



Aston and Cote Church of England Primary School

"Learning together through courage, love and respect"

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Newsletter 1 - Autumn Term

4th September 2020

Dear parents and carers

Welcome back to a new school year. Despite the very strange circumstances in which we find ourselves, I hope that all of you managed to enjoy some time with family and friends. I have really enjoyed hearing about the places the children have visited during the holidays - many of the usual far off places have been replaced with UK destinations but the children seem to have enjoyed them just as much and are keen to share their highlights.

I would like to extend a special welcome to all our new families, both those with children in Windmill 1 and 2 as well as those who have joined us in Year 1, 2, 3 and 4. We are sure that even in these unusual circumstances, children and parents will settle quickly into our school family, will make new friends and will enjoy all the lovely opportunities that our school has to offer.

We are very pleased to welcome Mrs East and Mrs Gardner back from maternity leave. We are also delighted to welcome Mrs Farrow to the team. Mrs Farrow will be teaching in Holywell Class every Monday.

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to the staff who have worked incredibly hard over the summer, preparing their classrooms and planning lots of exciting learning opportunities for the children. Mr Haskell, Mrs Woolard and Mrs Smith have also been extremely busy carrying out repairs around the school and giving it a deep clean, all ready for the new term. As you are all aware, this year is unlike any other and the efforts of the whole staff team to make the school as safe as possible are very much appreciated.

I am always happy to meet with parents by appointment and welcome feedback either verbally or by emails/Class Dojo.

Kind regards
Fiona Taylor,
Headteacher

School Value

Our value this half term is "Thankfulness". We will be considering that even in difficult times such as these we have so much to be thankful for including all the people who help us and for God's wonderful creation.

"Always be thankful." 1 Thessalonians 5:6



Thank you

On behalf of the staff, I would like to thank you for all the cards and gifts that we received at the end of last term - we really appreciate all your kind words and support.

Mr Haskell

After working at the school for approximately six and a half years, Mr Haskell has decided that it is time to retire so that he has more time to enjoy his hobbies and to spend with family and friends. He will be greatly missed by our whole school family as he does so much for the school. As well as maintaining the school building and grounds, he is our resident health and safety expert. In addition, he has taught many classes of children to play the ukulele and supported Mrs Gardner in running the Gardening Club. He also regularly entertains the staff with his funny jokes! Nothing is ever too much trouble so he really will be greatly missed. We all wish him a long and happy retirement and hope that he will keep in touch with us.

Communication

We like to keep you up to date with things that are going on in the school as well as informing you about forthcoming events and important messages. The school newsletter is published on the last day of each month. We also use Parent Mail to send messages home so if you have not already done so, please sign up. If you need help with this, please ask at the school office. Class teachers also communicate through Class Dojo - once again, if you have not already done so, please sign up.

If you have an urgent message for your child's teacher, please inform us through the school office as teachers do not always see Class Dojo messages before or during school.

Harvest Festival

This year our annual Harvest Festival will look a little bit different to usual. We will be recording an item by each class and these will be put together and then sent to you digitally at the end of the month. As in past years, we will be supporting the work of Besom which helps people in need in our local area - this year, more than ever, your help is needed to support vulnerable families. Donations of non-perishable foods such as pasta, rice, tinned tuna, etc. can be brought by your child to school in the week beginning 21st September.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

We will be holding a fundraising event in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support on Friday 25th September. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 restrictions, we will not be able to invite parents to join us for coffee and cake, but the children will get the opportunity to buy some cake at break time.



Drop off and pick up times

We are aware that this is a very busy time of day and we are keen to do everything that we can to support social distancing in the vicinity of the school gates. We would be very grateful if everyone could adhere to the following so that we can keep everyone safe:

- Only one adult accompanying the children to school
- Single file queues so that the footpath is not blocked for other users
- Arrive at your designated time slot to minimise the number of people queuing
- Maintain a distance of 1+ metre at all times

Please can I also request that you park considerately - we have had reports from several residents of Cote Road that cars are being parked across driveways therefore preventing the resident from leaving their house.

Kind regards

Fiona Taylor, Headteacher