



New Christ Church Primary School Newsletter 10th September, 2010

This week at NCC...

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Welcome back to school! Your children have returned with great energy and enthusiasm, telling great stories about their summer holidays. They all look smart in their uniforms and are clearly up for all the challenges which lay ahead for the year.

All of us extend a warm welcome to all our new children and their families—we hope that your time at NCC is happy and successful and that you soon feel settled and part of the school family.

We have also welcomed two new members of staff this week—Nadia Aktar is our new teacher in Orange Class, and Jane Light joins us as our new finance assistant, supporting Mrs Stokes. I know that both are beginning to find their feet here and have every confidence that they will enjoy very successful times with us.

I joined NCC 10 years ago at the time of the Fresh Start and this will sadly be my last term here. Over the past 10 years, this school has transformed into a happy and successful school and I have been incredibly proud to be part of that transformation. Looking ahead to the coming year, I have every confidence that NCC will continue to enjoy many, many successes and I'm very much looking forward to sharing these with you all in my final term here.

With very best wishes,

Paper Trail

Coming home today:

- Clubs List
- Diary dates
- Class Curriculum News
- Friends letter

Make sure you receive everything!

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Aspire 2

AGM—Reading Girls School 22nd September 6.00pm



As many of you know, the schools in South Reading have always worked closely together as part of the Whitley Excellence Cluster. Aspire 2 is a charity we have set up to further support the families and children we serve. Many of your children have participated in events funded by Aspire 2—these include the summer day trips and the residential trips. Aspire 2 also helped us fund the music instrument tuition enjoyed by Green Class last year. In fact, last year approximately 40% of our children benefitted from Aspire 2 funds. **Please show your support for this charity by coming to the AGM**, where trustees will be able to tell you more about what's been happening and what is planned for the future, which includes a project to build a residential centre for South Reading children at Ufton Court!

Year 6—message for parents

You will very shortly be receiving information about Admissions for Secondary School. It is extremely important that you complete the Admissions form carefully and return it to RBC on time.

To help you understand what is a very complex and stressful process, we will be holding an Information session on **Thursday, 23rd September @ 3.30pm in the Hall**. Colleagues from RBC will be on hand to answer all your queries.

Holiday During Term Time

Already, I have received 10 requests for holiday leave during term time!

Parents are reminded that holiday should not be taken during term time and in most circumstances, I will not authorise such leave.

Holiday leave will always be refused if your child's attendance is below 95%.

By law, Head Teachers are only allowed to authorise any holiday where there are exceptional circumstances. It is up to parents to demonstrate these exceptional circumstances—an exceptional circumstance is an extreme circumstance which means that the holiday can not be taken at any other time. Financial reasons are specifically cited as not being classed as exceptional.

If your leave is unauthorised, then I am required to inform the Educational Welfare officer, who may write to you further. If your child has more than 15 sessions of unauthorised absence (7.5 days), you may receive a Fixed Penalty Notice which leads to a fine.

The school has a detailed policy about this matter, which can be found on the website; you can also request a paper copy—just ask at the Office. (An electronic copy will be emailed with this newsletter)

It is not our intention to make your family life difficult—BUT we know that good attendance means good achievement at school and we all want your children to have the best opportunities to succeed at school.

Friends of New Christ Church

The Friends are a wonderful group of parents who get together and organise various events for the children to enjoy—including discos, fairs, cake sales. They want to do even more, but can only do so with the support of many more people.

Please come along to the AGM next Thursday at 2.30 (in Blue Class) and see what you could do to help—all support and ideas are welcome! Cakes, coffee and chat too!

Many hands make light work!

Parent Governor Vacancy

We have a vacancy for a parent Governor. Governors have a vital role in the strategic management of the school. Meetings are held in the evenings, and there are about 3 or 4 each term. If you are interested and want to know more, please ask Maria, Sam or Stacey, or speak to one of our other Parent Governors—Michele Bond, Chris Hernon and Nigel Pounds.

Nominations deadline Friday, 24th September.

Fancy Dress Days

Last year, you asked us to give you more notice of planned dress up days, so here we go!

Friday, 24th September—**Pyjama day** (especially for Keris!) - wear pyjamas to school to celebrate Book Week and promote reading at bed time

Friday, 1st October—**Harvest Fancy Dress**—Harvest theme, 50p contribution to our Harvest charity—scarecrows, farmers, fruits & veg, Harvest stories from around the world—anything to do with Harvest!

Start of the New Year—Reminders!

- Please pay dinner money on Mondays—this really helps our admin staff
- All money **MUST** be in a named purse or envelope
- If your child goes home for lunch, they should not return to school until 12.55 at the earliest
- Please make sure **ALL** clothes and bags are **NAMED**
- Has your mobile number or other details changed over the summer? Remember to tell us!

PE Kit

As you will know, we have very high expectations here in terms of uniform and presentation; we also place the safety of all children as our highest priority. This term, to reflect these values, we will be reminding all children about our expectations for PE and the kit children wear. PE is a statutory element of the curriculum, and all children are expected to participate regardless of age, ability, interest, gender etc. Please support us by ensuring your child follows these guidelines:

- Full PE kit must be worn (shorts, t-shirt, socks, plimsolls/trainers—children must change fully out of their school uniform)
- Long hair must be tied back—please supply hair ties
- No jewellery can be worn—this includes stud earrings, which **children will need to take out by themselves** (I have seen ripped ears from children wearing earrings in PE, it's a horrid sight!)
- PE kit should be in school on Monday and may be taken home on Friday
- There will be sanctions for children who persistently miss PE lessons because of missing or incorrect kit, which may include loss of playtime; parents will be informed when we have concerns of this nature
- If your child has an injury which means they can't do PE, you will need to write a note to the teacher; we may ask to see medical evidence. Please also note that any child who can't take part in PE will also be deemed as unable to play outside at playtimes!

Thank you for your support, which will help us become an even better school!!

Happy Eid!

We wish all our Muslim families and friends a very Happy Eid and wish them God's blessings at this special time—May Peace be with you all.

Calling all New Parents!

In an attempt to cut costs and become a greener school, most parents now receive the weekly newsletter and other papers as an email. Please help us with our aims by **completing the slip attached** and returning it to school on Monday. Thank you.

We also use a text messaging service to keep parents informed of any changes to the school day or reminders about upcoming events; this service proved invaluable during the snow earlier this year. **Please make every effort to keep your mobile telephone numbers up to date.**

Free School Meals

Schools get additional funding based on the number of children entitled to FSM. Even if your child doesn't choose to eat school dinners, please do apply for entitlement as it could lead to extra money in our budget, which in the current climate will be very welcome indeed!

All FSM applications and evidence must be returned to Jolie by **Friday, 17th September**. If you think you might be eligible, please ask.

School Telephone Number

Our old number will soon disappear due to changes in the phone system at RBC.

Please start using the new number:

0118 9375437

Newsletter Details

CHILD'S NAME

PARENT'S EMAIL ADDRESS(ES) - please print clearly!

We don't have email so please provide a paper copy of the weekly newsletters []

Signed