



NEWSLETTER

Friday 11th November

From the headteacher...

Dear parents,

After many delays and lots of issues to overcome, we have finally converted to become an academy school. As of Monday 1st November, we are officially part of the Diocese of Ely Multi-Academy Trust (DEMAT).

Although this doesn't change the day-to-day running of the school, it does give us the opportunity to develop a new logo. We will be consulting with children, parents, governors and staff about what this should say about our school. Please be assured this will NOT mean parents have to replace current uniforms!

The main difference for the school will be the fact that we can be more selective about where we get our services from, in terms of support, practical services such as maintenance, insurance and resourcing. We will also get considerable support from the DEMAT. If you have any questions about what it means to be an academy, please do chat to one of the senior leaders.

Glow-in-the-Dark Party: Thank you to all the Year 5 and 6 pupils who put a great effort into planning, making and running their stalls. The feedback was that great fun was had by all. Together with the non-uniform day, we raised around £300 – WELL DONE!

PTA Hot Potatoes at Tuddenham Bonfire: The members of the PTA ran a successful stall at the annual bonfire and raised further contributions towards the PTA funds. A huge 'THANK YOU' to all who helped out, and to parents who turned up at the event.

As we head towards the darker mornings and earlier evenings, it is a sombre time of year. This morning we held our own Remembrance Day service at school, as it is important that children have opportunity to think about those who have given their lives for our futures.

Of course many families in our school continue to serve in the forces in many different ways, and this is a chance to be grateful and pray for the safety of those who keep us secure.

Regards

Andrew Saunders



Hebrews 12v1

"Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us."

In this issue:

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Coming up soon:

- **Phonics Parents' workshops:** (aimed at Year 3-6 parents)
 - 9.00am, Monday 14th November
 - 6.30pm, Wednesday 16th Nov.
- **Remembrance Service** at school: 10.30am, Friday 11th Nov.
- **Next week:** Anti-Bullying week at school.

WARNING:

Do **NOT** park in the bus-stop area in Hundred Acre Way!



There has already been one accident because the bus was not able to pull in to let passengers off. The police WILL take action and the school will support them in this. Some drivers, when challenged, have been rude. **We don't do that at St Christopher's!**

Can you help?

We have a need for the following items or services:



- **Digger:** We are planning to buy and plant some large trees, which will give the children some shaded areas on the playground next summer. However, the size of the proposed trees means we need to find someone able to bring a digger in one Saturday in November. We will also be looking for the stakes, ties, soil and water-pipes to ensure the trees get a good start in the first year. If you may be able to help, please do contact the school office.

- **Knitting:** The 'Knitting and Stitching' club will be starting in December. If there are any parents interested in also taking part, please do contact the office. We would also be grateful for any left-over balls of wool. If children would like to make a table 'runner' for the Christmas dining table, they will need a piece of material



- **Chess/Draughts sets:** Our chess club would like some extra chess or draughts sets. If you have a set at home which is not being used, we would love to put it to good use. In particular, we'd love to have some unusual sets, such as Star Wars, Dr Who or The Simpsons. If anyone has a large, garden chess set, this could also be used well!

Pupil Mobile Phones:

We would like to remind parents and pupils that we strongly discourage pupils from bringing mobile phones to school. If this is necessary, phones MUST be left with the office in the morning, and picked up when children leave in the afternoon. Children MUST NOT use phones in school to take photographs.



Remembrance

Poppy petals

A tearful sign

To remember

That dreadful time

There is a time where we have to go

At least these guys died as heroes

We wear a poppy

Resting upon our hearts

We look down upon the rest

We just want to say

Thank you dear soldiers

You are truly blessed



Written by Chloe, Caitlin, Scarlett

Attendance!

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

96

With the highest attendance of 99% were Oak and Elm classes, who get an extra 15 minutes break.

The class attendances for last week were:

		📶📶📶
Kanga	96.4%	📶
Eeyore	95.7%	📶
Oak	99.1%	📶
Elm	99.2%	📶
Beech	93.6%	📶
Rowan	97.9%	📶
Larch	92.6%	📶
Willow	95.7%	📶
Maple	97.1%	📶
Scots Pine	92.4%	📶
Juniper	88.1%	📶
Sycamore	91.4%	📶
Horse Chestnut	94.1%	📶

St Christopher's Great 8 – Principles for great learning

These principles underpin and drive everything we do at our school. We constantly strive to find ways to implement and improve them. We regularly reflect on how they are working and the impact this has on pupils' learning & development.

Share responsibility...

1. Children will share the responsibility for their learning and progress.



Understand purpose, context, direction...

2. Children will understand the purpose, context and direction of their learning and will be able to demonstrate their success.



Get on quickly...

3. Children will get on with their learning as soon as they are ready to do so and show commitment to producing a good quantity of high quality work taking account of the time available.



Focus on learning...

4. Children will be focused on what they are learning, not what they are doing, and willing to take risks and learn from mistakes.



Positive learning behaviour...

5. Children will maintain their own positive learning behaviour and will support others in developing good attitudes towards all learning.



Equality...

6. Every child will have similar and equitable opportunities to participate and display their work.



Positive language...

7. Children and adults will use positive language to explain, question or discuss ideas, able to adapt their thinking in the light of new information.



Awe & Wonder...

8. Children will have a sense of awe and wonder about how their learning fits into the world around them, taking time to celebrate and enjoy each other's successes.



FOCUS

Share responsibility...

1. Children will share the responsibility for their learning and progress.

This principle is vital because children will not always have an adult available to show them what they need to learn, or how to improve their work. In fact, when you consider ALL the things children will learn over their lifetime, very little will come from the adults around them; most learning happens because of experiences and reflecting on what went well or didn't go so well! They also learn a huge amount from other children around them. Actually, it is essential that children grapple with challenging work, learning not to give up too quickly but to try different solutions.



These are some of the key strategies we use in class to help ensure children **SHARE RESPONSIBILITY**:

Phone-a-friend

Children can choose to get help from someone else, but **MUST** give the answer themselves.

NO Hands Up!

Use alternatives such as lolly-sticks, post-its, talk partners, or I-thumbs (which shows 'I have an idea').

Drop-in Zones

A place where pupils can go in each classroom in order to get help, find resources or think clearly.

B9 (or B5, C3B4Me, etc.):

Be Brave; Be still; Brain; Bits'n'Bobs; Backtrack; Buddy; Boss

Clubs

We are delighted that there so many clubs happening across the school. There are more opportunities in the pipe-line, including a 'Knitting and Stitching club' which will begin in December.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunch	Drawing (Y1&2) • 12.35; Small hall Lego (Y1&2) • 12.35; Small hall Loom bands (Y1&2) • 12.35; Small hall Board games (Y1&2) • 12.35; Small hall Scratch & Journalist • 12.40; ICT suite	Dance (KS1 & 2) • 12.35; Small hall • Miss Peachy Sports (KS1) • 12.35; Court • Mr Reynolds	Drawing (Y3&4) • 12.40; Small hall Lego (Y3&4) • 12.40; Small hall Loom bands (Y3&4) • 12.40; Small hall Board games (Y3&4) 12.40; Small hall	Drawing (Y5&6) • 12.40; Small hall Lego (Y5&6) • 12.40; Small hall Loom bands(Y5&6) • 12.40; Small hall Board games (Y5&6) 12.40; Small hall	Dance (KS1 & 2) • 12.35; Small hall • Miss Peachy Sports (KS2) • 12.35; Court • Mr Reynolds
After school	Gospel Choir (KS1&2) • 15.15; Large hall • Mr Bullock & Mrs Warren	Gymnastics (KS1) • 15.15; Small hall • Miss Peachy Basketball (KS1&2) • 15.15; Main hall • Mr Reynolds	Art Club (KS2) • 15.15; Small hall • Miss Peachey		Gymnastics (KS2) • 15.15; Small hall • Miss Peachy Football (KS1&2) • 15.15; Field • Joe from CU

Dates for your diary



Autumn Term 2016:

Monday 14 November	9.00am : Parents' Phonics workshop and information (Year 3-6 parents)
Wednesday 16 November	18.30-19.30: Parents' Phonics workshop and information (Year 3-6 parents)
Friday 18 November	Children In Need Day; (Non-Uniform day)
Tuesday 22 November	09-09.45; 10-10.45: Open morning for 2017 Reception pupils & parents
Tuesday 29 November	15.30-17.30: Parent-Teacher consultations (booking required)
Wednesday 30 November	16.30-18.30: Parent-Teacher consultations (booking required)
Thursday 1 December	09.15: Christingle service (Parents welcome)
Tuesday 6 December	Over-65's lunch
Wednesday 7 December	School Christmas disco: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15.30-17.00: Reception and Key Stage 1 • 17.30-19.00: Key Stage 2
Wednesday 14 December	09.30: Key Stage 1 Nativity Play (booking required)
Thursday 15 December	14.00: Key Stage 1 Nativity Play (booking required)
Monday 19 December	School Christmas lunch 18.00: Family Carol-singing around the village (please note changed time)
Tuesday 20 December	14.00: Carol service for parents 15.15: End of term
21 December – 3 January	Christmas Holidays