



Newsletter – Friday 29th September 2017

ADVANCED NOTICE: Change of dates – In order to access the very best training for our staff to improve our provision for your children, we will be changing two of our published term time dates. **School will now close for children for Christmas at 2:15pm on Tuesday 19th December** (a day earlier than originally advertised). As we have already booked a speaker for our INSET day on Tuesday January 2nd, in order to make up this extra day, we will return to school a day earlier after our Easter holiday (**Monday 16th April 2018**). Therefore, children will not miss any days from school over the course of the school year. I am currently updating the Key Dates document to reflect these changes and will remind you nearer the time.



Nursery and Reception – It is great to see and hear about how our Nursery and Reception children have settled into life at our school. The children have been interacting well with each other, making new friends, learning the new routines and enjoying a variety of learning experiences. We would also like to thank all parents/carers for your support with our home visits and by filling in the ages and stages questionnaire.

HEARTSMART – Our children were very lucky last week when we they were visited by Dave and his robot, Boris, as we launched our new PSHE resource, HEARTSMART. This resource helps build resilience, emotional intelligence and active empathy in the hearts of children. It is a creative way of enabling children to adopt a growth mindset whilst maintaining a healthy emotional epicentre. It works on the idea that meaning comes from relationships and every child is worthy of relational connection. HEARTSMART is therefore about loving and accepting ourselves as well as loving and responding well to others. The children enjoyed meeting Dave and Boris and I am sure they will enjoy their HEARTSMART activities which will provide a fun, interactive and dynamic way for children to explore what makes them unique.



Target booklets – If your child is in Y1 –Y6 then you will have received your copy of their Autumn Term target booklet last Friday. Nursery and Reception children will be bringing theirs home today. End of year targets have been set for your child in different subjects/areas. Teachers have then selected key objectives for the term that will support your child to achieve these targets. It is really important that you work with your child to support them so that they achieve or exceed their end of year targets. **Reading at home with your child (as least 3 times a week) and ensuring they complete and return any other home learning activities that are set will support your child to meet these targets.**

Residential trips – We recently held a meeting for the parents/carers of children in Y6 as, we will again be taking our oldest children to spend some time in our capital city next June. The trip has been planned to compliment the work the children will be undertaking in English and will be a great experience for them as they near the end of their time at our school. Letters have recently been sent out to our Y5 children informing them of the planned outdoor and adventurous residential trip to Hinning House in the Lake District next February. There will be a meeting for you about this trip once we have confirmed which children will be attending.



Harvest Festival – Last Sunday, our Ethos Council started our Harvest celebrations by taking part in the 10:15am church service at St. George's Church. Thank you to everyone who came along to support this – it was a great see so many of you! This afternoon, Rector Martin and Mrs Jeffries led our service in school. Again, it was great to see so many of you in school supporting our events. Many thanks to everyone who donated gifts as part of our Harvest celebrations. Next week we will start to combine gifts into Harvest hampers and distribute them to the nominated people within the local community.

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PTFA meeting – To plan our events for 2017/18, our annual PTFA meeting will take place on **Wednesday 4th October, 3:30pm in the school library** (any children can wait in the ICT suite). Our volunteers annually organise the Christmas Markets, Bingo Nights, Summer Fayre events and we are always on the look out for new people to come up with new ideas so that we can continue to fund the annual trip to the Pantomime at Christmas and other events throughout the year. I hope to see many new faces at our meeting.

Book Fair – From 3:20pm on Thursday 5th October, you will have the opportunity to purchase books as we will have the large metal book cases from Scholastic available in the school library. See the timetable below for the days/times books will be on sale:



Thursday 5th October – 3:20pm – 4:00pm
Friday 6th October – 8:30am – 8:55am and 3:20pm – 4:00pm
Monday 9th October – 8:30am – 8:55am and 3:20pm – 4:00pm
Tuesday 10th October – 8:30am – 8:55am and 3:20pm – 4:00pm



Please feel free to come into school via the library door that opens onto the playground on any of these days, at the times stated. Your support with this will not only help your child with their love of reading, but will also help us at school as we will receive books from Scholastic based on how many are bought.

Open afternoon – This year’s first open afternoon with headteacher forum will be on **Tuesday 10th October** (1:30pm start) and will be for **Nursery, Reception and KS1 parents/carers only**. If your child is in these classes then you are invited into school to spend the first part of the afternoon in your child’s class. For the second part of the afternoon you are welcomed into the school hall to enjoy some refreshments and there is the opportunity to ask me questions about school life. It’s quite an informal afternoon and provides you with the opportunity to gain an insight into life at our school.



Parents’ evening – You are invited to come into school to discuss your child/ren’s progress with their class teacher on **Tuesday 31st October 3:30pm – 6:30pm OR Wednesday 1st November 3:30pm – 6:30pm**. In order that we can accommodate everyone, you will be asked to select a time slot most convenient to yourselves. We will then collate the requests taking care to ensure that those with more than one child have appointments that don’t clash. Your confirmed times will then be sent out to you. Please ensure that you arrive at the school’s main entrance 5 minutes before your allocated time and take a seat in the area provided. The meeting with your child’s teacher will take place in the school hall with a strict time limit of 10 minutes. I will be available in the school hall on both days should you need to speak to me – no appointment will be necessary for this. Appointment letters are being sent out next Friday and are due to be returned to your child’s teacher by Friday 13th October, with confirmed times being sent home before half term, on Wednesday 18th October.

Secondary School applications – For the parents/carers of children in Year 6, do not forget to send in your application for Secondary Schools by the closing date of **Tuesday 31st October**. The children have recently visited our local high school for a taster session and there have been lots of open evenings for you to attend. You will be notified in March next year of the name of the Secondary School that your child will be going to.



Monthly attendance update – Each week we have a class attendance award. However, as our newsletter is produced monthly we thought that a monthly award could be a positive way of informing you of the progress we are making with regards to whole school and class attendance:

Class	*%	Class	*%	Class	*%	Class	*%
YR:EB	97.11%	Y1CS	94.76%	Y3JW	97.22%	Y5NC	94.90%
YR:NT	95.53%	Y1/2EG	97.41%	Y3/4NL	98.36%	Y5/6AJM	97.29%
		Y2OB	95.43%	Y4HJ	95.47%	Y6JY	97.66%

*%’s are up to and including Friday 22nd September.

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Ofsted Inspection – You will be aware that on Wednesday 20th September our school was visited by an inspector who spent one day in our school, observing lessons, looking in books and speaking to children, staff and governors. We will receive the final version of the report shortly and I will ensure that you receive a paper copy (sent home with your child) as well an electronic version. Your children were all fantastic during the day (they are all the time, so that was no different than usual!). Many thanks to everyone who submitted an online questionnaire via the Parent View link – your contributions supported the positive view the inspector gained of our school during her visit.

Mrs Bonner – You will also be aware by now of the unexpected death of our much loved teaching assistant, Mrs Bonner. Many thanks to you all for the messages that we have received. Our school has already sent some flowers to the family on behalf of our whole school community. We have also set up a memory book in school which children and staff are writing in. Both staff and children have been very supportive of each other at this sad time which demonstrates what a strong community we are together. I will communicate any funeral details to you as soon as we have them.



Adult football match – Friday 22nd September saw a team of staff from the ATSA schools (Atherton and Tyldesley) take on a team of teachers from Leigh, Lowton and Golborne in a football match at Atherton Collieries. Staff from St. George's Central were joined by staff from Atherton Community School, Atherton St. George's, Garrett Hall, St. John's, St. Michael's, St. Richard's and St. Philip's. The final score was 6-2 to the ATSA team.

'Mini Whistlers' football referees course – 19 children from St. George's Central were joined by 110 pupils from other local schools to participate in the event which not only focused on the laws of the game of football, but also on respect. Feedback from all schools involved was very positive and all our children enjoyed being referees while learning valuable leadership skills.



Before the next newsletter, children from St. George's Central will be taking part in:

- **Boxing taster session** **VX taster session and festival** **KS2 Swimming gala**
- **Y5/6 Hockey festival** **KS2 Cross Country**

See more about all these ATSA stories, on the ATSA Facebook page.



Parent/carer questionnaires – Many thanks for all the questionnaires that were returned to me in school before the summer break. I have now had the chance to read through all of them and your child will come home tonight with a copy of the responses received and the school's response to your comments. Should you wish to discuss any of these issues further then please do not hesitate to contact me in school.

The next newsletter will be sent out on Friday 20th October. Paper copies of the newsletter will be made available in the letter holders in the school entrance area for you to pick up should you wish. Have a great month.

Mr M Grogan - Headteacher

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