



Welcome back! I do hope you all enjoyed a fantastic summer holiday, although already, it does seem a while ago! It was lovely to see the children greet each other like long-lost friends as they arrived at school on Thursday and I have been really pleased with the way they have settled very well in their new classes.

If you don't know your child's new teacher, there will be an opportunity for parents to briefly say hello to their child's new teacher on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September for parents with children in Year 3/4 classes and on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September for those with children in Year 1/2 and Year 5/6 classes. There will not be individual meetings; teachers will be in their classrooms until 3.50 pm, so do pop in to say hello.

The first parents' evenings are in the week beginning Monday 7 October; more details later. If there are any concerns you wish to raise before that, please do so – it is important to deal with any small concerns early, before they become more major problems. The classteachers are usually available for quick discussions at the end of the day, though it may be best to make an appointment through the office or dropping a note in the post box if you need more time. Mrs Verhiest or I are usually at the gate in the morning and can also be contacted though the office.

If you would like to discuss your child's special educational needs (SEN), please contact Mrs Wilding, our Inclusion Manager, who works on a Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

### **New Staff**

We have four new members of staff joining us at the beginning of this term:

- Miss Jess Hansford, Year 3/4, Zebras teacher
- Mrs Sarah Hankin-Gould, Bumblebees Teaching Assistant; Sunlight / Twilight supervisor
- Mrs Justine Clarke, Kangaroos Teaching Assistant
- Mrs Emma Tidbury, Admin Assistant

### **Mr Olive not at the gate as often**

I have been asked to support a Hampshire school during the autumn term and first half of the spring term as they have just appointed a new, but inexperienced headteacher. I will be spending 1.5 days each week at the school for the autumn term; the days will be different depending on the needs of both schools. We are planning to minimise the disruption to St Swithun's, but there may be occasions when the response to a request for an appointment or retuning of an email or phone call is slower than usual. It does, however, bring some much needed funding to our school's when budgets are very tight.

### **Uniform Reminders**

Just before the summer holidays we sent out a reminder about our uniform policy. Could we remind you that hair accessories need to be small and appropriate for school activities. We ask that items such as unicorn horns and cats ears are not worn to school, please.

Some of the rucksacks children are bringing into school are sufficient for a week's holiday! We have very limited space in our cloakrooms and we cannot accommodate large rucksacks. For children in Years 3 – 6 who wish to bring in a rucksack, the size of the school rucksack sold at Penelope Ann, our school uniform provider, is ideal.

**And, names in clothing** . . . . All staff have picked up many coats, sweatshirts and other clothing from the playground after break times. Sometimes they have names in so are very easy to return! It would help our staff, your children and you if **all clothing is named**.

### **Dates**

Dates for class assemblies are in the newsletter.

The whole school (Y1-6) will be celebrating a start of the year Mass at St Swithun's Church at 11am on Tuesday 10 September. You are very welcome to join us.

### **Healthy Packed Lunchboxes and Playtime Snacks**

We always aim to educate our children to enable them to make informed healthy lifestyle choices. The following guidelines for lunchbox



contents is based on the statutory guidelines for school provided meals.

The recommended contents of a healthy lunch box are:

- A good portion of starchy food e.g. bread, crackers, pasta or rice salad.
- Fruit and/or vegetables e.g. an apple, orange, banana, carrot sticks, small box of raisins or any other fruit or vegetable
- A portion of milk or dairy food e.g. yoghurt.
- A drink e.g. a small carton of milk, juice or squash. Water is always available.
- One small biscuit e.g. kit-kat, penguin, club, cake bar etc.

Packed lunches at St Swithun's should not include:

- Chocolate bars or sweets
- Fizzy drinks.

**Snacks** – All children in Years R, 1 & 2 receive a free piece of fruit or vegetable every day as part of the Government's School Fruit & Vegetable Scheme. As children move up into Years 3 - 6, should they wish to have a snack at breaktime, they are required to bring something from home.

A healthy snack should be:

- Fruit or vegetables
- Dried fruit
- Cereal bars
- Crackers

Crisps, chocolate and sweets are not a healthy snack.

We also request that children have a named water bottle in school.

Milk is provided for:

- All under 5's
- All children receiving benefit based free school meals
- Children whose parents pay CoolMilk direct

**Please note, no nuts are permitted on school premises due to severe food allergies.**

## **CRUK Cycle 200**

This is a fundraising challenge where the aim is to cycle 200 miles during the month of September and I have decided to take part in this. As some of you will know, I have very personal reasons for doing the challenge. I know, first hand, how important cancer research is and the amazing work they are doing. If anyone would like to support me in this venture, please follow the link to my fundraising page. All donations will be much appreciated. More information about this challenge can be found at Cancer Research UK website. Thank you.

<https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/page/carols-cycle-200-fundraising-page-1>

Mrs Carol Barber



## **Summer Reading Challenge SPACE RACE**

The public library service has received a number of enquiries from parents/carers regarding the Summer Reading Challenge deadline. There are **TWO WEEKS** left for any children to get to their local library and complete this year's Challenge. The deadline is **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September**. The winners' event at Southsea Castle will take place on **Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> September** and we would like to see as many children as possible there, receiving their certificates and medals.

## **Class Assembly**

These will be held in the School Hall every Wednesday afternoon. Please join us for your child's class assembly, which begins at 3.10 pm for which you may arrive at the School Office from 3 pm.

<b>Wednesday Date</b>	<b>Class</b>
18 <sup>th</sup> September 2019	Panthers
25 <sup>th</sup> September 2019	Gorillas
2 <sup>nd</sup> October 2019	Starfish
9 <sup>th</sup> October 2019	Wolves
16 <sup>th</sup> October 2019	Kangaroos
23 <sup>rd</sup> October 2019	Seahorses

These dates are provisional subject to change/addition. Please check the calendar on the school website, [www.stswithunscatholicprimaryschool.co.uk](http://www.stswithunscatholicprimaryschool.co.uk), for the latest information.



## **Class Liturgy**

These will be held in class. Please join us at 9.15 am for your child's class liturgy.

<b>Wednesday Date</b>	<b>Class</b>
16 <sup>th</sup> October 2019	Starfish
13 <sup>th</sup> December 2019	Dolphins
27 <sup>th</sup> October 2019	Seahorses

These dates are provisional subject to change/addition. Please check the calendar on the school website, [www.stswithuncatholicprimaryschool.co.uk](http://www.stswithuncatholicprimaryschool.co.uk), for the latest information.

## **School Meals**

SCOPAY has confirmed that ordering meals function is not yet available on the mobile phone App. As advised on their website, it is in the development process and they will advise all schools once the roll out date is confirmed by their development team. In the meantime all the dinner functions are available on their website [www.scopay.com](http://www.scopay.com). Parents need to log in to their SCOPAY account on SCOPAY website on their mobile devices for ordering meals.

## **Are you having a clear out?**

Year R is on the look for balance bikes and scooters. If you are able to help please see Mrs Verhiest.

## **School Nurse Drop-In**



School Nurses are offering a drop-in for parents to discuss their child's health. If you have any

concerns about allergies, asthma, growth, sleep, or something else, please come and see the School Nurse between 9.15 am and 11 am on:

- 19<sup>th</sup> September 2019
- 17<sup>th</sup> October 2019
- 14<sup>th</sup> November 2019
- 12<sup>th</sup> December 2019



## **Holiday Childcare**

We now provide childcare through school holidays and day closures. It is run by the same team who

provide Sunlight and Twilight care, so if you need childcare for the Summer Holidays, please do contact the Extended Day team directly on [sunandtwilight@st-swithuns.portsmouth.sch.uk](mailto:sunandtwilight@st-swithuns.portsmouth.sch.uk) or via the Office.

## **INSET Days**

Please note that the dates on the Portsmouth City Council website **DO NOT** include our INSET days. These can be found here in our newsletters, or on our website.

- 24<sup>th</sup> October 2019
- 25<sup>th</sup> October 2019
- 24<sup>th</sup> February 2020
- 29<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Holiday care is available for the above dates plus:

- 28<sup>th</sup> Oct – 1<sup>st</sup> Nov 2019
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2020
- 17<sup>th</sup> Feb – 21<sup>st</sup> February 2020
- 6<sup>th</sup> April – 17<sup>th</sup> April 2020
- (Not available Friday 10<sup>th</sup> or Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2020)
- 26<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> May 2020
- Summer holiday care dates for 2020 are yet to be confirmed

Please ask in the Office for booking forms or email [sunandtwilight@st-swithuns.portsmouth.sch.uk](mailto:sunandtwilight@st-swithuns.portsmouth.sch.uk).

## **Plea from FOSSS**

If you are popping into Waitrose over the next couple of weeks, please put your token into our box to help raise funds for school. Thank you.

## **Office News...**



### **Letters**

Letters that were sent home this week:

- Y6 Bikeability
- Y6 Swimming lessons
- All years Guide for Parents Managing your SCOPAY account.

All letters are now sent via email and are available on our website. If you have reason to receive a paper copy, please let the School Office know.