



Horton, St. Michael's CE (VC) First School

AUTUMN TERM 2018 NEWSLETTER

Welcome everyone to a new school year and a special welcome to our new children and families. A big welcome to our new teacher, Mr Ian Wolvers, who is teaching in Sycamore class.

We are delighted to be able to tell you that we are now officially part of Staffordshire University Academies Trust (SUAT). Our conversion went ahead on 1st September and promises to bring some exciting opportunities for our school.

As you can see people have been busy here in the holidays. Our pirate ship has been constructed and has been a big hit with the children who are loving climbing, crawling and clambering on it. Many games have already been invented with many more to come I am sure. We were able to purchase this through a generous donation from the Friends and also through the government Sports Funding. Thank you to everyone involved with this project, especially the School Council who worked with the Friends and staff to see the project from conception to instalment.

Maple class toilets have now being refurbished with smart new cubicles (chosen by the current Year 4 children). This has been a long awaited and much needed project for school!

Many thanks to all the parents who continued to come into school this summer to keep our grounds looking beautiful. It was so nice to return to school with all our plants still looking amazing and to see the fence repainted.

Hazel class now have an extended outdoor area which allows the children access to the bikes and outdoor toys all day and so will help to improve their gross motor skills.

The teachers have all been busy over the summer holidays preparing some really exciting learning opportunities for the children. We look forward to welcoming you into school very soon.

Lesley Montgomery

Term Dates 2016-17

Half-Term: 28 October - 2 November

School Opens: Monday 5 November

Christmas Holiday: 21 December - 4 January 2019

School Opens: Monday 7 January

Half-Term: 18–25 February

School Opens Tuesday 26 February

Easter Holiday: 15–26 April

School Opens Monday 29 April

School Closed: May Day - 6 May

Half-Term: 27–31 May

School Open Monday 3 June

School Closes for Summer: 19 July

Events/Dates for Your Diary

19 September Friends Charity Meeting 7.00pm

23 September: Friends Sponsored Walk

2 October Portrait Photography from 8.30am

3–5 October: Scholastic Book Fair

12 October: Harvest Festival in school, 9.00am

17 October: Friends Fashion Show

22 & 24 October: Parents' Consultation

9 November Friends Disco 5.30pm–7pm

6 December: Whole School Nativity Day

12 December Maple Class Theatre Visit

13 December: Hazel Class Nativity (time tbc)

17 December: Carol Service at Horton Church
1.30pm–2.30pm

18 December Hazel and Sycamore Class trip to
Buxton Opera House Panto

19 December: Christmas Lunch

20 December: Christmas Parties (morning)

20 December: Christingle Service (2.00pm)

20 December : School closes

Please note that more information about Christmas events will follow in a separate newsletter.

WALKING BUS

We are pleased that the walking bus has resumed for this half term. This is running every Wednesday and Thursday up until October half term (weather permitting). If your child would like to join this healthy journey to school, please arrive at the Lake Hotel, Rudyard car park in time to leave at 8.15am prompt. If your child has not participated before, you'll need to complete a consent form, available from Ange Woodward or the School Office.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

Following a successful Scholastic Book Fair last Autumn that resulted in the maximum commission for school, we are running it again! We are pleased to invite you to a Scholastic Book Fair from **3–5 October** (further information to follow soon). There will be a wide range of children's books on sale to cater for the ages of our children. All commission from the sale of books will be used to purchase books and resources for our classrooms, so children will benefit in school. **Helpers needed - please contact Emily Bloor.**

TIMEKEEPING AND ATTENDANCE

Overall attendance at school for 2016–2017 was 96.55%, thank you for your efforts in ensuring children are in school.

A reminder that doors open at 8.35am and Registration is at 8.45am. We would appreciate all children being on time so that they can be well-briefed on the day's activities. You are welcome to bring your children into school up until 8.45am but ask that you leave the classroom at this point so that teachers can start the school day with their class. If you do arrive after 8.45am please enter the school at the front door where we will meet your child and take them down to their class.

At home time, please could children be collected punctually at 3.10pm, unless they are booked into Kipling Club or an After School Club. If you are running late, please phone and let us know. Our answer machine is checked regularly for new messages! If your child is unable to attend school, please report his/her absence by contacting the School Office by 9.30am.

THE SCHOOL RUN/PARKING

We would like to take this opportunity to remind parents/carers of the following suggestions for a safe and environmentally friendly journey to and from school:

- Car share, if possible;
- Keep the areas marked with yellow 'Keep Clear' markings free from parked cars;
- Do not park in the entrance to the school;
- Do not use the staff/visitor car park area, unless this has been agreed with school; **If you do use the car park please leave as soon as you have dropped your child off in the morning.**
- Be courteous to other drivers;
- Do not use the driveways of the neighbouring residences as passing places;
- Avoid parking in front of the garage belonging to the bungalows;
- Join the Walking Bus, when available.

IMPORTANT: When collecting children, on no account walk through the staff car park. Please walk around the school. There is usually much vehicle movement here.

SCHOOL GATES

The safety of the children is our priority. Please ensure that you close the school gates after you have entered or left our premises. This includes entering or leaving when picking up from Kips Club.

PLEASE DO NOT USE THE GATES DURING SCHOOL HOURS. PLEASE COME TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE.

School Improvement Plan 2017—2018

Every year the School evaluated the previous year's work and writes its own plan of things to be achieved during the new academic year. Last year we identified a number of areas for improvement and thought we would share our progress with you.

- To develop children's understanding of who they are: their skills and talents, how they learn, and how they can improve.

Our main focus for this came from our Foundation Blocks for Learning which are now such a strong part of our school day that it is hard to believe they have only been a year in existence.

- To ensure good behaviour of all children in less structured times of the school day.

We were delighted to be complimented by so many visitors about the behaviour of the children.

- To continue the improvement of writing in school with a whole school focus on spelling.

Our writing has improved dramatically over the last year with over 80% of children achieving the expected level for their age (compared to 68% nationally).

- To develop a love of challenge and a resilience when problem solving.

Much work has been done over the last year to encourage the children to have a go and to not always accept their first answer. The children are becoming more adept at problem solving with many embracing challenge. To be able to keep going when things get difficult is a skill learned for life and is something that we will continue to work on with the children this year.

KIPLING CLUB

Every day, our Morning Club runs from 8.00am until the start of school and our After School Club runs from 3.10-5.05pm. If you need your child/ren to attend, please leave his/her/their name/s on the booking form under the hall canopy. Please be aware that numbers are limited so you are requested to book your child's place as early as possible. The club is staffed by 4 members of the team who are: Joanna Bridgwood, Angela Golding, Rachel Gregory and Katie Kirk. Parents/carers can either pay on the night or be invoiced on a fortnightly basis.

Consultation Evenings - 22 and 24 October

Autumn Term's consultation evenings are for parents to find out how their child has settled into their new class. Appointment sheets will be made available closer to the time.

Harvest Festival

This will be held on Friday 12th October in school at 9.00am - all welcome.

School Uniform

A reminder that school uniform is available from GoGo Designs at 12 St Edward's Street, Leek. Telephone: 01538 381781.

COMMON ILLNESS AND TIME OFF SCHOOL

Please note the following guidance from the Health Protection Agency:

- *Conjunctivitis—no time off
- *Diarrhoea and/or vomiting—48 hours
- *Chickenpox—5 days from onset of rash
- *Tonsillitis—no time off
- *Head Lice—no time off

More information can be found on www.hpa.org.uk

MAPLE and SYCAMORE CLASS

Please ensure that your child has trainers in school every day as the mile a day is run most days.