



ST. ALDHELM'S VA CHURCH PRIMARY SCHOOL
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HEADTEACHER: Mrs P Cohen

Dear Parents

The start of a new school year is always an exciting time. This year is particularly exciting and special as I take up my role as Headteacher of St. Aldhelm's. The year has begun very positively with two days of staff training to plan and prepare our vision and aims for this year. Staff have attended statutory safeguarding training, prepared the classrooms and worked together on key documents that will shape how we teach to ensure the best learning possibilities for every child. As a team, we are very much ready for the challenges and fun that lie ahead, most importantly getting to know your children, finding the ways that they work best and enabling them to reach their potential in all areas of their learning and development.

The children have made a fabulous start. They have spent time this week getting to know the expectations, routines and rules of their classes. They have also shared facts about themselves in our 'What Makes Me The Me I Am?' enquiry, which is helping everybody to get to know each other well.

We welcome our new reception children and families to the school. Those who have begun this week have settled very well, engaged in play and taken part in class activities. We look forward to welcoming the remainder of the class next week. We also welcome Bailey into Y3 and Arna Rose into Y1 as they join us at St. Aldhelm's this year.

Our first priority at the start of any year is always the children. We care passionately about settling them in to all classes and taking time to work through any of their apprehensions and worries. We hope you understand this initial focus. We do however, have every intention of welcoming and working with parents as it is this partnership that ensures we do the best for all the children. Each class teacher will be sending home a Welcome Letter at the end of next week. This will contain information about your child's provision and learning this year along with class expectations and a timetable of your child's week. We would also like to invite all parents to a Welcome Parents meeting during the week that follows. Class teachers will introduce themselves, share ways in which we can work together and you can support your child at home with their learning. These meetings will run from 3:30 - 4:00pm in your child's classroom so that you also see the environment where they will be learning. If you have more than one child and there are any clashes, please speak with the class teacher about the information shared.

Year Group	Class Name	Welcome Meeting
Year Reception	Robins	Reading Meeting (Date to follow)
Year 1	Nightingales	Monday 17 th September
Year 2	Magpies	Thursday 20 th September
Year 3	Owls	Tuesday 18 th September
Year 4	Finches	Tuesday 18 th September
Year 5	Woodpeckers	Thursday 20 th September
Year 6	Blackbirds	Monday 17 th September

Reception parents have been lucky to receive several welcome opportunities whilst their child has transitioned to school. Your next opportunity to come into school will be a Reading Meeting for Reception parents (date to follow). This will be a chance to hear up to date information on how your child will learn to read and the ways that you'll be able to help and support at home.

In October all parents will be invited to school for a Parent Consultation Evening. This will be a chance to have a 1:1 ten minute appointment with your child's class teacher to discuss how they have settled in, how learning is going and raise any matters about your child. More details will follow about how you sign up and book your appointment.

I am attaching a list of dates for you to add to your calendar for this year, with greater detail for this term. We hope you will be able to join us for as many events as possible. There are likely to be some further dates as I know the PTA are keen to meet to discuss and organise social events for our children and families. We will be in touch in due course.

A school newsletter will come out during each month to keep you in touch with what goes on in school. It is a wonderful way of capturing learning, activities and events. We will let you know when it has been published and you will be able to find it on the school website.

This year has the potential to be fantastic; I am a great believer that if we work together as a combined team of staff and parents we can make our school community life a successful and happy one.

Kind regards

Pippa Cohen
Headteacher