

SIR ROBERT GEFFERY'S SCHOOL – NEWSLETTER

9 October 2017 – Number 648

CLUBS

Karate Club is not running this week.

Next week there will be no teacher led clubs due to parents' evenings.

THIS WEEK:

Thu 12 Oct	School Photographs Christian Aid Cake Sale
Fri 13 Oct	Mufti Day School Disco KS1 5.30 – 6.30 KS2 6.45 – 8.00

School Photographs

Class Photography will be in school on Thursday 12 October to take portrait photos. Please ensure all children are dressed in the correct school uniform.



Cake Sale Thursday 12 October

The Cake Sale on Thursday is to raise funds for Christian Aid. Rose, Lily, Abbie and Jamie requested that we raise money for this charity as so many African countries are in urgent need of food.

Please help by donating cakes for the children to sell at break time.

Mufti Day – Friday 13 October

Children can come to school in mufti (non-school uniform) this Friday and we ask that you make a donation (£1 per child) – the money that the Friends raise from this mufti day will be put towards a hamper that will be raffled off at Christmas.

School Disco KS1: 5.30 – 6.30 KS2: 6.45 – 8.00
Entry: £1 each | Tuck-shop and tattoos available for small extra costs.

Unless you are helping or staying at the disco to help supervise your children, please ensure that your children are only at the school for their respective disco. To help with congestion on the change-over, can KS2 children please use

the entrance on the side of building where the lost property is kept.

If you are able to help out, please inform the office.

Thank you

Thank you to all staff involved in the trips and the staff who made sure school continued to run like clockwork while others were out.

Parental Consultations

Wednesday 18 and Thursday 19 October

We are going to review how we run parental consultations, but for this time we will run as before. Please make your bookings online. This system helps reduce admin time quite considerably.

www.schoolinterviews.co.uk

Enter event code number

Appointment with KS1 Teacher - 9yed6 (including Foundation Class)

Appointment with KS2 Teacher – qsvcg

Please refer to letter sent home last week for full instructions (spares available from office). If you have problems booking your time slots, come into school and someone will help.

Harvest

Thank you for supporting the Harvest Festival. We always like to help our local community as well as Hillside School on these occasions. We are so fortunate, so it is good to be generous to others.

Swimming

We are excited about our different approach to swimming this year. By using the Life Centre, we hope the intensive approach will support the development of skills, from technique to rescue skills and safety. As we are new, we have had limited timings available, but hope to be able to reorganise this for another year. We have also booked additional catch ups for those older children who need further sessions. As always, we will review and adjust for the future, but so far from my initial conversations, costings and correspondence, it looks good! It is another advantage of our mini bus!

Home learning

I hope children have been undertaking the activities on their sheet ready to bring in for our exhibition.

Each classroom will be set up and children will have a space to display their ideas and activities. They will then talk to people who come to see it. The children themselves will also have a chance to see what others have done. Simple is fine and it does not have to be all singing dancing models – we want children to be proud of what they have found out and to share it with a wider audience.

Amazing Learning

When I get an idea for a new trip, I don't have staff that groan and run the other way - it is fully embraced. The elements of trip we put together I have done in previous schools over the years and thought we had the makings of exciting learning that would enhance all different aspects of our curriculum. Spending time revisiting places and looking at practicalities again is a great way of reminiscing and learning yourself!

Taking 65 children away at a time is no mean achievement, so you can imagine the paper work, the mathematical calculations etc. that happens before we leave.

Staff find the preparation all worthwhile when you hear the children's chatter and conversation and realise how much good learning took place and how exciting that really was.

The Roman Baths (where they all had handheld radios and children's commentaries so they could imagine what it was like) was a great way to start. As the Romans is our topic, this first-hand experience that they have all had will be used in follow up work. The visit to the Fashion Museum gave a dimension and extended learning about history that some had never thought of. The dressing up and design activities were particularly popular as well.

A night away is often a worry for parents, but what a great opportunity for children to be with familiar adults and learning to be a little more independent. The first night of any trip means less sleep, but the staff know this and as we have rolled this out for four years, each year

becomes easier as they go from Year 3 to 4 to 5 to 6. The food they consumed at the Youth Hostel was amazing and they will be expecting cooked breakfasts at home now! Staff work hard to make sure all have what they like and plenty to drink, eat and even a cuddle if necessary.

The second day at Bristol was great as children could explore and be curious. So much hands on science, with people having time to extend children's thinking. Magnets, bubbles, forces and animations are always popular.

Zaza Bazaars taking two children on a visit to try it out was one thing, but table booking for 75 for lunch was an interesting task for Izzy. St Dominic and St Mellion had taken a larger group ahead of us and the children also were full of it, so I knew it would be something extra. The children we went with initially chose their favourite food and after that was eaten, so many started trying different things. Encouraged to return by their peers and adults, the opportunity was too tempting and they ate really well. Nobody went hungry - Chinese, Indian, Japanese, Mexican, English, etc.


Only once we were all full, after tasting various food from different countries, were desserts allowed! Once the rule "that a plate of sweets was not acceptable", was established, desserts were served! These included fresh fruits, jellies, cakes, chocolate fountains and plenty of ice cream. (Mrs Cunningham could have been employed on the ice cream machine in the future as she became the expert). Jugs of water flowed and the children behaved and ate really well.

The final experience was the planetarium which was informative and really captured the children's attention.

Year 4 and 6 parents

I know how frustrating it must have been for you to have had different times and messages, but with the power of technology at least all gained messages. Thank you for your patience. The children were a credit to you, as it took as long to get onto an open section of the M5 as it did to get home.

At least, after a large breakfast followed by a superb lunch, and a picnic tea they were truly fed and watered and ready for bed on their return. They did not moan and took things in their stride. They were safe and that was the main thing.

Solar Meter Reading this week: 60,676 kWh 

Thursday 19 October – Change of Menu

1. Fish fingers, chips, beans and sweetcorn
2. Salmon fillet, chips, beans and sweetcorn
3. BBQ Quorn and Bean Wrap
4. Jacket Potato

Technology

While we were away last Monday, I realised that some had been told that they could take devices on the coach, so I am sorry for any confusion. In this day and age, devices are expensive and children are children. We cannot take responsibility for things and they are easily put down or accidentally dropped. On the journey up, those with devices were absorbed and silent with little engagement, while others made conversation played games and told jokes! After the first evening when some were trying to Face Time from room to room, home and beyond, we collected devices. Mrs Cunningham's bag full was worth a fortune! I could not understand how so many had data packages attached. Conversing with the children, I discovered that they had lent their hot spot information to one another and had logged onto Wi-Fi! Without technology in the morning the children chatted, we did return it for the longer journey having learned a great deal.

We have real reasons for not wanting children to be contacting home at the drop of a hat when we are away. We know there will be home sicknesses and if you go out and they try

to ring and miss you, it gets worse. If some have the chance to contact and others don't have contact, it makes it even worse. We have always had the same rule - no phone calls and the children enjoy the time and learn to support one another through new experiences. The time it would take to organise would also be a logistical nightmare.

Instead of expensive devices, we suggest children bring books, cards, puzzle books and cheap non Wi-Fi games things that are more easily replaced and talking is an art in itself.

In the future, we will be making it clearer that we cannot be responsible for expensive devices and we would like the children to bring non-expensive games that they can play together that we do not need to worry about.

Acts 5:29

We must obey God rather than men.

Continuing a theme...

Social Media

I know that there are many good Facebook pages and sites and, if they are used well, it is a great tool. I personally do not have enough hours in my day to explore or use, however it is amazing how much I know about what is written or worrying or being said about school related issues. Some sensible parents will come and share it if it concerns them or they think it needs to be shared.

It would be so much better as we have an open door policy if you would come and ask for clarification if you have a query. I respond to Emails and there is always someone in the office that will be able to answer a question or find out for you. All staff are approachable and are there for you - if they are unsure, they will find out the answer to queries. We want the best for all children and families.

To give an example of how things can cause a worry to others - when we get asked if children need £10 pocket money to take away. We never ask for pocket money - easy answer, we do not do shops while we are away. When I asked "Why would you think this?" - it is linked with Facebook. As some were suggesting, they

would just send it anyway. It becomes a concern as we have children with money on them unknown to us. Even worse, other children would be worried that they did not have the same with them, thus causing anxiety that is not wanted or needed.

In the summer, I know there was a discussion about projects. For those who read the newsletter, we offered a different set of activities instead of projects, yet comments were being made and people were reacting.

No school or policy will ever be perfect and school gates will always be places where people air their views. Please direct anybody with any query back into school and do also share positives with school! I am only highlighting this because my concern is when things that are being raised or questioned, it has caused distress to others. It may not be factually accurate or could identify or cause upset to a child or a family.

We are here and work hard to support children. We try to give explanations and information out and be as transparent as possible. Our newsletters, that I know are not always read, contain information that would answer many of the queries.

At some point, we will have a Facebook page to give you information in that format. We are not dinosaurs, and when Facebook is used properly, it is great. But PLEASE help me by asking if you have a query, thinking about what and how you respond on social media about anything related to school and using technology positively. Adults are role models to children and the greatest number of child related child protection issues that we dealt with last year, all came from children and the misuse of Internet sites and social media.

Same again with a different twist

Children as young as Year One are re-enacting games at lunch time related to a computer game. I have been told that this is an age 18 game and totally inappropriate for children of primary age to be using. Please can you check the games and the age range and how the violence may be played out.

Most of our child protection issues do come from the misuse of games, children having access to unsupervised Internet and lack of filters, so please be careful.

Children are really good at finding what they shouldn't, either accidentally or on purpose as their peers have told them.

Internet Safety

We will make sure all the advice and guidance we have sent out is on the website for you but also go to:
<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk>

Blank Consent | Images Permission Forms

Please ensure that these are completed and returned this week.

Flu Vaccination Forms (Reception – Yr 4)

Please ensure that these are also completed and returned this week.

Breakfast/After school club fees

Due to the constant increase in expenditure necessary for the daily running of the Breakfast/Afterschool club, as of November 2017 the fees will be changing to:
£4.15 Breakfast club
£4.20 Afterschool club – 1 hour
£5.80 Afterschool club – 2 hours

Request

If you have any empty, clean, clear glass jars (jam/coffee etc.) please could you bring them into the office.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

THIS WEEK:

Thu 12 Oct School Photographs
Christian Aid Cake Sale

Fri 13 Oct Mufti Day
School Disco
KS1 5.30 – 6.30 | KS2 6.45 – 8.00

NEXT WEEK:

Tue 17 Oct Rec and Y6 Child Health Checks
(Height and Weight)

Thu 19 Oct Cake Sale – Hillside School

16-20 Oct Yr 5 Swimming (every morning)

Wed 18 Oct Parents Evening

Thu 19 Oct Parents Evening

Fri 20-Oct Inset Day

23-27 Oct Half Term

Tue 31 Oct Homework Exhibition

Tue 7 Nov Hi-5 Netball League (3.30-5pm)

Sun 12 Nov Remembrance Service-St Michael's

Thu 16-Nov Flu vaccinations (R,1,2,3,4)

Tue 5 Dec Hi-5 Netball League (3.30-5pm)

Fri 15 Dec Yr 1 Hearing Screening

Tue 19 Dec KS1 Theatre trip

Wed 20 Dec Last day of Term