

NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2018 – HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Welcome Back

A Happy New Year to children, parents and friends of St Clement's School. We hope that everyone enjoyed the Christmas break. The children have returned to school looking very smart in their uniforms and look well rested and ready to learn.

The weather over the holidays has been quite cold and stormy. This seems set to continue during the first part of this term. Could you please ensure that your child has an outdoor coat with them every day so that they can enjoy break and lunch times, even if it is cold and windy. Please take extra care over the next few days as the stormy conditions are making travel difficult. The priority is for everyone to arrive safely, so please take your time if roads are closed or blocked.

During the first few days back at school we will be reminding the children about our Golden Rules and would appreciate your support in reinforcing these at home. Our Golden Rules are as follows:

- Be gentle, kind and helpful
- Work hard
- Be honest and truthful
- Listen to people
- Look after property

Classes will also be focussed on a Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship theme, 'Going for Goals'. This will involve children thinking, at an age appropriate level, about setting targets for themselves. This will work in conjunction with our discussions around New Year's resolutions. Teacher's will be encouraging our children to aim high and challenge themselves, particularly in the coming weeks. Pupils who have demonstrated this skill will be invited to my first Tea Party of the year on Friday 19th January where a special guest will be in attendance.

School Development Plan

I am currently completing our School Development Plan for this calendar year, 2018. Amongst other planned improvements, the school will have three main priorities for the coming year:

1. *To continue to develop the teaching and learning of Mathematics.*

This will enable the school to build on the successful training received last year which has already had a positive impact on pupils, particularly with their reasoning and problem solving skills. There will also be an opportunity to share with parents the principles behind the 'mastery' approach that we are currently using to teach the children.

2. *To construct and begin to implement a three year plan to improve learning opportunities in the school's outdoor environment.*

Making improvements to the school's outdoor environment will extend the variety of learning activities on offer, develop important physical skills and improve the quality of existing learning opportunities. As this outdoor plan is constructed it is my intention to present these to the PTA so that we can begin the necessary fundraising. I believe having a specific project will help to focus and boost fundraising. It will also provide something tangible that parents can see being improved and developed over time, as well as the difference that it is making to the children.

3. *To review the planning and monitoring of the Jersey Curriculum across year groups.*

This review will focus on the planning of all aspects of the Jersey Curriculum across the Key Stages. It will also ensure that the necessary internal monitoring procedures are in place to make certain that the curriculum is being taught as planned.

If you have any further questions regarding any of our school priorities, please do not hesitate to contact me at school in the first instance.

Parentmail/InTouch

Over the coming week the school will be migrating its email communication from Parentmail to a piece of software called InTouch. This new system works in conjunction with our new school management system and so should operate more efficiently. There may be a slight gap of a few days between the two systems whilst the IT technicians ensure that all is set up correctly. Please be patient over the coming days – there may even be a few paper copies of letters during this transition period!

Year 5/6 Production

This term is a very busy one, culminating in the performances of our Year 5/6 production which this year is titled, 'Pirates of the Curry Bean'. Auditions were completed just before the Christmas holidays and, after a great deal of deliberation, Mrs Dodds and Mrs Walker have finally decided on the casting of parts. The children will soon begin practising on a Wednesday after school scene by scene for their BIG production. The afternoon dress rehearsal will take place at 1.15pm on Monday 26th March with the evening performances on Tuesday 27th March and Wednesday 28th March beginning at 7.00pm. Further information about tickets will be sent out after half term.

Sporting Events

This is also a busy sporting time of the year with the continuation of the football and netball fixtures, the Spring Cross Country event (Weds 21st February) and the Swimathon (Friday 16th March). Good luck to all those children representing our school in these events. Aim high, challenge yourself and enjoy the events!

Attendance

I recently had a review meeting with our Education Welfare Officer around attendance and punctuality. Our school attendance for the last academic year was excellent – an average of 97.5%. This was above the average for the Island as a whole (96.5%). In order to streamline procedures for requesting term time leave, forms will no longer be kept and distributed through the school office. Short appointments will need to be made with either Mr Heaven or Mrs Hickling in order to obtain a form. The creation of a new online school calendar last term means that ten minute appointments can easily be made through Mrs Dixon in the school office. During these meetings parents will be informed whether the leave will be authorised or unauthorised and the possible consequences of the latter. This should speed the process up and make it more efficient.

Healthy Snacks and Lunches

St Clement's School continues to promote healthy lifestyles and we are very pleased with the healthy snacks and lunch boxes which the children bring to school. Thank you for your support in this important area. Remember, no crisps, chocolate bars or fizzy/sugary drinks in our school lunch boxes please.

Did you know?

Fruit Shoots contain **5** teaspoons of sugar.

A Capri Sun contains **6** teaspoons of sugar.

A Coca-Cola contains **9** teaspoons of sugar.

PTA 100 Club

Our 100 Club was very successful last year with lots of parents and grandparents winning spot prizes at the end for the month. A big thankyou to Mrs Allcock for organising this event and for reminding me to do the draw at the end of each month in assembly!

Mrs Allcock has kindly agreed to organise this year's 100 club. Lucky numbers will go on sale as soon as we are back at school. So if you would like to reserve a special number for each of the monthly draws, please see Mrs Allcock in the foyer after school or Mrs Dixon in the School Office. A number can be reserved for all of the twelve draws for just £24 ! The prize money on offer will be : 1st prize £40, 2nd prize £30 and 3rd prize £20 each month (based on 60 members).

The remaining money will go to the school to help fund equipment, resources and opportunities for pupils. Each monthly draw will be made at the end of the month to determine prize winners. So, buy your ticket quickly to reserve your own personal lucky number (although I have my not-so-lucky number 11 already !)

Christmas Cards and Gifts

Finally, on behalf of all of the staff, can I thank you for your very kind gifts and cards at the end of last term. My chocolates and jelly babies have disappeared and are partially responsible for my new set of 'healthy' New Year's Resolutions!

Dates For Your Diary

Spring Term:

- Tuesday 9th January 6.45 PTA Committee meeting
- Monday 5th – Friday 9th February Online Safety Week
- Thursday 8th February Year 3 Egyptians Assembly at 2.25pm
- Thursday 8th February Key Stage 2 Disco 4.30 – 6pm
- Weeks of 5th and 12th March Fortnight of extended Parent/Teacher discussions
- Thursday 8th March Year 2 Mothers' Day Assembly at 2.25pm
- Friday 9th March PTA Family Quiz Night
- Thursday 15th March Year 1 Animals Assembly at 2.25pm
- Thursday 22nd March Year 5 Class Assembly at 2.25pm
- Monday 26th March Afternoon Dress Rehearsal – 'Pirates of the Curry Bean' at 1.15pm
- Tuesday 27th March and Wednesday 28th March - 'Pirates of the Curry Bean' at 7.00pm
- Thursday 28th March – Last day of the Spring Term

Summer Term:

- Monday 16th April Summer Term Begins
- Monday 7th May Bank Holiday
- Tuesday 8th May School INSET Training Day
- Wednesday 9th May Liberation Day Holiday
- Wednesday 19th July 9am Year 6 Leavers' Assembly

R Heaven