**St Nicholas CE VA Primary School Newsletter**

**September 2017**

**Vision Statement**

**At St Nicholas we nurture everyone to ‘be the best we can be ‘in a caring and inclusive Christian Environment**

Dear Parents,

**Welcome back!** I hope you all had a fabulous summer holiday. It was lovely to welcome all the children back this morning and we are looking forward to working with you to ensure another happy and successful year at St Nicholas.

We have posted term dates onto the website: www.childokeford.dorset.sch.uk -**Events Page**. Dates for the year will be uploaded shortly.

**Welcome Back Assembly**

At the beginning of every term we hold a short service at the church to welcome the children back. Rev Lydia will be leading these and the first is **Friday 8th September**. If your child is in **Y1-Y6** please drop them off at the church at **8:45**. Please stay and join us if you can.

**Sponsored Bounce** **Friday 22nd September 2017**

This is our first PTFA fundraising event of the year and always proves very popular with the children and staff! The children will shortly be coming home will a sponsor form. Please look out for this in their book bags. This form also **doubles as a consent form** so please return it to school **NO LATER** than Wednesday 20th September. The children will not be able to bounce without it!

Money raised this year, is helping to fund our new maths programme – Maths NO Problem. Thank you for your support.

**Communication**

**Newsletters** are published on our website and emailed to parents monthly, usually on a Monday. Please ensure the office has your latest email address.

**Curriculum overviews** and homework schedules and expectations can be found on your child’s class page:www.childokeford.dorset.sch.uk

**Texting** – we have a texting service so please make sure the office has your latest mobile number – thank you.

**Morning routine**. All children need to be in **school promptly at 8:45** for ‘Early Morning Work.’ This is a short session of approximately 10-15 minutes involving a short, age- appropriate task, designed to get the children thinking! Although this is only a brief session, it could make a real difference to your child’s day! Teachers will use it in a variety of ways: to reinforce key skills, revisit misconceptions from previous learning, introduce an idea, problem solving and discussion. We would appreciate children arriving **promptly**. It is very unsettling for everyone, if children arrive late, particularly for the latecomer. If your child arrives after 8:55, please use the front entrance and sign in at the office. Thank you.

**Celebration Assemblies -**Every Friday morning at **9am**. We hope as many parents, grandparents and friends of the school can join us for these. Parents of those children receiving ‘Class Cups’ or sporting certificates will be notified by text.

For those new to our school, we encourage children to share with us any awards or achievements they have accomplished out of school. We also celebrate birthdays during this assembly.

Our first celebration assembly will be on:**Friday 15thSeptember at9:00**.

**VOLUNTEERS**

If you can spare some time to support in school, we would love to hear from you. Having extra adults to hear readers, test times tables, spellings or help with displays is invaluable. For anyone interested, we are running an information session on **Tuesday 12th September at 2:40**. This initial meeting is an opportunity for you to ask questions and discuss any support or training you feel would be beneficial.

If you are interested in finding out more, please contact the office: office@childokeford.dorset.sch.uk or complete and return the slip below. If you are interested but unable to attend, please indicate this on the slip and we will contact you to arrange a convenient time. Thank you.

**After School Clubs -**After School Clubs will commence the week beginning the **11th September 2017.** Further details to follow.

**Music: lessons will commence the week** the **11th September 2017.**Further details on how to enrol your child for piano, recorder, guitar or violin lessons with our peripatetic teachers, will be sent out shortly.

**Reminders**

**Uniform** Please ensure all uniform and packed- lunch boxes are clearly named. Hair should be tied back and no nail varnish, make -up or jewellery, except stud earrings please. Thank you for your cooperation.

**Free Infant School Meals** All children in KS1 are entitled to a free school meal. You will need to order online. If you need log in details, please contact the school office.

**ATTENDANCE: YOU MAKE THE DIFFERENCE**!

Attendance is assessed by Ofsted.

Did you know that if attendance drops below a certain level the school is immediately put into Requires Improvement?

Even if everything else about the school is fantastic – teaching, learning, governance and leadership, if the attendance is poor the Ofsted inspection will be poor.

You can make the difference between the school being judged good or needing improvement.

HOW?

**By thinking really hard about your child’s attendance and decisions about your holidays.**

THE REALITY

* We all know that holiday companies charge ridiculous premiums in school holidays.
* The School is aware that families enjoy holidays together.
* But holiday taken in term time has a negative impact on children’s learning and a negative impact on your school’s Ofsted judgement.
* In line with government guidelines and recent legislation we cannot authorise holidays in term time unless there are **exceptional** circumstances.

The governing body does not want to have to go down the route of issuing penalty notices as we don’t think this is a productive or positive way of working.

**Please work with us in making the attendance at this school the best it can be. Thank you.**

Health &Safety

Keeping children safe is our top priority at St Nicholas. Please help us to keep everyone safe by:

* Parking outside the school and walking the children in, to help ease the congestion. Please do not cut across the car park but use the path provided.
* PLEASE DO NOT PARK IN THE DISABLED BAYS BETWEEN 8:30 – 9:15 and 2:45 – 3:30 unless you are entitled to.
* Morning drop off–Please drop the children off in the playground to avoid congestion in the building. This also helps staff to monitor those entering the school and helps us to keep the children safe.
* **Medical:** PLEASE LET SCHOOL KNOW IF YOUR CHILD HAS ANY MEDICAL NEEDS. If they use an inhaler, please ensure it is clearly labelled and in school at all times. Please contact the office and Mrs Hanson will provide you with the necessary forms that you will need to complete. Thank you.

**And finally** … our value this half term is ‘Belief ‘. We will be exploring the importance of self and collective belief and exploring some BIG questions with the children to get them thinking! You are always welcome to join us for Collective Worship on Monday at 2:40 or Tuesday and Wednesday at 9am.

The staff and governors remain fully committed to improving the quality of learning we offer at St Nicholas and further strengthening our partnership with our parents and the wider community. We very much look forward to working closely with you throughout the year to achieve our goals.

Best Wishes,

Tracy Maley – Heateacher

**Please TICK as appropriate and return no later than Monday 11th September. Thank you.**

**Volunteering in School**

**Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Parent / grandparent of: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

* I am interested in volunteering in school and can attend the Information Meeting on Tuesday 12th September at 2:40
* I am interested in volunteering in school but **CAN NOT**attend the Information Meeting on Tuesday 12th September at 2:4**0.**

**Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ September 2016**