



“
Your word is a lamp to guide
my feet and a light for my path.
”
(Psalm 119:105)

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SIAS 'Outstanding' 2012

Newsletter 1

8th September 2017

This term's core value: Respect

Dear Parents and Carers

A big welcome to all our new families and a huge welcome back to those who were already with us. The children have all settled in remarkably well and are enjoying their new classrooms. I really can't wait for you to see them, we are so lucky. I have to commend the builders who have worked so hard over the summer to ensure that the classrooms were ready and, as a result, the children's education was in no way compromised. The commitment they have shown has been second to none. Some of the staff and I left the building at 8pm on Tuesday and the builders were still going until 10pm to ensure everything was ready.

You will get a chance to have a proper look at the 'meet the teacher' evening and at the McMillan coffee morning if you can make it but in the meantime here are a few snaps...



School website

The year group pages have been updated on our website and there is a wealth of information about what your child will be learning this half term. Please have a look so that you are well prepared for when you ask your child what they have been doing at school and they reply...'nothing'! Learning Log tasks are also listed for the half term. Learning Logs do not start for Reception children until after Christmas. We also update the 'Headteacher's Blog' at the end of each week to give you reminders of what is happening the following week and anything you need to remember. Our newsletters are also available on the website.

www.haddenham-st-marys.bucks.sch.uk

WOW days - an explanation for new parents

As part of our topic based curriculum, we have 'WOW days'. These are exciting activities that introduce the new class topic. These could be an interesting visitor coming to school, a school visit or an exciting creative day within school. Check your Year Group page for this term's 'WOW days'. Sunshine and Sky Classes are having their WOW days on Monday, 11th September to introduce their new topics. Sunshine Classes have had information about this via an email. Children in Sky Classes will be having a day of fun activities to introduce their 'There's no business like show business' topic (no dressing up needed on this occasion!).

Coming in to school

As you will have hopefully gathered by now, children line up with their class in the playground when the bell rings at 8.55am. Staff will be outside from approximately 8.50am for you to pass on any quick messages. If you need to speak to a member of staff for a more lengthy matter, please contact the school office to make an appointment. Please be assured that we have an 'open door' policy and we hope that you will feel extremely welcome in school at any time but in terms of practicality and for the benefit of the children, long discussions with staff will need to be pre-arranged. If you arrive late to school please sign your child in at reception and wait for a member of staff to take your child to their class.

Regular collection of children

If your child is collected on a regular basis by a childminder, relative or friend please let us know and we will add them to our list of regular collectors. This means you do not need to let us know each time your child is collected by them. Similarly, we are happy for you to nominate an 'any time collector' for your child to allow your child to be collected on an ad hoc basis by someone other than yourself.

Family collective worship in Church

Family services are held in St Mary's church on the first Monday of every month at 9:15am. These are really lovely services based on our core values and the themes that we are learning about in collective worship within school. The first service this term is to be held on Monday, 11th September at 9:15am, everyone is welcome so please do join us if you can.

Meet the teacher evening

We will be holding a "meet the teacher" evening and open forum on Wednesday 20th September starting at 7pm. Teachers will hold two sessions in their classrooms, one at 7:00pm - 7:30pm and then a repeat of the previous session from 8:00pm-8:30pm; those of you with children in different classes can therefore attend sessions for both of their classes. The teachers will talk about the year ahead and answer any questions that you may have. From 7:30pm until 8:00pm I will talk about the year ahead for the school as a whole and answer any questions. Representatives from the Governors and PTA will also be there.

Photographs

Our school photographer, Veronica Stewart, will be in school on Thursday 21st September to take individual photographs of all the children. Please send your child in their smartest uniform on that day.

MacMillan coffee morning

We will be hosting a MacMillan Coffee Morning for all parents and carers (especially new ones) on Friday 22nd September from 9:00am to 10:30am in the hall. Please come along if you can, everyone is very friendly!

Stanley

We sponsor a child in Haiti through the charity 'Compassion'. His name is Stanley and he is ten years old. We ask each child to bring in 10p on a Tuesday. '10p Tuesday' pays for Stanley's sponsorship throughout the year. Children enjoy posting the 10p into the tin each week - please look out for the tins in the playground. We also receive regular letters from Stanley which are shared with the children. The school council also holds fundraising events for Stanley throughout the year.

PTA - calling all new recruits!!!!

We have a very active PTA. If you feel that you could offer any of your time for events or would like to join the PTA, please let us know. We are currently busy organising our fireworks display for Saturday 28th October. Please put the date in your diary, it is a lovely family event and we need lots of helpers too.

We desperately still need a chair person and if at all possible a vice chair. These can be shared roles. If you feel you would be able to take this on please let us know. We will help you with it!

If you would like to contact our PTA directly you can email them at: hsmpa1@gmail.com

Christian values and ethos group

The Christian Values and Ethos Group meet a couple of times a term. We are a group of staff, parents, governors and church representatives who work together to find ways of promoting the values of the school to children. You do not have to be a 'regular church goer' to join this group; it is all about working together as a school community. If you feel that you would like to be a part of the Christian Values Group please let us know. The next meeting is on Thursday 21st September at 1pm.

School travel plan

The school travel plan work hard to ensure that are children are safe and as environmentally friendly as possible when travelling to school. They organise many events and road safety training for our children. They usually meet once each half term. If you feel that you would like to be a part of this team, please let us know. Mrs Richardson (Deputy Head) leads the team.

As part of the school travel plan we also encourage children to walk, scooter or cycle to school. More information and a 'Go for Gold' walk to school card will be sent to all new children in the next week.

Please also ensure that children (including younger siblings) do not ride bikes or scooters in the school playground or through the Churchyard. If your child wishes to ride a bike or scooter to school, please come and get a permit from the school office.

After school clubs

After school clubs will start from next week, 11th September. Information about clubs has been sent by email separately. As we have more space in school because of the new classrooms we plan to offer a broader range of clubs from next term.

Uniform old and new

If you have any uniform that your child has grown out of please send it in to school for our nearly new uniform shop. Our approved uniform supplier is the The Print Lab (56 Edison Road, Aylesbury). <http://www.the-print-lab.co.uk/>

Pupil premium funding

Pupil Premium is a Government scheme that provides funding to schools of between £935 to £1,320 per pupil whose parent(s) receive one of the qualifying benefits. The funding is paid to school and is spent directly on the individual child. It can be used for support in school, for afterschool clubs, before and after school care, school trips and uniform so please check the letter sent with this newsletter to see if you are eligible and sign up straight away so that your child may benefit from this. Any queries, please contact the school office. All applications will be treated in confidence.

School livestock carers!

If you would like to take a turn in looking after our school guinea pigs Runner and Bean for a weekend or a school holiday this term please email to the school office and let them know any dates you cannot do. We will put together a rota next week.

We also need families to pop in to feed the chickens at the weekend. If you are able to call into school one weekend or school holiday to feed the chickens then please also email the school office and we will put you on the rota. Full instructions will be given and as an incentive you are very welcome to have any eggs that the chickens lay!

We are very much looking forward to an exciting and productive first term of the school year, please see our calendar of events attached - it's going to be a busy time but we feel like we are living in luxury at the moment with our fabulous surroundings!

Best wishes



Mrs Karen Collett
Headteacher

Haddenham St Mary's Church of England School Calendar

Buckinghamshire Term Dates 2017 - 2018		
Autumn Term 1 2017	Wednesday 6 September 2017	Friday 20 October 2017
Autumn Term 2 2017	Monday 30 October 2017	Tuesday 19 December 2017
Spring Term 1 2018	Thursday 4 January 2018	Friday 9 February 2018
Spring Term 2 2018	Monday 19 February 2018	Thursday 29 March 2018
Summer Term 1 2018	Monday 16 April 2018	Friday 25 May 2018
Summer Term 2 2018	Monday 4 June 2018	Friday 20 July 2018

Haddenham St Mary's INSET Days 2017 - 18		
Monday 4 September 2017	Tuesday 5 September 2017	Wednesday 3 January 2018
Monday 23 July 2018	Tuesday 24 July 2018	

Calendar of Events: Autumn Term 2017	
Monday 11 th September	Reception children full time school 9:15am Collective Worship in Church
Wednesday 20 th September	7:00 - 8:30pm Meet the teacher evening
Thursday 21 st September	Individual School Photographs
Friday 22 nd September	9:00 - 10:30am Macmillan coffee morning
Tuesday 17 th October	7:00pm Full Governing Body Meeting
Saturday 28 th October	PTA Fireworks Event
Friday 13 th October	Visiting Theatre Production - Beauty and the Beast
Monday 23 rd - Friday 27 th October	Half Term
Thursday 16 th November	Flu Immunisation Clinic in school