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Your word is a lamp to guide  
my feet and a light for my path.  
”  
(Psalm 119.105)

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Newsletter 1

19<sup>th</sup> September 2019

## *This term's core value: Respect*

Dear Parents and Carers

### Meet the teacher evening - responses to parent questionnaire

Thank you to all of those who attended the 'meet the teacher' evening on Tuesday. I hope you found it informative. I gave some responses to general comments that we received from the parent questionnaire that we sent out at the end of last term. Please bear in mind that these comments were in the minority but I feel that it is only fair to respond.

**Communication:** There were some requests for more information re dates etc, although some said that there are too many emails. All I can say is that we try our best to keep everyone informed. Our school website now has a new 'upcoming events' section on the home page which provides a quick reminder of what is happening each week. You can also view the whole calendar by clicking on the link which gives a more detailed picture. We provide a termly calendar at the end of the newsletter which is updated fortnightly. At Christmas we send a checklist of dates and events in addition to what children need for each activity. We have chosen not to use WhatsApp or similar apps to communicate to parents in addition to emails and website updates.

**Requesting money:** There were some comments about too many requests for top up funding. Here is a breakdown of what we asked for last year:

	Rainbows	Sunshine	Sky
Trips	Odds Farm £8.50 Living Forest £8.50	Claydon House £7.50 Oxford castle £7.00	Neasden Temple £2.00 MK museum £5.50 Shortenills £7.50 Gulliver's Land £10.00
Panto	£12.00	£12.00	£12.00
Recorders			£7.50
Parent Lunch	£2.50	£2.50	£2.50
Specialist weeks	£9.00	£9.00	£9.00



<b>Total</b>	<b>£40.50</b>	<b>£38.00</b>	<b>£56.00</b>
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It is no secret that schools are short of money and without asking for these contributions, we would be unable to provide such a rich and varied curriculum. We always try to get the best value and to keep contributions as low as we can. I am aware that we also ask for charity donations but any payment is entirely optional.

**Supervision at playtimes/lunchtimes:** We always have the correct number of staff on duty at this time but if any parents would like to volunteer to help with supervision at lunchtime this would be a great addition. The staff are always diligent with first aid and follow school procedures but please let us know straight away if you have any concerns.

If you have any other queries, concerns or suggestions please come and talk to me.

### **Cuppa and chat**

Please join us if you can in the church from 9:15am in the Church for coffee, biscuits and a chat tomorrow Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> September.

### **Cool Milk**

As we now offer milk to all children at lunchtime and we are finding that there is so much wastage with the Cool Milk Scheme we have decided to discontinue this for children in Year 1 and Year 2 from after half term. Reception children will continue to receive free milk until they are five years old and thereafter there will be the option for your child to continue to receive their snack time milk via the Cool Milk Scheme for the duration of their time in Reception. Once your child turns five you will receive notification from Cool Milk to ask if you would like your child to continue to receive milk at a subsidised price.

### **Harvest Festival**

This year we will be having a combined Harvest Festival with St Mary's church at 10:30am on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> September. Some Year 2 children will be involved in a game and the whole school will be singing a song; some children will also say prayers. So that we can gauge who will be involved, please remember to email the school office to let us know if you will be attending with your child. Please bring your non-perishable food items for the Vineyard Storehouse project in Aylesbury to school from next Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup> September.

### **Morning drop off**

If possible, please ask your children to stand in the line and then stand back in the mornings. We are finding it increasingly difficult to see the lines of children through the 'sea' of parents. Please give your children a kiss and a cuddle when the bell goes and then send them to line up.

### **Sunflowers**

The sunflowers the children planted for the competition reached their peak during the summer holidays. If you wish to see some amazing photos of them, please look at the gallery on our website. (The winner of the competition was announced in July).

### **No Nuts!**

We are a nut free school so please be careful not to send children with chocolate spread 'containing nuts), 'Nutella' snacks or similar. We simply cannot have any nut products in school as we have staff and children with nut allergies and the consequences could be fatal.

### **MacMillan coffee morning**

Don't forget our MacMillan Coffee Morning for all parents and carers (especially new ones) on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September from 9:00am to 10:30am in the hall. Please come along if you can, everyone is very welcome. Please send in some cakes or biscuits for us to share if you are able to.

### Midday supervisor recruitment

We have many vacancies for Midday Supervisors. If you would like to join our happy team please collect an application form from the school office.

### Christian values and ethos group

The first meeting of the year for this group is tomorrow (Friday 20<sup>th</sup>) at 11:00am in the staff room. Please join us if you can.

Enjoy the sunshine!

Best wishes



Mrs Karen Collett  
Headteacher

## Haddenham St Mary's Church of England School Calendar

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Buckinghamshire Term Dates 2019 - 2020		
Autumn Term 1 2019	Wednesday 4 September	Friday 25 October
Autumn Term 2 2019	Monday 4 November	Thursday 19 December
Spring Term 1 2020	Tuesday 7 January	Friday 14 February
Spring Term 2 2020	Monday 24 February	Friday 3 April
Summer Term 1 2020	Monday 20 April	Friday 22 May
Summer Term 2 2020	Monday 1 June	Tuesday 21 July

Haddenham St Mary's INSET Days 2019 - 2020		
Monday 2 September	Tuesday 3 September	Monday 6 January
Friday 22 May	Friday 3 July	

Calendar of Events: Autumn 2019	
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> September	9:15am Cuppa and a chat in St Mary's Church 11:00am Christian Values Group
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> September	9:00-10:30am Macmillan Coffee Morning, all welcome
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> September	Harvest Festival in Church
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> October	9:15am Collective Worship in Church - all welcome
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October	7:00pm Full Governing Body Meeting
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> Oct - Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> Nov	Half Term
Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup> October	5:00pm to 7:00pm Village Firework Event at HSM
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> November	9:15am Collective Worship in Church - all welcome
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December	9:15am Collective Worship in Church - all welcome