Headteacher's Blog September 2018

A really warm welcome to all of our new pupils and their families!

Everyone has made an excellent start to the new school year. The pupils' outstanding behaviour and knowledge was repeatedly commented on by the many visitors we had in school last Friday for 'The Bishops' Big Bash'. We welcomed Bishop Mark from Jarrow and Bishop Meltha from Botswana.





Bishop Mark explained why and when he wore certain clothing. He blessed our Hall (and us) with Holy water.

Organisation

The organisation for the autumn term is as follows:

Splash: Mrs Swinbank/Mrs Rutter/Miss Baillie- Thu, Fri

Space Base: Mrs Williams/ Mrs Swordy

Earth Works: Mrs Stapleton- Mon, Tue/Mrs Dodds- Wed, Thu, Fri/Mrs Lester

Time Zone: Miss Baines/Miss Foster/Mrs Lakey/Miss Dodds (also expanding into the Hall for some sessions!)

Miss Emma Pringle decided, on the last day of the summer term, that she would not be returning to work following her maternity leave. If anyone would like to contribute to a leaving gift, please send it in to the Office. We thank her for her years of service and wish her well in the future.

We have welcomed Miss Dodds into Time Zone as a temporary TA replacement for Miss Pringle, as well as Miss Baillie (Level 4 NVQ student placement) every Thursday and Friday in Splash. They have both settled quickly and we are delighted to have them.

Timings

Just a reminder, that pupils should not arrive before 8.30am, unless a special, emergency arrangement has been agreed. Ideally, after 8.40am is best for staff, so they can properly prepare for the day's lessons. School transport pupils usually start arriving from this time.

If your child is not collected at the end of the day before 3.15pm, they will be charged as per the after-school provision.

PTA

Thanks to our PTA for agreeing to fund £500 worth of additional maths equipment to be used throughout school. This will be purchased immediately.

Buildings

I am delighted that our new acoustic wall panels are eventually in place in the Hall and working well.

We have finally had the electrical supply upgraded, so I am hoping we have fewer current drop-outs that affect our heating – fingers crossed!

After-School Club

It is exciting that we are now able to offer increased after-school provision. Thank you to both the paid and voluntary staff for supporting this. It is great to see such an excellent uptake for the after-school sports too.

Elections

We will be holding pupil elections for Deputy and House Captains this week. All pupils are assigned to the Blue, Green or Red House and can vote for Year 5 pupils from their own house to be a 'Deputy' and Year 6 pupils to be a 'House Captain'. Pupils who either are not elected, or choose not to 'stand' can be chosen to be the Senior Monitor of a senior School Council Member.

Christmas Events

Due to the huge success of the Summer Fair, we are delighted that the PTA will continue with this rather than the Christmas one.

In order to help maximise curriculum time for our Year 6 pupils, prior to their Sats tests, I am proposing that the KS2 main performance is during the summer term, following the assessments. We like to put on quality performances, but this does take quite a lot of rehearsal time, especially when we have used an external venue.

This year, Early Years and KS1 will perform a Nativity play, with support from KS2 singing carols. Further details will follow. KS2 will have a dramatic/musical production in the summer.

Kind regards, Diane Lakey