



# CASTLE HILL

## PRIMARY SCHOOL

Abbotswood Road, Brockworth, Gloucester GL3 4NU

Headteacher Mrs Su Broadhurst

Tel & Fax: (01452) 863380

### Newsletter 1: September 2019

#### Welcome back to School!

#### A special "Hello" to our new reception parents and pupils.

The weekly newsletters will be sent to your email address so please make sure we know it! We do not send out paper copies to everyone in the hope that we can save paper and unnecessary costs. However, there will always be a paper copy available from the office on a Friday after school, just in case you don't have access to a computer. This is our way of keeping you informed of events in school. A copy is also on display on the information board situated in the KS1 and KS2 Playgrounds and on the school website.

#### New Staff

I'm sure you will join me in welcoming our new office apprentice, Hannah King. We hope she will enjoy working alongside Mrs Hickey learning how the admin part of the school operates.

#### Topics for the Autumn Term

Reception: Rhythm and Rhyme

Year 1/2 : Jurassic Forest

Year 3/4 : Extreme Environments

Year 5/6 : Tomb Raiders

- A Topic Web from the class teacher will help you keep informed about your child's learning.

#### Uniform

Thank you for sending your children back to school so clean and tidy. They looked really smart in assembly today. Please remember that jewellery is not part of uniform and should not be worn for health and safety reasons. Haircuts must not be extreme and nor should hairbands and decorations worn by girls in their hair.

A reminder, that we are expecting children in Years 2-6 to have outdoor PE kit in school. Please don't buy expensive trainers-save these for home. A cheap pair to stay in school is much more useful. Tracksuits don't need to be a special colour, just warm for when the weather cools. Please make sure P.E kit is in school every day. Children with shoulder length hair should have means to tie it back for P.E. If earrings cannot be removed they must be covered with tape.

Water bottles should be carried separately, not put into the book bag because they can leak and ruin the books. Please ensure KS1 children do have a school book bag. We have become aware that Tesco's are selling school backpacks. These are not suitable for KS1. Many thanks for your cooperation.

### Attendance

A reminder, if a child is absent from school it is vital that you inform the school of the reason, via a telephone message or a letter. The school will continue to do "First Day Calling" for the safety and welfare of all pupils.

100% attendance certificates will be given termly with a "Special Presentation" for those pupils who achieve a full year.

Please be reminded that there are no exceptional circumstances that a Head teacher can authorise regarding holidays in term time. It is expected that children attend every day, unless illness prevents them from doing so. The Local Authority WILL issue penalty notices for holidays taken in term time.

### Healthy Snacks

As we begin our new school year, we would like to take this opportunity to remind you of our School's Food Policy:

- All the children in Foundation and Key Stage 1 will continue to receive their free piece of fruit or vegetable at playtime (funded by the Government).
- As the children move up into KS2 they are able to bring in their own snacks from home. They will be asked to bring their snack into the classroom in the morning, to keep in their drawers ready to take out at playtime. They will be unable to access their lunch boxes until the lunch hour. In line with Government recommendations, our School Policy permits the following snacks at playtime:
  - Fruit
  - Vegetables
  - Cheese
  - Savoury Crackers

May we also remind you that the children are encouraged to bring water into school daily.

We were really pleased to see so many children bringing fruit or vegetables to school for their mid-morning snack last term, and would like to thank all the parents who are supporting us in keeping Castle Hill Primary a Healthy School. May we thank you in advance for supporting our School's Policy of encouraging our children to make healthy choices.

I apologise for the huge bulk of paper this week. At the start of every year, all the paperwork is essential to us so that the rest of the year can run smoothly. Please return all the forms to the office asap:

- Medical Forms - All we ask is for you to complete one medical form that your child brings home today. We will keep this and use this as our record. If any

circumstances change, it is your responsibility to inform the office immediately so that we can update our records.

- Local Trip Permission Slip- Classes might want to explore the local area as part of work related to their topic. You will always be informed when this happens but this slip saves us waiting for replies from everybody each time.
- Photograph Permission- This enables us to collate a record of any child we should avoid choosing when photos are taken for our school website, prospectus etc. We do allow photographs to be taken at all school performances but ask all parents to respect other families by not putting photos onto a public domain.
- Cooking in school: an agreement that as parents, you will inform us if your child has any allergies that we should be aware of.
- Use of websites that the school has subscribed to in order that you can support your child at home with maths, reading and PAWS.

### **Data Collection Sheet-**

This is necessary so that our details for you are up to date in case we need to contact you. Please see Mrs Hickey immediately if you change your telephone number, address or contact details. Mrs Broadhurst will bring all data sheets to Parents' Evening in October for everyone to sign to say we have up to date information.

Katie Ward has now taken over the responsibility of First Aid in school. She is our trained medical lead. Please see her if your child is on medication or has a medical condition that needs monitoring in school.

Mrs Ward is running a first Aid Club for KS2 children on Mondays from 3-4pm (First session only-Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September). This will be for 6 weeks. Children have received letters. I'm sure you will agree this is a very valuable course.

If your child has an allergy and requires special attention from the cook, please complete a form available from the office and return it to school together with a doctor's note. We can then ensure a suitable dinner is provided.

### **Achievements in 2018-19**

- Fantastic 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebrations! Everybody was fabulous.
- A very hardworking, successful FRIENDS group including ambassadors for every class.
- Year 4 completed the first national times table test online. This was a pilot and no results were issued. Current Year 4 will take the same test in June 2020.
- Successfully achieved Science Quality Mark Silver Award.
- Successfully achieved Music Quality Mark Award
- Completed running track ready for introduction of daily mile in September.

## Plans for 2019-20

- Introduction of whole class reading in KS2
- Introduction of the Daily Mile
- Well-being focus
- Further development of the curriculum
- Move into new office build and welcome back parents into the reception area.
- Further develop the FRIENDS group- Please do this by supporting them by attending their **AGM on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September at 7pm in school**. The FRIENDS are crucial support to us in providing additional funding for school so that we can provide free book bags to Reception, develop Forest School, swim, play an instrument as well as contributing £3 per child for school trips.

## Meeting for Year 5 and 6 Parents Wednesday 18th September

### Secondary Transfer and Isle of Wight Information Sharing

There is an information event for all parents of Years 5 and 6 pupils regarding transferring to secondary school on Wednesday 18th September at 7pm. We will be available to answer any questions you may have.

We will also be using this opportunity to talk briefly about the residential to the Isle of Wight. Year 5 parents will be able to leave before this starts.

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September- **Grammar entrance test day**. Good Luck to all our children sitting this test.

## School Improvements

During the summer break we are delighted to have work continue on the offices. We anticipate them to be finished by the end of September. Everybody has been great and really are helping us manage the project. It will create a new entrance, office and Head's office which will enable us to use existing rooms for small group work and for meetings. We are looking forward to another successful year for all at Castle Hill School.

## Meet Your Child's New Teacher (2.30pm-3pm)

Please see dates and times below. These are times for your child to show you where their classroom is, who is teaching them and where they sit. They are not times to talk about children individually or look at any of their work. Please use this opportunity to get to know your child's teacher so that we can have a successful partnership throughout the year.

Year 2: Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September

Year 3: Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September

Year 4: Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September

Year 5: Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September

Year 6: (Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September 7pm)

9th October-9.15am Reception parents will be invited to a coffee morning.

## **BIG Write**

We will continue to give the children an opportunity to write unaided about a whole school topic in Big Write sessions. Please ensure you talk to your child about the weekly topic to prepare them with lots of creative or factual ideas.

The BIG Write for next week is:

### **My New Class**

As always, there is no right answer to how the title is interpreted. This could be a first time at school but equally it could be a first time at a holiday park, the first time camping or the first time trying something new. Whatever inspires you!

## **Congratulations!**

We are awaiting a cheque for £200 from Asda. Thank you so much for all your support collecting tokens. Thank you especially to our Governor, Deena Waite, who set up the campaign.

## **Congratulations!**

To Lorna Watson, Charlotte Treadwell and Olivia Aldridge for being selected for Gloucestershire Girl's Football Team. This is an amazing achievement. We look forward to following your success.

## **School Dinners**

Please use Parent Pay to make payments. If you are new to Parent Pay please contact Mrs Hickey to receive an activation letter that will enable you to set up an account.

## **Breakfast Club**

We are very lucky to have our own breakfast club running from 8-9am. Please be aware that sessions must be booked in advance. This is to ensure we have the correct adult to child ratio.

## **Forthcoming dates for your diary**

### **Key Dates - Autumn Term-2019**

#### **more details will be available nearer the time of each individual event**

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September-Meet the Teacher in Year 1 at 2.30pm-3pm

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September- Meet the Teachers in Year 4 at 2.30pm-3pm

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September- Meet the Teacher in Year 5 at 2.30pm-3pm

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September-Meet the Teachers in Year 2 at 2.30pm-3pm

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September-Meet the Teachers in Year 3 at 2.30pm-3pm

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September-Please bring back your filled Smartie tubes to help make FRIENDS first fundraising event of the year a real success.**

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September-Grammar School Entrance Exam

Wednesday 18th September-7pm-Year 5/6 Parents- Secondary Transfer Information

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> September- Small Group Trip to Abbey Home Farm

Wednesday 2nd October-9.15am- Year 1 parents invited to join the class to find out more about reading. Please come!

Wednesday 9th October-9.15am-10.15am-Reception Parents Coffee Morning

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> 4-7pm / Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> 3.20-6pm October-Parents' Evening

Wednesday 16th October- Harvest Festival- 9.15am

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October am- Enterprise sale

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October-INSET

Monday 28th October-Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November-Half Term

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November-School starts

Wednesday 13th November-Individual photos

Wednesday 20th November-Open afternoon for New Reception 2019

Friday 13th December - PAWS in

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December-Reception Nativity

Tuesday 17th December-Christmas Dinner and Key Stage One party

Wednesday 18th December-Key Stage Two party

Thursday 19th December-Sing a long 1pm-2pm

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December- Term finishes at 2pm

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December- INSET

### **Key Dates for Spring Term 2020**

Monday 6th January- Spring Term begins for all children

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January-9.15am-100% Attendance Assembly

Thursday 16th January- Young Voices

**Monday 17th February- Friday 21st February- Half Term**

Tuesday 17th March-Parents' Evening- 3.20pm-6pm

Thursday 19th March- Parents' Evening- 4pm-7pm

Friday 27th March-PAWS in

Friday 3rd April - Term finishes at 2pm

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April- Friday 17th April - Easter Holiday**

### **Key Dates for Summer Term 2020**

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May-MAY DAY-No School

Monday May 11<sup>th</sup>-Thursday May 14<sup>th</sup> SATs week KS2

Friday 26th June - INSET

Tuesday 7th July-Sports Day

Wednesday 8th July-Sports Day Reserve

Friday 3rd July- PAWS in

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July-Year 6 Leaver's Assembly and Party

Monday 13<sup>th</sup>-Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July-Isle of Wight Residential-Year 6

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July-Term ends 2pm