



Ampney Crucis C of E Primary School
Together we live, learn and flourish
Newsletter: September 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome Back!

Welcome back to the Autumn Term. We all hope you had a good summer holiday, but I am sure many of you are looking forward to returning to some normality!

Like in my house, I am sure the last few days have been a mixture of the excitement of returning and nervousness about the next few days ahead. This may have been your children, you, or the whole family. Just remember you are not alone as you re-adjust back to "school life." It is not unusual for children to go through a range of emotions after the summer holiday and to be reluctant to get up in the morning and come to school. Please talk to your child's class teacher if you have any concerns.

A Big Welcome to the new members of Ampney Crucis!

A big welcome to all the new children who are joining us this term and their families. Many of you we do know already but school experiences are always different for different children! Please don't hesitate to ask your class teacher if you are unsure about anything.

We would also like to formally welcome, Mrs Janet Duffey, who is the new Part time teacher alongside Mrs Hopkins in Maple and Miss Katie Jackson, who is our new teacher for Willow. I am sure you will join me in making them feel very welcome.

Miss Karla Lanchbury is also joining school this week as our new Lunchtime supervisor. She is very excited to be joining us and looking forward to getting to know all the children.

And finally, I would also like to welcome Miss Gracie Pilling, who will be working a few hours every day as an admin assistant to Mrs Chadwick. She may be the person who you first see when you come to the office, she will be on hand to answer any general questions and refer you to Mrs Chadwick if appropriate.

Celebrations already!

Right on the last day of the summer term we were awarded the **Gold Mark for School Games**. The School Games Mark award is a government scheme delivered by the Youth Sport Trust to reward schools for their commitment to developing sporting participation. Our sporting achievements this year include participation in a range of intra and inter school activities, including Netball, rounders, athletics and Cricket as well as Sports festivals.



We are really proud of this award and hope to continue to develop our participation in sports this year.

Our Value for this term is....RESPECT

We will be focusing on this in whole school worship and class times on our school visions and values and what this might look like now we have returned as a school community and what this means in the wider community.

It is good at the start of the year to remember where our school vision comes from and what this means for us as a school.

We recognise our school's foundation within the Church of England and aim to serve all its community with a vision that is deeply Christian. We, like the Church of England, have at our heart a belief that children are loved by God, are individually unique and that we, at Ampney Crucis C of E Primary School strive to provide an education of the highest quality, which enables our children to reach their potential physically, academically, socially, morally and spiritually.

We are a school family where everyone supports each other and works as a team. We want to welcome all and walk alongside those who need it most, looking outward, recognising when one part of our community suffers, we all suffer yet when one flourishes, we all flourish. God himself has put the body together in such a way as to give greater honour to those parts that need it. ²⁵ And so there is no division in the body, but all its different parts have the same concern for one another. ²⁶ If one part of the body suffers, all the other parts suffer with it; if one part is praised, all the other parts share its happiness.

(Good News Version) 1 Cor 12:24-26

Safeguarding

I am sure all of you were shocked and saddened by what happened in Southport during the holiday and those families will be in our prayers for a long time to come. I just want to reassure you that every year staff attend safeguarding training, and this includes dealing with different incidents. We will be having a staying safe practise this week. The teachers will talk about it with the children first and then we will let you know once it has gone ahead. This is by no means to scare the children but to run through procedures to ensure they are effective as they can be.

Our new Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy is on the school's website.

Staff Training – INSET

I often am asked what do staff actually do on INSET/ Training days, sometimes with the suggestion we might just sit drinking coffee or tea all day (coffee is often involved but that's not all.) I thought I would share what we discussed and learnt about yesterday.

Amongst other things we looked at;

Safeguarding and the new documentation that has come out over the holiday, we discussed our behaviour policy, we discussed whole school priorities for the coming academic year and then completed a detailed professional development session on Special Needs, looking at particular different types of needs, resources and strategies we could use in our classroom which would help benefit all our children as well as those on the SEND register. Staff then used any time left to continue to set up their classrooms ready for today.

What has been happening in the holiday?

The school has been having major work during the holiday to replace the very old and inefficient oil heating system with a new more eco-friendly air conditioning system/heating units in every classroom and office. This has meant no room has been left untouched! You can imagine the work

involved and the mess, with every radiator being removed, pipes going in and out and new condenser units being installed.

Mr Clayton has also been busy. Willow class has been painted throughout and the grounds have been tidied. He has also been tidied up after the builders! Tony Williams has also been busy removing some trees and shrubs from the Wildlife area which now looks twice the size!



Communication with school

A reminder that the main way of communicating with staff is through the Office, whether speaking directly to Mrs Chadwick or sending an email or phone call. All teachers will be on the gate at the beginning or the end of the day for a quick chat or message but for anything else please contact the office to arrange an appointment.

If your child is going to be absent from school please report their absence via School Spider. If they are unable to attend either Atlas or Beech Tree (if too late to cancel on ParentPay0, then please email the office.

Volunteers in School

We were extremely blessed with so many parents volunteering to help in school last year whether that was to hear readers, help with Chestnut's Garden and run the library sessions in the afternoon. All volunteers may be subject to a DBS check.

If can volunteer your time again or if this is something you are now able to do, **please email Mrs Wood with times and days and any preferences of what you would like to volunteer with.**

Keep a look out for.....

- Class newsletters will be sent out today (Tuesday)
- Attendance information and guidance
- Operation Encompass information
- Dates for events are on the website with more to be added.

There are many events planned over the next half term and I will send out a diary dates letter early on next week

Have a wonderful week and enjoy perhaps some peace and quiet!

Kind regards,

Mrs Wood

Head Teacher