

ST CHRISTOPHER'S

CHURCH OF ENGLAND VOLUNTARY CONTROLLED

PRIMARY SCHOOL



9th September 2016

Dear Parents,

I am delighted to have been asked to join the staff at St Christopher's on the next part of the journey. Along with the new Deputy, Caroline James, I am looking forward to working with the children, staff and parents. It is an exciting time in the development of the school and I am quite sure that there will be a huge amount to do. I would also like to welcome the other new staff who have joined us:

- Cover supervisors: Miss Hannah Cornish; Mrs Janice Gee; Mrs Melissa Scarfe
- Support staff: Mr Luke Etheridge; Mrs Cheryl Fayers; Mrs Sarah Horrex; and Mrs Nicola Whalley.

For the past year I have been working with the Diocese of Ely, as headteacher at St Peter's Junior School in Wisbech. Prior to that, I worked as a consultant and Ofsted inspector for eight years. The immense privilege of visiting many schools, combined with my experience of setting up a brand new school in Hampshire, means that I often think creatively to find ways of making learning enticing and highly effective. I am looking forward to working together to achieve extraordinary things during this year.

Our staff training days last week were focused on building resilience, both for the adults who work in the school, as well as for the children. One aspect we discussed was 'the power of **YET**'. Instead of saying 'I can't do maths', for example, we would encourage children to say 'I can't do this maths **YET**'. This opens the possibility of trying, which often leads to success. I hope that you will hear more about this from the children, as they become confident learners eager to tackle challenging tasks with great determination.

The previous newsletter indicated that the date for conversion to academy status has been delayed slightly, possibly owing to the large number of schools who are all converting at the same time. We understand that the school will now formally become an academy on the 1st October. There should be minimal disruption for the pupils and the improvements will continue, to ensure this is the best possible school for every child. We will be looking for ways for parents to work with us, for example in developing the environment of the school so that the school as a whole is a resource that the entire community is proud of and feels part of.

If you have any queries you would like to take up with me or a member of the senior leadership team, we will aim to ensure one of us is available on the playground each morning. However, if you feel that you would like a longer opportunity to chat to us, please do call the staff in the office who will be able to make an appointment for you.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Saunders
Headteacher



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**SPORTS
PARTNERSHIP**

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Headteacher: **Mr Andrew Saunders** | Chair of Governors: **Mr. T. Huggan**



Primary Member
2016/15



Friday 9th September NEWSLETTER

Please note: This is only the front page of the newsletter! The complete newsletter has been sent out electronically. Please contact the office if you did NOT receive a copy.

From the headteacher...

Dear parents,

What a wonderful week this has been! I have been delighted at the warm welcome I have had from the staff and pupils and have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know them. I can heartily echo the delightful words I overheard a boy saying as he walked down the corridor past my office – 'I think I'm going to like this year!'

We have already made a few changes which we hope will help parents and families to link with the school and their children's learning.

- **Friday Celebration:** ALL parents welcome; parents of children receiving a certificate will be specifically invited.
- **Breakfast Club:** 07.45-08.45 starting next week. See letter for further information.
- **Class DoJo:** This online system will collate all our rewards and also allow us to message parents. Details about how to log into your child's information will be sent out by class teachers.

It is wonderful to have the new trim trail installed; we are very grateful to all those who helped raise the funds to make this possible. A couple of parents have asked about the fact that it does not have soft matting underneath the various sections. Although I was not involved in the design or decisions, I am aware that it **does** meet all regulations. We recognise that equipment like the trim trail does represent some risks, but it is important for children to learn to play carefully and sensibly on such equipment. The one concern we have is that many children are using it after school. We will be putting up a notice indicating that the equipment is for use by the school pupils. Any parents who allow their children to play on the equipment after school do so at their own risk.

A large part of my philosophy is to involve pupils and parents in helping to make this a fantastic school. Consequently, if you have ideas or concerns, or think that something is going particularly well, please do come and talk to me. As well as the Parent Forum, I am usually available in the mornings before school and am happy to make an appointment to meet at a mutually convenient time. I look forward to working together, celebrating the successes of the children and making a positive impact on our community.

Regards

Andrew Saunders
Headteacher

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From the headteacher

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Great Question!

- What is the most important thing to do to make a good start?

Attendance!

The government have set the target for attendance at...

96%

Please remember that all children must be in their classroom by 08.45. The class with the highest attendance will have 10 minutes extra play time on a Friday afternoon; ANY class with 100% attendance for the week will have 15 minutes extra play time.

