

# Newsletter 1

September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to a new school year! Everyone arrived back at school bright eyed and bushy tailed (including the staff!) ready to start a whole new learning experience. Everyone was full of holiday news and things they had learnt over the summer.

Great news today – no one was absent and no one was late!!! 100% attendance for the day – could we make this a regular happening?

## **All Things New**

During assembly today, I shared some of my new knowledge learned during the holiday. My knowledge of sheep breeds increased enormously after a holiday in Swaledale and I discovered there was more than one sort of mule (horse/donkey cross plus Swaledale/Blue Leicester/Texel – this is probably more information than you require!). Children told of their new skills (bike riding, body surfing, trapeze skills, cricket, knitting, board games and card games – including Happy Families!)

We are delighted to welcome three new children and their families to St. Saviour's this year: Sebastian in Reception, Joshua in Year Three and Berkley in Year Five.

We are also thrilled to welcome Father Anthony, the Parish's new Curate, who will be an enormous help and support to Father Bradley. I know that Father Anthony will be visiting us soon and will leading the School Mass on occasions.

## **New Security System and Telephone Number**

You will have noticed some new doors were installed in the entrance hall to create a vestibule. This was designed to ensure that any visitor had to report directly to the office for verification. Clearly, you are not strangers to us but it is important that we strive to create as safe an environment as possible for all of us.

We have also had a new telephone system installed. This is very sophisticated and an improvement on the last one. However, there are two annoying issues with the new 'phones. Firstly, we have had to create a new telephone number which is **020 7084 6772**. Please add this to your contact list. Secondly, the telephone is answered by an unknown gentleman; this will be changed ASAP!

## **Playground Rejuvenation Fund Raiser**

The new playground surfaces are looking very bright and shiny – thank you to Mr. Higgins for organising this over the summer. This is Phase One of the playground regeneration plan which will include the planting of several fruit trees and the beginnings of what is called an Edible Playground. I am very grateful to Eleni's mum, Ms. Sfaello, for her enthusiastic help with this project as well as Ms Wellman who has also taken an interest.

We are still eager to continue collecting for this great project. Please see the vestibule for donation envelopes.

### **Reception and Year Six Buddies – important notice!**

Well done to both Year Six (for being such amazingly supportive Buddies) and Reception (for being so brave and enthusiastic about their new class) for making such a great start to your new friendships.

From Monday, please come to the main entrance as you are now really confident about coming into school. See you at the gate from 8:45 a.m.

### **New Year Five Special Gate Helpers and Returning Scooter Monitors**

I am very grateful to Charlotte, Mara and Ruby in Year Six for interviewing their replacement Year Five Special Gate Helpers today. They decided to appoint four Special Gate Helpers to ensure that everyone who rides a scooter to school can be supported with transporting their “vehicles” down the entrance stairs. These are: Ellie-Mae, Tyler, Bethal and Sophia. They will begin their duties on Monday morning at 8:40 a.m.

I would also like to thank Year Four’s Freddie and Alfie for agreeing to return as much valued Scooter monitors and Gate Time Keepers. Your brilliant organisation of the scooters as well as your help and support is most appreciated by Mr. Higgins and myself.

### **Aldi Sports Stickers**

Aldi have launched a new incentive scheme which aims to enable schools to save for sports equipment. If you shop in Aldi or know anyone that does, please collect the scheme stickers at the checkout. Coach Jamie will be the point of contact for the school and has an enormous poster for the stickers to be placed on.

### **A Timely Reminder of Appropriate Apps for children – or not!**

We will be sending out this year’s Appropriate Use of social media and photograph permission forms to update your preferences. This has led to a timely discussion about the use of various Social Media Apps which are readily available. **For your information, all such Apps require children to be 13+.** Many children have signed up (with parental permission?) for many of these (Tick Tock, Facebook, WhatsApp, etc.) and they really shouldn’t be.

**The reason for this is most of these Apps have been generated in the United States. The 13 age limit is because this is the age individual data can be collected by. If you have agreed for your child to use these Apps, you have also agreed (albeit unbeknown to you) for the owners of these Apps to collect your child’s data. I would urge you to consider your decision in the light of this information.** More information can be found here: <https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/esafety-news/tik-tok-app-safety-what-parents-need-to-know/>

**The School Photographer will be visiting on the morning of October 29<sup>th</sup> to take individual photographs. If you have registered that you do not wish your child/ren to be photographed, we will ensure this is not done. These photographs are for your personal use and not for the school website or Newsletter.**

### **Emergency Contact Numbers**

We have to ensure that we have **at least two contact numbers** for your children should we need to contact you. Please can you ensure that the Office have the most recent numbers for emergency contacts, such as Nannies etc too if you aren’t available. There have been two children this term who should have gone home as they were very ill but we were unable to contact anyone to take them home.

### **Buster – A Great Beginning**

Buster is spending the weekend with Ruby in Year Two. She has made an excellent start to the year. She has embraced new challenges with enthusiasm, positivity and care. Also, she has been a great help to her teachers and peers in Year Two already! Thank you and well done!

With all best wishes,

Miss Woodford