

**September 2016**

Dear Parents

We are truly blessed to start the term with the children returned safely and with a full complement of committed and passionate teachers, teaching assistants and support staff. In partnership with parents we look forward to a happy and successful academic year.

**DIARY OF EVENTS – AUTUMN 2016**

<b>SEPTEMBER 2016</b>	
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup>	Bexley Secondary School Admissions Application opens today
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Education Sunday Mass in church
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Student Voice Elections this week Start collecting for Harvest
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup>	CRIBS Assembly – Respect – Junior children
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Year 4 Trip to Crofton Roman Villa CRIBS Assembly – Respect – Infant children
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Elections for Pupil Voice
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup>	School Nurse visiting for Year R and 6 height and weight Termly Overviews sent out to parents this week – Autumn Term
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup>	9.15 am – Harvest Assembly – Salvation Army – Junior children only 9.35 am – Harvest Assembly – Salvation Army – Infant children only
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup>	SWAC Audit Day – collect material 9.15 am – Dustbin Assembly Selection Tests am or pm
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Year 5 Trip – Royal Observatory 7.00 pm – PTA Meeting
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup>	2.45 pm – Meet the Teacher – Year 2
Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup>	3.25 pm – Meet the Teacher – Year 4
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup>	9.00 am – Head's Coffee Morning – supporting Macmillan Cancer Support E-Safety Day – children, staff and parents to receive safety training 2.45 pm – Meet the Teacher – Year 1
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup>	2.45 pm – Meet the Teacher - Year 6
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup>	9.15 am – Year 1 and Year 6 Class Mass in Church – parents invited 2.45 pm – Meet the Teacher – Year 3
<b>OCTOBER 2016</b>	
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Black History Month 2.45 pm – Meet the Teacher – Year 5 7.00 pm – School Journey Meeting – Mrs Sinclair, Mrs Truss, Mrs Brady
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup>	Black History Guest Speaker to speak to children
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup>	8.30 am – Rosary before school in Prayer Room – parents and children invited
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup>	9.15 am – Year 2 and 5 Class Mass in Church – parents invited
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup>	2.15 pm – Parent Induction Meeting for parent helpers



Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup>	8.30 am – Rosary before school in Prayer Room – parents and children invited
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Year 2 trip to Tower of London Year 3 trip to Natural History Museum 9.15 am – Year 4 Class Assembly – parents invited
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup>	8.30 am – Rosary before school in Prayer Room – parents and children invited Year 6 School Journey
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 School Journey 9.15 am – Year 3 Class Assembly – parents invited
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Year 6 School Journey
<b>HALF TERM</b> <b>Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October – Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2016</b>	
Monday 31 <sup>st</sup>	Closing date for secondary school applications

<b>NOVEMBER 2016</b>	
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup>	9.15 am – Holy Day of Obligation Mass – Feast of All Saints in church – parents invited
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Open Morning for prospective parents 9.15 am presentation followed by a guided tour
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup>	9.15 am - Year 5 Class Assembly – parents invited
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am – 2 minutes silence for Remembrance Day
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Anti-Bullying Week – The Power of One - drama
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup>	9.15 am – Year 6 Class Assembly – parents invited
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup>	Children wear own clothes – bring a bottle for St Mary of the Crays Christmas Bazaar
Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup>	St Mary of the Crays Christmas Bazaar
Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup>	Club clothes – St Andrew

<b>DECEMBER 2016</b>	
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	9.15 am – Year 3 and Year 4 Class Mass in church – parents invited
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup>	3.30 pm – 6.30 pm - Open Evening – appointments to be sent nearer the time
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup>	3.30 pm – 6.30 pm - Open Evening – appointments to be sent nearer the time
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup>	2.30 pm – Infant Nativity – Years R, 1 and 2 – parent invited – ticket only event – look out for information nearer the time
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup>	CRIBS Assembly/Play – children only
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am - Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 Christmas Carol Service – parents invited
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Last day of term

<b>Christmas Holidays</b> <b>Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2016 – Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2017</b> <b>(children return on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2017)</b>	
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**Details of all our regular school clubs are detailed below**

<b>Day</b>	<b>Club</b>	<b>Dates and Times</b>
Mondays	Pro Futures Football Club Years 3, 4 and 5	3.15 – 4.30 pm 12 <sup>th</sup> September – 12 <sup>th</sup> December
	Orchestra	3.15 – 4.15 pm 19 <sup>th</sup> September – 12 <sup>th</sup> December
Thursdays	Pro Futures Football Club Years 1 and 2	3.15 – 4.30 pm 15 <sup>th</sup> September – 15 <sup>th</sup> December
	Maths Whizz	3.15 – 4.15 pm 22 <sup>nd</sup> September – 15 <sup>th</sup> December
	Choir	12.45 pm – 1.15 pm 15 <sup>th</sup> September – end of term
Fridays	Gardening Club	12.15 – 1.15 pm every Friday (weather permitting)
	Pro Futures Football Club Years 6	3.15 – 4.20 pm 16 <sup>th</sup> September – 16 <sup>th</sup> December
	Netball Club Years 5 and 6	3.15 – 4.15 pm 16 <sup>th</sup> September – 16 <sup>th</sup> December

Smiley Ark Breakfast Club – 7.30 am – 8.45 am – Monday - Friday  
 After School Club – 3.15 pm – 6.00 pm – Monday - Friday

For further details please contact Susan Ikpefuran on 07956 263531 or e-mail [kids@smileyark.com](mailto:kids@smileyark.com)



# NEWSLETTER



## **Keeping Children Safe in Education**

Child Protection and Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. The school policy is on the school website and the contact telephone number for Social Care is displayed on the Parent Board. Any safeguarding concerns should be brought to the attention of Mrs Sinclair as 'Designated Teacher' or in her absence, Mrs Truss or Mrs Partridge.

## **Macmillan Coffee Morning – Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> September – 9.00 am in the School Hall**

Come and join other parents and staff for coffee and cake, as part of Macmillan's 'World's Biggest Coffee Morning'. All donations of cake appreciated, fake or bake! All money raised will go to Macmillan to support someone affected by cancer.



## **End of School Collection – updated list of authorised persons**

Please find attached the 'End of Day Collection Arrangements' form. Please complete and return this by Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2016 even if there are no changes.

If for an extraordinary reason someone else, other than the authorised person(s) are to pick up your child(ren) please let the teacher know via the 'Contact Book' or in an emergency the School Office (before 3.00 pm). Without permission, teachers will not let your child(ren) leave and we will need to contact you.

## **Infant Dismissal**

Infant parents are asked to stand back, so children and teachers have a clear view of adults waiting. Once you have collected your child(ren) please make your way behind other adults to exit the playground, so the view remains clear for other parents. Please don't stand in the walkway.

Parents are asked to leave the playground promptly and to supervise their children at all times. Playing and running around are discouraged as this can cause upset and distraction to other families.

If you are late picking up your child(ren) they will be taken up to the School Office.



## **Absences/Lates**

Please ring the office (leave a message – Option 1 on the answerphone before 8.30 am) to give details of why your child is not in school. If the school does not hear from you we will consider this a safeguarding matter and contact you.

The gate closes at 8.55 am and children are officially late once the registers have been taken. For any lateness after 9.15 am the children will be marked absent for that session. Being late is unsettling for your child and impacts on their learning and self-esteem. It really is the responsibility of the parents to ensure that children are on time.



## Pupil Post

The vast majority of communication between school and home takes place via pupil post. Parents need to be proactive in checking book bags on a daily basis.

Please be mindful that all reply slips and payments for trips etc, should be put in an envelope correctly labelled and returned via pupil post i.e. in book bags. Please make your child(ren) aware that there is an envelope to hand in.

## School Fund

A letter has already been sent home requesting a contribution towards school fund of £10 per family. This fund is used for additional treats. This is much less than many other local schools! Please contribute.



## School Lunches

Menus are available on the school website. Parents who choose packed lunches are reminded that the school operates a no nut policy to safeguard children with allergies.

## Homework – Holiday Diary

Well done to all the children who have already brought in their summer holiday project. If your work is still at home, bring it in by the end of next week as we would love to see what you have been up to. Certificates will be awarded at Praise Assembly.



## Pupil Voice

At the beginning of every year, opportunities exist for children to be elected to a number of student committees:



- **School Council – Year 2 Upwards**

This role is to contribute to school improvement with ideas and to carry out assignments. The Council is often asked for an opinion on school matters and will meet regularly with the Mrs Vidler our Year 5 teacher.

- **The Eco Committee – Year 2 Upwards**

This group will work with Mrs Lockhart on Green Environment issues. The school's Eco awareness is thriving right now having recently achieved a Green Flag. The Committee is made up of children from Year 2 upwards who make sure that our actions have a positive impact on our school environment and the world around us.

- **The Junior Road Safety Officers – Year 2 Upwards**

This group work with Mrs Lockhart on the School Travel Plan, organising Walk to School initiatives and good road safety practice.

- **Playground Buddies**

Playground Buddies work on the infant playground supporting the lunchtime supervisors with infant play.

## Uniform

The children look very smart on their return to school. Thank you! On Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September the staff will be checking all items of uniform are labelled. Please note that hair accessories should be kept simple and match school uniform colours. Please avoid fashion statements, hair dye and inappropriate hair styles.



If you are going to purchase a new coat for the colder months, please ensure it is suitable for school with no logos.

Don't forget PE kits. The teaching timetable starts very promptly and many children need PE kits straight away. Plain dark tracksuits are advisable for all age groups. Mrs May, our Sports Premium Teacher has asked that all children in Years 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 have trainers for games lessons.

### Meet the Teacher Meetings

These meetings provide an opportunity to put a face to the name of your child's class teacher. The half hour meeting will give an overview of the curriculum covered over the year, discuss homework expectations and class routines.



- Year 1 - Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2016 at 2.45 pm
- Year 2 - Monday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2016 at 2.45 pm
- Year 3 - Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016 at 2.45 pm
- Year 4 - Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2016 at 2.45 pm
- Year 5 - Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2016 at 2.45 pm
- Year 6 - Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2016 at 2.45 pm

Individual Open Evenings are later in the Autumn Term. If you have any queries don't forget to use the Contact Books.



### Parent Helpers

The school would greatly appreciate parent help, especially with hearing children read. If you have a few hours a week spare please consider volunteering your time. **Please write**, care of the school office, expressing your interest, giving an indication of when you would be available, requests to be sent in by Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> September. Parents do not usually support their own child's class. Parent support is also needed for occasional class trips, please write and let us know if you are able to volunteer. All parent helpers need a DBS check which requires proof of identity and a police check. The school will pay for this check to be carried out.

### Secondary Transfer 2016/2017 (Year 6 children)

In July, the 'Admission to Secondary Schools in Bexley 2017' was distributed detailing admission criteria and dates/times of open school sessions. If you wish to visit a secondary school during the school day, please put a note in your child's contact book and let the school office know.



Parents are reminded that the closing date for secondary applications is the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2016 and it is important you don't miss the deadline. To apply online go to [www.bexley.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.bexley.gov.uk/admissions) and follow the links.



### Year 3 First Holy Communion

If you wish your child to make their First Holy Communion, parents must contact Fr Ignatius at St Mary of the Crays. Please note that the lessons have already started so you must take action promptly.





### **Parent and Teachers Association (PTA)**

The PTA will be continuing their great work again this year organising fund raising and social events. At the end of last term a new stage lighting system was fitted to the hall and it made a wonderful play even better. I would also like to take the opportunity to thank all the parents who helped sell ice lollies; a profit of £294 was made.

### **Midday Supervisor Post – Vacancy**

If you are able to work from 12.10 pm – 1.15 pm everyday perhaps you would consider applying for a Midday Supervisor post. The role entails looking after the children on the playground and in the dining hall at lunchtimes. As a member of staff you would need to have a DBS check carried out. The pay is £9.53 per hour. Please contact the school office for an application form.



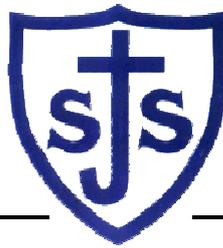
### **Curriculum Overviews**

The teachers will shortly send out these plans in order for you to support your children's learning. Do take the time to talk to your children about their projects as it reinforces the work they have done in school time.

Yours sincerely

Mrs J Sinclair  
Head Teacher





**END OF DAY COLLECTION ARRANGEMENTS**

Child's Name: ..... Year : .....

The following people are authorised to collect my child at the end of the day (please tick appropriate boxes)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Relationship to pupil	Please give name
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mother	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Father	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Child Minder/Carer	
<input type="checkbox"/>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Grandparents	
<input type="checkbox"/>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	
<input type="checkbox"/>		

Any other messages:

Signed: ..... Date: .....

If you make an alternative arrangement, please make sure that you put a note in your child's Contact Book, or if it is a last minute arrangement, please contact the school office before 3.00 pm. We will not allow a child to go home with anyone other than the people named above, without your permission.

