



Newsletter

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Issue 1: Thursday 7th September 2017



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 winter uniforms ready for a busy term ahead; some of them have done lots of growing up over the summer! We have a couple more groups of new Reception children in Class 1 due in next week 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 Gale as Class 4 teacher and Miss Massie as TA in Class 5 to our team and hope that they will be very happy with us here; do introduce yourself if you get chance at the gate. Finally we are delighted to welcome back Mrs Hoar after her maternity leave, it's lovely to have her 'home'!

It's not always this long!

This first newsletter of the year is always packed with important information but this year it really is a bumper edition! Please be assured that our weekly newsletters are not always so long or full!



In our first Collective Worship on Monday, one of the things we discussed was how this September marks a very special point in the school's history; for the first time ever, the school has six classes and is the

biggest it has ever been. We are all very excited about the opportunities this brings us and we are looking forward to a fantastic year ahead!

SUMMER WORKS

It has been a **very** busy summer! Class 5 and 6 are now in their lovely new Upper Key Stage Two unit at the end of the school. These classrooms look really grown up and provide a perfect, calm learning environment for the oldest pupils in school. I know Mrs Stewart and Miss Walker were really excited to get started on Monday! If you haven't seen them yet, please feel free to come and have a peep through the windows at the front. We are all starting to get used to having our classes in different places after all the moving about and everything is running smoothly. We still have some of the project left to complete such as fencing and playground markings but we are almost there! An enormous thank you to our Site Manager, Mr Dickens who has managed all the works through the summer – it has been a mammoth task.

I would also like to thank our amazing team of teachers, TAs and Governors who have spent most of the summer in school sorting and preparing for this week. They have given up a lot of their own time and it shows – the classrooms look amazing!

Home time for Class 5 and 6: Just to reiterate that Class 5 and 6 will be leaving from the far end of the building. They can walk independently up to the gate to meet parents there, or alternatively they can wait in the yard to be collected, whichever you prefer. Mrs Stewart and Miss Walker will be out in the yard each day with the children supervising them leaving school/being collected. Thank you for your patience and understanding while everyone gets used to the new routines, we are monitoring the processes closely and will amend if necessary.

Values Education

The value for this half term is: **respect.**

During our Collective Worships this half term we will be thinking about what respect means and how we can give it, show it and receive it, including how we can have self-respect too. We started by thinking about one of the statements in our school Code of Conduct: "respect the school environment, others and their property". We thought about all the lovely new things we have in school and all the work that has gone into improving the building over the holidays gives us a perfect opportunity to demonstrate respect at school.

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.

New system for home learning / homework

As mentioned in the parent questionnaire analysis at the end of the summer term, we have been busy reviewing our processes for homework across the school. We have considered lots of options for improving our system and today you will receive a letter and explanation sheet setting out our new look Home Learning approach. Please do take a moment to read it as it is quite different! **Home Learning will be sent home for the first time next week on Tuesday.**

New style Curriculum Information

With this week's newsletter you will receive a new-look parent curriculum overview outlining the work your child will be doing in class this term, along with other useful information such as PE days etc. We do hope you find these useful for supporting your child's learning at home.

Name our houses

On Tuesday we sent home a letter asking for your suggestions to name our houses, ahead of us launching a house point system across the school. The children have been quite imaginative already and we are really looking forward to hearing your ideas! If you would like to submit a suggestion, please return your slip by **Friday 15th September.**

After School Clubs Y1-6

The letter for clubs has come home today. Clubs for the autumn term will **begin from 18th 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.

Diary dates 2017 - 2018

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.

Class One Coffee Morning

Friday 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 and Mrs Thake (Chair of Governors) 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.



Aa



Class 1 Parents Information Evening *With refreshments*

Parents of children in Class 1 are invited to an information evening with Miss Ingle on

Thursday 20th September at 6pm in the hall.

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 by 7.30pm at the latest 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.

Ongoing Medical Conditions

At the start of a new school year, please make sure that we are fully aware of any ongoing medical conditions that your child may have that may impact on their learning, or may need support at school.

Whilst we make every effort to ensure a comprehensive handover of information from one teacher to another, it is also useful to have a parent's perspective. Please feel free to check with your child's new teacher, or email me with written information at senco@stipps.herts.sch.uk that I can share with the class teacher.

Please ensure that any asthma inhalers and spacers are fully labelled with your child's name, and that they are in date. Please make a note of date of expiry so that you can ensure we always have in date medicine in school. It is helpful if you provide the inhaler in a see through plastic bag so it can be found quickly.

For ongoing asthma conditions that we are already aware of, please fill in a green medical form for the academic year 2017 - 2018 which gives parental consent for staff to administer medicine (available from the office).

If your child has a newly diagnosed asthma condition or your child is new to the school this year, you will need to fill in a green medical form but you will also need to complete an Individual Health Care Plan which gives us more information about your child's symptoms, triggers and needs. Email me at senco@stipps.herts.sch.uk and I can either email you a form, or arrange an appointment to meet with me to discuss, whichever is more convenient.

If your child has any other medical needs that you wish to discuss, please feel free to speak to your child's new teacher, or get in touch with me. Please note that I only work part time (2 days per week) so I will respond to your email as soon as possible but it may not always be immediately. **Mrs Nichols**

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.**

Class 5 Swimming reminder

Swimming for C5 and C6 starts on **Monday 18th September.**

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'. **As all the children have 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 too so that you don't miss anything vital.

Open Session

Monday 2nd October 3.30 – 6.30pm

Our first Open Session of the year will take place on **Monday 2nd October 2017.** 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. 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.

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.hertfordshire.gov.uk. The deadline for secondary applications is 31st October 2017.

An appeal for adult shirts

We desperately need new painting aprons in school to cover children's uniform during art and craft activities. If you have any old adult shirts that you could donate, these make ideal aprons and we would gladly take them off your hands. Thank you very much in advance.

Could you re-home a table?

Classes 5 and 6 now have new furniture so the old Class 5 tables are up for re-homing. They are in very good condition and are ideal for a child's bedroom desk, a playroom or a bench in a shed or garage. If you would like one (free) please do call in. Alternatively if you know of any organisations who would like them please do let us know.

With this week's newsletter:

- Clubs letter Y1-6
- Home Learning letter / explanation
- Class Curriculum Overviews
- Class 1 Curriculum Evening reply slip (C1 only)
- Values sheet on Respect
- Autumn term Diary Dates

R Peddie
Headteacher