

## NEWSLETTER 1-September 2018

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the start of a new school year☺. Thank you once again for all the kind gifts and cards that I received at the end of the summer term. ☺ I may not be around too much in the first few weeks, due to surgery on my knee at the beginning of the holidays, but you are still able to speak to Mr Dickson regarding any issues, if they arise. I will be back to full working capacity as soon as possible.

I, with my staff, am very much looking forward to continuing leading and sustaining the good work that we offer at Orsett CE Primary (OUR) School as we continue move forward, working with The Vine Trust Academy and our Hub schools: St Margarets and Bulphan.

Your children will continue to be at the heart of all that we wish to achieve! Alongside yourselves, we can work together to help each and every one of the children to become confident learners in order to support them in developing wider life skills, in preparation for their future. ☺

On behalf of us all at Orsett I would like to welcome: All the children and the new families, who have joined us this term. I would also like to welcome Mrs Britchford as a Teaching Assistant. I hope that, for everyone who has joined us this term, their time with us will be happy, productive and successful.

### Diary Dates

Key events and diary dates for the year are attached with the newsletter. Therefore, as much as possible, you will have advance notice of the majority of events taking place at the school to help you plan your own diaries. However, there is always that possibility dates may need to be changed due to unforeseen circumstances, if this is the case you will be informed as soon as possible.

There will, no-doubt, still be additional events and/or activities taking place during the year and we will keep you informed of these as they are decided.

For our new families any Newsletter that I send out will be on bright yellow paper so hopefully it will show up at the bottom of your child's bag.☺ The newsletters will also be posted on the website, as are other letters.

### Uniform

It was lovely to see all our children arriving at school looking so smart at the beginning of the year, So Mr Dickson tells me! ☺). Thank you for your support ensuring that the uniform policy is complied with as it does make such a difference and we are proud to show that our children are a part of Orsett.

Our House colour PE tops have worked well, please ensure that you purchase a coloured T-shirt for PE lessons. Please remember that NO jewellery can be worn for PE, and if trainers are worn they MUST be changed into for the lesson and be black and non-marking.

Remember, that our uniform can be purchased from either Sue's Uniform shop, or Little Sprogs.

### School Trips

We will continue to ask for voluntary contributions towards school trips or activities arranged with outside agencies. We will give you as much notice as possible for these additional opportunities that we offer to the children. However, if there are not enough contributions towards these activities we may have to cancel them at short notice. This is not taken lightly, as it is the children who miss out, but, unfortunately the school cannot afford to cover the costs of the non-payments.

If you do have **any** problems with making payments **please do come and speak to me confidentially**, so that we can see if we can come to some arrangement. I would hate for any child to miss out due to the lack of trying to help out.

### School Dinners

We have several children in school with various **food allergies (including nut)**, therefore we would appreciate it if you consider what you are putting in your child's lunch box and remind them that they are NOT to share their food. The staff have all had up-to-date training regarding using an epi-pen, and a care plans are in place, but it would be good if everyone can be vigilant. Thank you.

### Cashless

Everything now gets paid on line. New families, you will be set up with information and passwords by the beginning of next week. Any arrears are restricted to £15. This is so that you do not create arrears that become out of control. Please make sure that you pay on line ASAP as the "manpower" of chasing people up for money takes away valuable time in the office.

### Clubs

Clubs run by staff will restart the week beginning **September 17<sup>th</sup> and end on Friday, December 7<sup>th</sup>**. You will shortly receive a Club Letter outlining the clubs on offer this term. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all my staff who give up their free time to run these clubs for our children. We will continue to offer a number of clubs which are very popular with our children. This does sometimes mean that we cannot always accommodate all those who want to do a particular club so it is important that, if your child is given a place in a club, they attend it as otherwise another child will lose out.

I would also like to remind you that clubs are **not** offered to **class R** for the first term, as we feel they need the time to settle into school and a regular routine first.

### An early request

I have a contact who goes to Ethiopia annually to help build schools and homes. He takes second hand/unwanted football shirts for the children (which of course goes down extremely well). If anyone has any unwanted football shirts and would like to gift them to a less fortunate child or adult in Ethiopia please hand them into the office and I will pass them on to be delivered to Ethiopia. Thank you in advance. 😊

### And finally...

**We** are all committed to working hard to ensure that our children receive an enjoyable and enriching education in an environment where every child feels safe, happy and secure. It was yet another hugely successful year, last year, and we remain determined to continue to improve the quality of education that we offer.

We are proud of the success of our '**Open Door Policy**' and, if you have **any** concerns at all (no matter how small they may seem), please come in and talk to your child's teacher, a member of SLT or myself about them. Unless we are made aware of any issues we will be unable to deal with them and the sooner any concerns come to light then the quicker your child will once again feel confident and able to achieve.

Our children continue to be the most important part of our school and, by continuing to work together to support each and every child both at home and at school, I really do believe that our children will be given the very best start to their life both socially and educationally. So - here's to another year where together we will make a difference to all the children in our care 😊

Yours sincerely



Miss S Jones – Headteacher

**PS ...**

*"Go confidently in the direction of your dreams. Live the life you have imagined."* Henry David Thoreau

**Motivating and inspiring our children to achieve... in a creative, caring Christian community**