careful about not getting close to possible sources of infection. But I am available and if you do want to contact me please feel free to do so, (tel. 01606 42943). Alternatively, please contact Rev. Jane (tel. 07891981293) who is similarly available for queries and conversations.

There are a few changes in our services over the next year. The launch of a regular Messy Church was very successful last year, but we do appreciate how busy life is for families these days, and so we have decided to do Messy Church just on the last Wednesday of each half term. This means that the first Messy Church in the new school year will happen on October 25th. We shall be open from 3.15pm but we shall go on until 4.45pm to give everyone more chance to enjoy all the great messy activities there will be. In this first Messy Church we shall be thinking about our world and our environment and harvest-time. Everyone is welcome – though children must be accompanied by a carer – and we also have a children's area for pre-school children if you want to bring younger members of your family.

You are also very welcome to join us on Sunday morning for our Sung Communion service, when we also have Sunday Club for children aged 3-11. The children have a great time there exploring bible stories through their own choice of activity, including lego, art and craft, modelling and lots more. We start at 9.30 and finish with coffee/tea/juice and (often!) cake!

For those of you with pre-school children, do bring them along to Praise and Play on a Tuesday afternoon. This is an informal time in church for pre-school children and whoever is looking after them. It happens every week in term time. We start at 2.00 and finishes at 3.00pm. It's a really great way of getting to know other young families and finding out a bit more about what church is like.

For up to date information about what is happening at church, please go to our website www.sthelenwitton.org.uk or find us on facebook www.facebook.com/sthelenwitton.

With best wishes, Rev. Alison



New Families

May I take this opportunity to welcome all our new families in to Reception and Nursery.

This is an exciting time for any child starting school but I always believe that it is more difficult for the parents.

The children generally skip through the doors quite happily whilst we have many parents not wanting to leave the window!

We have many children starting our school who are already familiar to school as they came to our nursery or they already have siblings in our school, may I ask that whilst we warmly welcome these children we make a special welcome to our new families and try to get them involved as much as we can in our PTA, conversation in the playground and many other school activities we may be holding.

