



# Vernham Dean Gillum's Church of England Primary School

## Newsletter

Friday, 09 September 2016

### Welcome Back

It has been lovely to welcome the children back to school this week and meet our Reception Class and new starters. Thank you for all your lovely comments about our new reception and new school sign.

May I remind everyone that the morning bell is rung at 8.55am so that the children are ready to start the day in their classrooms at 9.00am. As many are wearing new clothes, shoes and have new lunchboxes etc, it is a good time to remind everyone to ensure all items are clearly labelled with your child's name. Please remember that for safety reasons bracelets, necklaces and rings should be not be worn in school. Should you need to discuss anything with your class teacher or myself please either see us before the morning bell or make an appointment with the office to speak to us at the end of the day.

### Clubs

Club letters have been sent out this week with the school offering over 90 club places across the week (excluding Homework Drop In.) Please note that due to insurance and the various types of activities, places will be allocated on a first come basis up to the maximum number. Clubs will start week commencing 20th September and end 8th December.

### Open Door Afternoon

There will be an Open Door Afternoon on Monday 3rd October from 3.30pm to 5.00pm. This is an opportunity for parents to drop into their child's classroom and meet the teacher and to find out how they are settling in.

Please note this is not a parents evening and no appointment is necessary.

### Dates for your Diary

3/10 Open Door Afternoon  
12/10 2pm Harvest Festival  
St Mary's Church  
17-21/10 Beech Class Residential  
16/11 Individual school photos  
17/11 Bag2School  
18/11 Children in Need Spotacular - 'Spotty' dress down day for £1  
25/11 School Panto visit  
02/12 Winter Wonderland Event  
13/12 Choir to sing at village coffee morning  
14/12 2pm Christmas Service St Mary's Church  
05/04 Easter Service

### INSET DAYS

31<sup>st</sup> October 2016  
27<sup>th</sup> Feb 2017  
24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> July 2017

### Term Dates 2016/17

**Autumn term**  
5<sup>th</sup> September – 16<sup>th</sup> December.  
Half Term 24<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> October;  
Inset day 31<sup>st</sup> October

### Spring Term

3<sup>rd</sup> January - 7<sup>th</sup> April  
Half Term 20<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> Feb; Inset day 27<sup>th</sup> Feb

### Summer Term

24<sup>th</sup> April – 25<sup>th</sup> July (inset days 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> July)  
Half Term 29<sup>th</sup> May – 2<sup>nd</sup> June

### Church

**St Mary's** Vernham Dean Family Service 10:00am 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month  
**St Peter's** Hurstbourne Tarrant Family Service 10:00am 1st Sunday of each month

### Halloween Curry Night & Murder Mystery Evening.

Friday 14th October 7.30pm Millennium Hall

Come along for a fabulous evening of Indian food with a Murder included!! Tickets available from the Friends of Vernham Dean School, £15 per person. Please see Carol Ward, Jane Pelham or the School Office for further details.

### Guitar and Ukulele

Lessons will start on Monday 13th September. Children who have signed up for lessons have received letters and payment for classes is due as soon as possible.

### Harvest Festival

Our Harvest Festival will take place on Wednesday 12th October at 2pm. All parents and families are very welcome to join us at St Mary's Church. We will be collecting food goods on behalf of Andover Food Bank. Donations of non perishable tins and packets especially tinned meats, rice puddings and fruit, also biscuits, long life milk and sugar, gratefully received. The children will walk up to the Church via Church path at 1.30pm. You are welcome to walk up with the children. Collection at the end of the day will be from the classrooms as usual.

### And Finally....

Smiles and lots of fun in Willow class!



### New Website

We are carrying out the finishing touches to our new website which will be launched very soon.

The URL is unchanged: [www.vernhamdeanschool.co.uk](http://www.vernhamdeanschool.co.uk)

## **Governor Parent Questionnaire**

Many thanks for those families who took part in the 2016 Governor Parent Questionnaire. It was great to receive so many positive responses about how you feel the school has improved and how well we are doing; your responses are invaluable to us.

*Some of the strengths you highlighted (there were many):*

- 100% felt their child was making good progress
- 93% felt their child was being taught well
- 100% responded that the school had a welcoming environment
- 100% felt their child was safe at the school
- 100% felt that their child was encouraged to become independent
- 93% felt that children behaved well
- 100% felt that the school was led and managed well

### **Things you felt we need to improve:**

1. Our website. Comments made suggested it is confusing and information not clear and that class pages need to be kept up-to-date
2. You felt that we needed to share more information about how phonics is taught
3. You felt that we need to share outcomes more from when parents are asked their views/questionnaires/surveys
4. You felt that some areas of classrooms were not tidy and should be the same across the school
5. You felt that we should give more information about events such as the type of clothes needed
6. You felt that we needed to add 'Achievers and Awards' to our newsletter
7. You felt that we didn't do enough to ensure that children put their coats on in the winter during playtimes

### **How we will respond to the areas we need to improve:**

1. We have wanted to change our website for a while and we are pleased to say a new one will be live very soon. Our key aim is to ensure it is easy to use, up-to-date and ensure that information is relevant and timely
2. Mrs Hall will be talking to the new Year R parents about phonics and 'pure sounds' at the beginning of October. Mrs Price will ensure that her parents are kept up-to-date. If you are a parent in Maple and have not attended a phonics meeting before, please do not hesitate to ask Mrs Price for information
3. We intend to fulfil this request through our newsletters and new website
4. All classrooms have been tidied and all staff have agreed to keep them tidy
5. We intend to improve on this point by having a 'Latest Updates' section in our News area of the website
6. We will ensure that 'Achievers and Awards' are added to our newsletter
7. We have agreed as a staff that all children will put their coats on when going out to play during the winter. If they become hot when running around they will be able to take their coat off and leave them in a 'coat area'