



St Ippolyts CE (Aided) Primary School



Newsletter

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Issue 1: Thursday 8th September 2016



A very warm welcome to you all, especially to those children and families who are new to St Ippolyts Primary School. We look forward to a long and happy partnership with you all.

It is lovely to see all the children looking so smart in their uniforms ready for a busy term ahead; some of them have done lots of growing over the summer! We just have our final group of new Reception children in Class 1 due in on Monday and then we are a full house once again. Our Year 6 Buddies are, as ever, doing a fantastic job of helping the new children find their way around and settle in so thank you to them.

We also welcome Miss Walker and Miss Leake to our teaching team and hope that they will be very happy with us here; do introduce yourself if you get chance at the gate. Finally, we welcome Mrs Rule into the school office in her new position as school Office Manager and Mrs Nichols as our Inclusion Coordinator. Most of you already know them both well but do say hello if you get the chance, I know they will both be fantastic in their new roles.

As always, this first newsletter of the year contains a lot of important information so do please take the time to read it fully.

We are Building Learning Power!

On our INSET days the teachers and Teaching Assistants have been busy learning about and planning an exciting new project in school called 'Building Learning Power' (BLP) that we are introducing this year. BLP is an approach to teaching and learning by Professor Guy Claxton which aims to give children more ownership of their own development by nurturing effective attitudes and dispositions towards their learning. It includes things such as developing children's independence, helping them to become more resilient in the face of challenges and becoming confident to problem solve. The approach is used in hundreds of schools across the country with huge success from Early Years to Further Education and we are very excited to be at the beginning of our journey of BLP.

Next week we are launching the project with the children for the first time. Each day we will introduce one of the four Learning Powers - 'the 4 Rs':

- Resilience
- Resourcefulness
- Reflectiveness
- Reciprocity (which we are calling 'Relationships')



At the end of each day we will send out an information leaflet telling you more about what each area entails and how you can help build your child's 'learning muscles' at home. If you can't wait until then, there is a lot of information online about BLP where you can read all about it. There are also a number of YouTube videos all about the approach if you search for 'Building Learning Power Guy Claxton'.

Happy Birthday to us!

2016 – 2017 is a very special year for St Ippolyts School as it is 170 years since the school was first built in the village. A LOT has changed in that time but the principles on which the school was founded remain, as encapsulated in our core aim: 'To provide the best possible education for each child within the context of a caring Christian community'.

At various points throughout this year we will be marking the school's anniversary, starting with a whole school photograph on **Tuesday 20th September**. You will be able to buy copies of the photograph if you would like one; we only do a whole school picture approximately every 4-5 years so it's always a special occasion!

It is certainly hard to fully imagine all the generations of children and families who have been through our school since Victorian times – if only the walls could speak!



Values Education

The value for this half term is:

thankfulness.

We will be thinking about the things in our lives we are thankful for and how gratefulness and appreciation are important qualities for life. We will continue to award the 'Values Badge' on a Friday to children who demonstrate this value in practice in some way and we have sent home the values sheet to give you more information.

Uniform

A reminder that we have a stock of ties, book bags, satchels, PE bags and outdoor fleeces with the school logo available to purchase at the school office.

Now that the children are back at school, please remember that hair braids, nail varnish, friendship bracelets, 'tattoos', loom bands etc should not be worn in school time please. Many thanks.

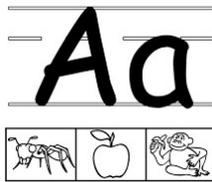
More Uniform...

Hopefully you managed to see the blog on the school website sent out towards the end of the holidays saying that although the autumn term is officially winter uniform, children may continue to wear summer uniform during September if they would prefer during this warm weather. The only exception to this is **Tuesday 20th September** when we will be having the whole school photograph taken and for this we require all children in winter uniform please.

Class 5 Swimming reminder

Swimming for C5 starts on Monday 12th September. Please make sure all slips are returned by then and that children have the correct kit with them. Thank you.

Class 1 Parents Information Evening *With refreshments*



Parents of children in Class 1 are invited to an information evening with Miss Ingle on **Thursday 22nd September at 6pm in the hall.**

This year, Hertfordshire Catering will be attending between 6.00-6.30pm so that you can ask any questions about school dinners, dietary needs etc. There will also be a selection of school dinner meals for you to sample and the PTA will be providing wine and soft drinks.

From 6.30pm Miss Ingle will be explaining the structure of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum and how we teach children the basic skills of reading, writing, phonics (spelling) and maths. The session will give you a real picture of what happens in school and how you can support your child at home. The meeting will finish at 7.30pm and we ask that you do not bring your children along. We do hope that all Class 1 parents can attend; please return the attached slip to let us know so that we can ensure sufficient seating. Thank you.



Early Bird Club

Places in Early Bird Club are filling up very quickly and we are almost at capacity for some sessions. If you need a regular slot for your child we recommend that you book in quickly to secure a space. Booking forms can be collected from the main office or downloaded from the school website.

Diary dates 2016 - 2017

Autumn term dates have been sent home today. However, **all the key dates for this academic year** have been entered onto the school website so please do make use of this facility, particularly for Parent Consultations as it is important that you can attend on the dates set. Go to the Office tab on the homepage and then use the drop down menu to select 'monthly view'; you can then click through each month of the year to see the dates easily.

INSET day this term

As published in the summer newsletters, a reminder that the final day of this half term, **Friday 21st October**, is an INSET day and school will be closed to pupils.

Note for Year 6 Parents

Applications for secondary schools are now open. All the information you need to apply can be found online at www.hertsdirect.org/admissions. The deadline for secondary applications is 31st October 2016.

After School Clubs Y1-6

Clubs for the autumn term will begin next week, beginning 12th September. Please let us know if there are particular collection arrangements for your children after clubs as this saves a lot of time trying to contact parents to check. Many thanks.

Class One Coffee Morning

Thursday 15th September 9.15am

Class One parents and carers are warmly invited to come to the annual coffee morning, organised by the PTA. This is a great opportunity for all the parents of class one children to get to know each other in an informal setting. It will be held in the hall and pre-schoolers are welcome, although we cannot accommodate buggies or prams due to fire regulations. Miss Ingle, Mrs Thake and me will be available for any questions. Child-minders and relatives who may be doing the school run are most welcome if parents can't make it, it's a lovely chance to get to know each other.



Open Session

Monday 26th September 3.30 – 6.30pm

Our first Open Session of the year will take place on **Monday 26th September 2016**. Between **3.30pm and 6.30pm** you are warmly invited to come into school with your child to visit their classroom, no appointment is necessary. The teachers will be available in the classrooms for any general discussions about how your child is settling in although *this is not a formal consultation*.

Our Inclusion Coordinator, Mrs Nichols, will also be available in the Quiet Room should anybody wish to speak to her and you are very welcome to go with your child to look at displays around the school. You will also be able to see displays about the Building Learning Power approach in the classrooms and main entrance.

We ask that if you bring younger siblings along, you do not allow them to run about, and please remember that prams and buggies cannot be brought into the building. We do hope you can make it.

WEBSITE BLOGS

The school website is a great way to keep up to date with things going on in school. Each class will publish a weekly blog and the teachers will also use this feature to issue reminders about homework, events etc. Remember also that you can register to get an email notification each time a new blog is posted; you need to select the blog you are interested in and then click 'subscribe to this category'. **If your child has moved classes you will need to subscribe to the new class to get the correct notification.** It would be a good idea for everyone to subscribe to the whole school blog and the PTA blog so that you don't miss anything vital.

Curriculum Information Leaflets

With this week's newsletter you will receive a parent curriculum information leaflet outlining the work your child will be doing in class this term, along with other useful information such as PE kits, homework days and so on. We do hope you find these useful for supporting your child's learning at home.

With this week's newsletter:

- Curriculum Information Leaflets
- Values sheet on Thankfulness
- Class One Curriculum Evening sign-up sheet
- PTA Treasure Hunt letter
- Diary Dates for Autumn 2016

R Peddie
Headteacher

St Ippolyts School PTA News

A very warm welcome to all new parents and families from the PTA! All parents are automatically members of the PTA so if you can ever volunteer some of your time or skills to help out we would love to hear from you. It's a fantastic way to get involved in the life of the school, make new friends and raise valuable funds for the children in the process. We have lots of events and activities lined up for the coming year and details of these are always in the newsletters published every Thursday.



St. Ippolyts School PTA are holding a Treasure Hunt Friday 30th September 3.30 – 5.30pm.



It's a great opportunity for all families to become more familiar with the school and a great challenge for those who know their way around, to discover a few hidden secrets. It's a fun way to spend a couple of hours with family and friends in the fresh air, after a busy week at school. The hunt is open to everyone mums, dads, grandparents, aunts and uncles etc. The more the merrier!

There will be a prize for the family who completes the hunt in the fastest time!

Look out for the booking form with this week's newsletter.

We would be very grateful for cake/biscuit donations on Friday 30th September to be sold with refreshments during the treasure hunt.

Cakes can be dropped into the office on the morning. Thank you.

Wow! Well done everyone!

During the holidays our easyfundraising total passed the £1000 mark!

That's £1000 for school activities raised by all our easyfundraising supporters by not spending a single penny – just by using the easyfundraising page for online shopping at hundreds of retailers.

It's SO easy and literally money for nothing!

Please do consider registering to use easyfundraising if you can. We currently have 50 registered supporters on the scheme and remember other family members / grandparents / relatives etc can help us too. It's very quick and simple to join – click on the easyfundraising logo on the school website homepage and follow the instructions. Thank you!