

Tuesday
October 1st
2024



'The one who gets wisdom loves life.' Proverbs 19:8

Charlton Mackrell Primary School & Pre-School

Welcome back and 'Thank you'

Welcome back to the new school year and we can already see that Autumn has begun. I would like to say a huge 'Thank you' to all of you and your children for welcoming me so warmly at the school gate. I am getting to know the school community and am looking forward to the events we have planned this term and to inviting you to share in them with us. I look forward to writing to you at the beginning of each month and highlighting all that has been going on in school as well as upcoming events.

Parental questionnaire:

I very much appreciate the time you have put into completing the parental questionnaire. As the deadline closed today - I have been very encouraged by the number of responses (57 in total) and the positive comments expressing how highly you regard the school. I will be looking at these more closely this week and report back to you outcomes and actions in the near future.

Recent and upcoming events:

Thank you to everyone who attended our open morning. We had many compliments from current and prospective parents on how well our Year 6 pupils guided groups around the school. They were exceptional ambassadors, and we are very proud of them all. The Egyptian workshops were a great success and the children took part in active learning which included: digging for artefacts, baking flatbread and designing amulets. There was time for reflection and discussion - and even time to mummify some tomatoes!



Our wonderful Egyptian day

Changes:

It is with sadness that I have to announce that Mrs Carter will be leaving us at Christmas. She has worked as a teacher at the school for many years and I know that staff and children will miss her very much. I would like to extend my thanks on behalf of the staff and governors for her dedication and hard work over the years. Also, Wildfire class will now be taught by Miss Murray on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays and by Mrs Allen on Fridays.

Harvest Celebration:

Our Harvest Celebration will take place on Tuesday 15th October and the Reverend Judith Swan will be there to greet us. You are very welcome to join us, as the children in each class will be performing a short presentation. Reverend Judith has already visited the school and had a short tour - where she was able to greet the children. She is planning to visit the school regularly on an informal basis, but also to help lead some of our acts of Collective Worship.

Attendance:

As you will be aware, we have begun opening the gate at 8.40am to allow children to be in their classes by 8.45. Attendance guidance has been updated and can be found in our attendance policy. I have added the details below for clarity over expectation for pupils' attendance. Pupils who arrive late disrupt lessons and miss vital information and enrichment opportunities. Research shows that arriving late is one of the lead causes in children experiencing stress and feeling unsettled and embarrassed when they arrive at school.

Frequent lateness can seriously disadvantage children and disrupt the learning of others:

If a pupil is late each day by...	...they will miss <u>this many days of teaching</u>and <u>this many lessons</u> over a year
5 minutes	3	15
10 minutes	6	30
15 minutes	9	45
20 minutes	12	60
30 minutes	18	90

The table below shows the key timings that all pupils are expected to adhere to:

8.40 am	Gates open – pupils can start to arrive at school
8.45 am	Morning registration starts
9.00 am	Morning registers are closed
1.00 pm	Afternoon registration starts
1.05 pm	Afternoon registers are closed
3.15 pm	End of the school day

Pupils arriving after 8.45am must go directly to registration. If they arrive after the register has been taken, they will be marked as late with the L code.

Pupils arriving after 8.50am must go to the school office to sign in using the late book and provide a reason for their lateness. This information will be recorded on their attendance record and they will be marked as late with the L code.

In line with statutory guidance, our registers will close at 9.00 am.

Pupils arriving after 9.00am must go to the school office to sign in using the late book and provide a reason for their lateness. This information will be recorded on their attendance record and **they will be marked as late with the U code.** The U code shows that the pupil has attended school but is classed as an unauthorised absence for statistical purposes.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

NEWS CONTINUED

Reading:

As always, we encourage the children to read widely both in school and at home. Reading with your child is one of the most important ways you can help them to improve their fluency and comprehension. The children should bring their books and reading records home every day and when they have been heard by an adult at home they will receive a team point. Please make this clear by signing against the date. Ideally, we would like them to read every day at home, but know it is not always possible for you to hear them daily. Once the children have completed the phonics reading program, they can choose books from the library which align with their Accelerated Reader range. When they have read a book, they take a short quiz and the guidance is that they should achieve 80% or above. Sometimes we may ask the children to read a book more than once to secure their comprehension. There is a letter for you in your child's book bag explaining how you can view books read and quizzed on by your child.

PE Kits:

Please can the children in Wildfire and Tornado wear their PE kit into school on Wednesdays only and the remainder of the week have them in school in their PE bags. Rainbow and Hurricane classes can continue to bring theirs into school in their PE bags. Apologies as there seems to have been some confusion over this.

Our Christian Value this term is Wisdom.



Upcoming Dates

Thursday 3rd October – Governors Meeting

Monday 7th October – Friends Meeting 7pm @The Kingsdon Inn

Tuesday 8th October – School photos

Tuesday 15th October – Harvest Service

Monday 21st October – Parents Evening

Wednesday 23rd October – Parents Evening

Thursday 24th October – Flu vaccinations

Friday 25th October – INSET day

Monday 28th October-Friday 1st November – Half term

Tuesday 12th November- Open the book

Tuesday 26th November – Open the book

Thursday 28th November – Bikeability year 6's

Friday 29th November – Bikeability year 6's

Tuesday 3rd December – Open the book

Tuesday 17th December – Whole school Pantomime Trip Westlands to watch Jack & The Beanstalk

Friday 20th December – Last day of term

Many thanks again for your continued support.

Ali Allen (Headteacher)