

# COMPTON ALL SAINTS' C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL

## Newsletter Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2019

Hello everyone and welcome back to the new school year!

I hope you all had a happy and relaxing few weeks and that you're ready for the excitement and challenge that the next school year will bring. The children all seem to have settled back very quickly into their new year groups or classes and the classrooms have a happy and purposeful feel.

Firstly, I would like to extend a very warm welcome to all the new families who have joined us. We are delighted that you are now part of our school community and look forward to working together in the months and years ahead.

We are also very happy to welcome two new members of staff to our school: Mrs Georgina Chaplin (Falcons Class LSA) and Mrs Aimee Letch (Special Needs Assistant).



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### **Environment Action!**

You may already have heard from your children that doing everything we can to tackle climate change is our big focus this year. All classes are starting the term with a topic relating to sustainability and environmental stewardship. As you will know, there is no time to waste; we need to act now as a school and as a wider community to encourage positive changes to lifestyles and behaviours. We have several projects lined up that we hope will not only improve the environment but will increase our involvement with the local community. One of these is to establish some wildflower areas in the church yard, with the help of the local Horticultural Society.

We have had permission from Rev Prescott and the next stage is to get a few people together who can help with removing the turf of three square-metre areas. If you'd be able to assist and/or have appropriate spades or shovels, please contact the school office. Ideally, it would be good to do this after drop-off or before pick-up on a weekday, but a Saturday morning is an option too. Please let the office know what day or time would suit you best.

### **Meet and Greet sessions**

These sessions are opportunities to meet with your child/ren's teacher and hear about the routines and expectations of the class. All sessions start straight after school at 3.30pm and last no more than 30mins. Your children must not be left unsupervised on the playground or field during this time. Please ask a friend to take responsibility or sign them up for after-school club for half an hour.

Ladybirds class – Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September (please note that this is for parents of Y1 children only)

Hedgehogs class – Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September

Foxes class – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September and Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September

Falcons class – Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September

### **Celebration Assembly**

Celebration assemblies generally happen every week except for the first week back after a holiday, or when there is a clash for staff with another event. The new Year R children don't join this assembly until after half term to give them time to get used to the routines of school (and sitting still!)



Our first celebration assembly of the year will be on 13<sup>th</sup> September and I look forward to seeing you then.

With all good wishes

*Allison Driver*

**As usual this first newsletter includes all the information that is most commonly requested in the early weeks plus reminders for both new and established families.**

**Please do take the trouble to read and keep it for future reference – though it will be published on the school website as well.**



### **Walking to School**

If you have a child in Falcons class and would like them to be able to walk to and from school on their own, please notify the class teacher in writing. Thank you.

### **Safeguarding procedures**

Collection from school: If normal arrangements for picking up your children have to be changed due to unforeseen circumstances, you must notify the school by email, by phoning the school office (preferably by 3pm), or by giving the message to the class teacher at drop-off in the morning. **For safeguarding reasons we cannot release children to adults or siblings who we are not expecting to pick them up.**

Mobile phones: Children are not allowed to bring mobile phones into school other than in exceptional circumstances and when parents/carers have requested and received permission in writing from the HT. Any such devices are to be given to the office at the beginning of each day and returned to the child at the end of the school day.

### **Break time snacks**

- Fruit or vegetables are provided for KS1 children free of charge on a daily basis, but they are welcome to bring in their own if preferred.
- KS2 children may bring in fruit (including dried fruit) or vegetables for their playtime snack. They can also purchase a small range of snacks ((raisins, plain bread rolls, fruit juice, unsweetened yoghurt drinks) from the school kitchen at a cost of between 30p and 50p.
- All children may bring in a snack of fruit or veg for afternoon playtimes too, if they wish. This can really help with that 'end of the day' dip!

Please note that cereal bars, which often contain lots of sugar, are not allowed as playtime snacks.

### **School Uniform**

Smart and tidy uniform is a reflection of the high standards expected at Compton. A copy of the uniform policy has been attached with this newsletter so that you can check what's required.

Grey trousers and skirts can be purchased anywhere, but items with the school logo must be purchased via [www.yourschooluniform.com](http://www.yourschooluniform.com). Once on the home page, click on the 'Find Your School' button and use the alphabetical list to find items for Compton.

We also have a supply of second-hand uniform that can be purchased through the Compton School Association (CSA), usually alongside the Friday after-school cake or ice-cream sales that happen every three weeks or so.

As well as indoor uniform, it is also important that children's PE kit is as stated and not a mishmash of different coloured and branded shorts and t-shirts. This looks very untidy when the children take part in sporting events or after school clubs. Children selected to represent the school in competitions and tournaments will not be able to take part without the correct kit.

### School uniform cont.

Please label all items. In particular, please can pupils in KS1 have labels with full names on that are clear for the children to read themselves? If you have purchased second-hand uniform, can you also ensure that your child's name is put on the label rather than leaving the name of the previous owner!

**Jewellery is not permitted except for stud earrings.**

**Nail polish is not permitted.**

There has been an increase in the wearing of very large and glittery hair bands over the last year; please can they be kept plain and simple. Thank you.



**Special request from Mrs Cooke and Miss Carter: Please can children in Ladybirds and Hedgehogs just bring book bags into school, not rucksacks? Thank you.**

### Absence from school

- If your child is absent from school you can notify the school quickly and easily via the school website [www.comptonallsaints.co.uk](http://www.comptonallsaints.co.uk). The link is on the home page. If no notice of absence is received the absences will be marked as unauthorised.
- If your child is absent for more than one day then you will need to send in an explanatory note upon their return. If we do not receive one of these, absences after the first notified day have to be marked as unauthorised.
- Please avoid making medical appointments during the school day and let us know in advance if they are a necessity.
- Please remember that penalty notices will be served for unauthorised absences of more than ten sessions (5 days) within a period of ten weeks. Headteachers are not allowed to authorise absence during term time unless the circumstances are exceptional – ie rare, significant and unavoidable. Do contact me if you have any queries. **Please note:** where families repeat unauthorised holidays of more than ten sessions (five days) every year, a penalty notice will still be issued but the case will go straight to the Attendance Legal Panel for consideration and possible further action.
- Penalty notices can also be issued for more than ten 'late' arrivals at school – either before or after the register has closed. These penalty notices carry the same fine as for unauthorised absences.
- We expect children to attend school unless they are properly poorly – eg they have a temperature, sickness/diarrhoea or a diagnosed infectious condition such as impetigo. Being 'under the weather' or tired is not a good enough reason for absence. **Please see attached leaflet.**

### Nits

I'm extremely keen to try and prevent nits becoming an issue. Please, please condition and comb through your child's head with a proper detection comb on a very regular basis. Also remember that wider members of a family (eg grandparents) can sometimes be a source of re-infection – everyone in contact with young children needs to condition and comb regularly.

I would be very grateful if everyone could have a thorough check and comb this weekend so that we can be sure we're starting the term nit-free.

We stock some nit-removing products in school so that if you are contacted re treating your child you will be able to purchase them from us and save a trip to the pharmacy.

Please follow the link below for information from the school nursing team about nits:

<http://www.southernhealth.nhs.uk/health-and-wellbeing/childrens-health/-health-and-wellbeing-childrens-health-headlice-threadworms-and-ticks-/?headlice>

<http://www.chc.org/>



### Music lessons in school

Please remember that signing up for music lessons (which happened at the end of last term) is a commitment for the whole academic year. It is not possible to give up and obtain a refund part of the way through the year, even though occasionally another child may want to take up the instrument in their place. This is because children are grouped according to their standard and progress and a new child may not be able to fit into the slot of one who wants to leave.



### Car Parking



Please park safely and considerately - ie

- Not on the white 'no parking' lines;
- Not across people's driveways so they cannot get out;
- Facing the right way – ie towards Otterbourne Road.

*We ask that people do not reverse in or out of Carmens Lane (or other people's driveways) and that instead they go up to the top of Compton Street to turn around. It's a nuisance I know, but we cannot do anything about the fact that we have limited space. We have to act in the best interests of everyone rather than just ourselves and allow some extra time for walking from a little further up the road. Thank you.*

*At present, the school and governors are working with the church and parish council to try and utilise Church Field as a longer-term parking area for the community, without it losing its 'field' character (ie no concrete!). I shall keep you informed as this project develops.*

### Helping in School

We are hugely grateful to all those parents and carers that give up time to help in school. It really helps us to provide that little bit more support and helps to develop the family feel of the school.

Letters inviting people to come in and volunteer to help with reading and other tasks will be sent out shortly. We really appreciate any time you can give. Every volunteer in school has to attend an induction session each year to go through safeguarding and health and safety procedures and find out about routines and expectations.

Parents and carers are able to help with their own child's class but generally not in the same room as their child.



### Free School Meals

Please do check online to see if you are eligible for free school meals as this could have a very positive impact on the school's budget. If your child is eligible the school will receive in excess of £1000 to fund additional resources. If you are in receipt of certain benefits you may qualify and it doesn't take a moment to find out.

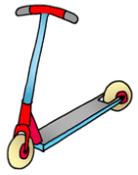
Go to the Hantsweb page <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/caterers> and click on Primary Schools and then the Free School Meals tab.

(Please note that free school meals are NOT the same as universal free lunches which all infant children are eligible to have, regardless of family circumstances.)

### **Play equipment, scooters etc**

For safety purposes, there are restrictions in place about what can be used by children before and after school:

- Children must not bicycle or skateboard on the school playground.
- In the mornings, children can only scooter across the playground to the scooter shed.
- No school balls or other equipment are to be used on the field or playground before or after school.
- When there are after-school clubs happening on the field or on the playground (ie **Tuesdays** and **Thursdays**) children cannot scooter on the playground or play on the play equipment. We would be grateful if families exit the school site promptly on those days so that the clubs can begin and be uninterrupted.
- Children can scooter on the playground and use the play equipment on the field after school until 4pm on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Please make sure your children are properly supervised.



**Thank you for reading!**

**Please do contact the school office if you have any queries, or speak to Ms Driver on the playground in the mornings.**