



Horton St. Michael's CE First School

SPRING TERM 2019 NEWSLETTER

New Year Message from Lesley Montgomery, Headteacher

Happy New Year!

I hope you all had a fantastic time over Christmas and were able to find a little moment of quiet in amongst all of the mayhem that comes with Christmas and young children! As well as being such a fun time of year it can also be exhausting and I am sure that some of you feel ready for a rest! We were delighted to welcome the children back into school and hear of some of the lovely things that you have all been doing as well as sharing some of our Christmas adventures with them too.

Before we broke up for Christmas we sent out cards to some of the older people in the community and have been overwhelmed by the response that we have had - we didn't realise that this small gesture would mean so much. To continue developing these links we will be inviting these people and members of the British Legion into school for afternoon tea (made by Maple Class and kindly assisted by Mrs Hayes). We are really looking forward to this being the start of developing some friendships between the children and members of our community.

This term is also a time of performance. Sycamore class have already performed at the Regent Theatre in Dance 019 and Maple class visit Manchester Arena as part of an 8000 strong choir at Young Voices.

The Friends are holding their Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 6th February and would like to invite you all to the Rudyard Lake Hotel—more details will follow.

Thank you all for your continuing support of our school.

Term Dates 2019

Half-Term: 18-25 February

Easter Holiday: 15—28 April

School Closed:

May Day - 6 May

Half-Term: 27 May—2 June

School Closes for Summer: 19 July

Events/Dates for Your Diary for Spring Term

14 Jan: Sycamore Class perform at Dance19 at the Regent

16 Jan: Maple Class begin ukulele lessons (x 10 weeks)

23 Jan: Maple Class to Lichfield Cathedral for Christingle

5 Feb: Safer Internet Day

5 Feb: Individual Cross Country at Westwood College (Y3/Y4) - tbc

5 Feb: Early Learning Goals Workshop for Reception parents

6 Feb: Community Afternoon Tea

6 Feb: Friends' AGM, Rudyard Lake Hotel 7.00pm

14 Feb: Maple Class trip to Young Voices

18 Feb to 25 Feb inclusive: School closed for half-term

26 Feb: School re-opens

27 Feb: Year 2 SATs meeting for parents 3.15pm

5 Mar: Parent Consultation

6 Mar: Parent Consultation

7 Mar: World Book Day (for info)

12 Mar: Maple Class - Science Workshop at Churnet View

15 Mar: Red Nose Day 2019 (for info)

15, 18-20 Mar: Travelling Books Book Fair

27 Mar: Sycamore Class Trip to Macclesfield Museum

15 April to 28 April School closed for Easter holidays

29 Apr: School re-opens

1-3 May: Year 4s at Standon Bowers

6 May: May Day - school closed

25 May: School closes for half-term

27 May to 2 June: School closed for half-term

3 Jun: School re-opens

9-11 Jul: Year 4 transition days

19 Jul: School closes for summer holidays

Info correct as of 18 January 2019.

Congratulations to Sycamore Class who performed at the Regent Theatre this week to critical acclaim: "Horton St Michael's CE First School came next with the vibrant and colourful Rainbow Of Hope routine, performed to Wonderland & Like Rainbows. This was a highlight for me, everything just stood out and the colour from their outfits, the props and the lighting made it a true sight to behold. A dazzling and incredible performance from such a young age group!"



Internet Safety

We have some very lucky children in school who have received new phones and tablets for Christmas. We are already aware of some issues affecting children when they are on-line and talking to people they do not know. Please ensure that you know what your child is looking at and who they are speaking to when using phones, tablets and computers. We do have an internet safety page on our website and there are some very good videos on-line that you could watch with your children. We will be covering internet safety again this term and regularly make it part of our computing lessons, however conversations at home would also help to keep our children safe.

Parent Consultation - 5 & 6 March 2019

Parent Consultation for the Spring Term will take place on 5 & 6 March. More information to follow.

Travelling Book Company Book Fair

15, 18–20 March, 2.45-3.30pm

In celebration of World Book Day (7 March) and reading in general, we are pleased to offer you the opportunity to visit our next book fair from The Travelling Book Company. 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. Further information to follow soon. Helpers needed - please contact Suzanne in the School Office.

Walking Bus

We hope to offer the Walking Bus after February half-term. Look out for a letter coming soon.

IMPORTANT: Safeguarding and Security

In the interests of safeguarding and security, please could parents/carers note the following:



- If you need to come in to school during the course of the day, please use the **front door** and wait for a member of staff to greet you in the foyer. If you have a meeting with school staff, please remember to sign in.
- If your child arrives or leaves school *during* the day (eg for a medical appointment or due to illness), please sign him/her in or out in the new 'Pupil Signing In/Out' book located in the foyer.
- Please **DO NOT** let your child use the green button to go out of the front door. We tell children that they are not to use this button in school time and would appreciate your help in reinforcing this rule.

Kipling Before & After School Clubs (ages 4+)

Every day, our **After School Club** runs from 3.10-5.05pm. There are two sessions and the costs are £4.50 for session 1 (3.10-4.10pm) and £4.50 for session 2 (4.10-5.05pm). The price for both sessions is £6.50. To book your child in, please use the booking form under the hall canopy or ring during the day. 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 2 members of the team who are: Joanna Bridgwood, Angela Golding, Rachel Gregory and Katie Kirk. Parents/carers will be invoiced on a fortnightly basis.

Morning Club is currently available Monday to Friday starting at 8.00am at a price of £4.50 per child per session based on demand. Again, please use the sign-up sheets under the canopy.

Business Continuity Plan

As part of our health and safety requirements we have to ensure plans are in place in case of emergencies. Our business continuity plan is reviewed annually and is now recorded as part of our health and safety policy. Obviously we hope never to have to use these plans but it is reassuring to know that we have the expertise of Staffordshire County Council and SUAT to help us if we ever needed it.

School Meals

A reminder that a two course school meal, freshly prepared in our kitchen, costs £2.30 available to order from Fresh Start Catering (www.freshstartcatering.uk).

A few important points to note:

- In "preferences" in Fresh Start's "Meal Manager", you can opt for your child's school meal to be *automatically* replaced with a packed lunch in the event of a school trip. If you wish to provide a packed lunch from home when there is a trip, please select "do not replace" in "preferences". This information is communicated to our kitchen in a weekly report from Fresh Start Catering.
- Please remember to check the allergen information in your menu choices if your child has any special dietary needs.
- In the event that your child does not have a pre-booked lunch but requires one, Mrs Hayes can offer them a meal from the menu on the day. On these occasions we would ask you to contact Fresh Start on the day in order to pay for the meal over the telephone (01869 226675). Please ask your child to speak to Mrs Hayes or, of course, you're welcome to speak to her at morning drop-off.
- Please refer to catering arrangements information provided in individual school trip letters.

The School Run/Parking

A reminder that our school car park is for staff and visitors only, unless permission has been granted by the Headteacher (in the case of special circumstances).

Our suggestions for a safe and environmentally friendly journey to and from school are:

- 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;
- 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.

Common Illnesses & 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

OUR FOUNDATION BLOCKS FOR LEARNING:

These values underpin much of what we learn in schools and help us to become valuable global citizens:

I am Me: We are all unique individuals, we are learning to believe in ourselves and discover our talents and skills.

I am Creative: We are all creative as we learn to think in different ways and explore our learning styles.

I am a Good Friend: We belong to many different communities. We are learning how to develop positive relationships.

I am part of the World's Family: As part of the world's family we care for the wider community. We are learning how to take our place in the world.

Staffordshire County Council is looking for 60 more foster families to look after children in need of a home.

They are looking for people with a spare room who can care for children either just one weekend a month or on a full-time basis. We have set up a dedicated webpage with full details - care4child.org/spareroom

They are also on Facebook and twitter - if you can like and share our posts that would be a great help too.

[Facebook.com/staffsfosterandadopt](https://www.facebook.com/staffsfosterandadopt)

Twitter - @sccfoster_adopt



School Website Developments!

We are pleased to inform you that school events are being put on the school website's calendar (home page) and copies of communications (newsletters, letters etc) are once again being uploaded; these can be found under the tabs "News" and "Parents" respectively. We hope you'll find it a useful tool for accessing information. If you have any feedback or think of any additional information that would be useful from a parent/carer perspective, please do let us know.

Our After School Clubs for Reception—Year 4 pupils are up and running:

Mondays - Sing & Sign; Tuesdays - Taekwondo; Thursdays-Badminton; Fridays-Football.