

Church Crookham News

"Achievement By All"

Welcome back to the start of our school year. We are very much looking forward to this new school year. An integral part of our school are our five core values of **kindness, respect, imagination, resilience and reflection**. These are very much embedded in our day-to-day work at our school and we look forward to seeing how our children develop a good understanding of these and apply these to their school and home lives.

Staffing News

A big CCJS welcome to new teachers to the school: Miss Chloe Bush, Mr Jon Riches and Mrs Kate Probert who are joining our teaching team. We are also delighted to welcome Mrs Amanda Hook and Mr James Stringer who are joining our team of Learning Support Assistants.

We are also delighted to welcome Miss Danielle Bending as our permanent Deputy Headteacher. Miss Bending has significant leadership experience and is particularly looking forward to getting to know all our children and parents. She will be on the Tudor Way gate (bottom end of the playground) at the start and end of the day so do come and say 'hello' and introduce yourself.

School Photographs

We have organised the school photographer to visit on Wednesday 6th September to take individual photographs of the pupils, as well as photographs with siblings. Should your child have a younger or elder sibling at our school, then later on that day the photographer will take these photos too. Details of how to order these will be sent out after the photographer has reviewed the pictures.

Parental Support

We are always appreciative of the support you provide. We are currently looking for parent volunteers who are able to spend some time regularly in school to support with using our library, hearing children read or in class too. If you are available and interested please do contact your child's teacher via adminoffice@crookham-jun.hants.sch.uk We would need to organise a DBS check for you and we would provide guidance to help with supporting in school. We look forward to hearing from you!

Date Sheets

Each Friday we will send out a date sheet with details of upcoming events. We are sure that you will find these useful.

Classes

We are very lucky to have such a fantastic talented group of staff and your children will have many memorable experiences over this year. The class names and teachers are, as follows:

Class	Teachers
3MP	Miss Michelle Pickett
3LR	Miss Lindsey Robertson
3BP	Miss Beth Paish
3MS	Mrs Mel Swallow
3NC	Miss Natalie Carrigy
4HA	Miss Helen Armstrong
4KH	Mr Kieran Hook
4SH	Mrs Sarah Harris
4JH	Miss Amy Jones & Mr James Holden
4BW	Mrs. Lucy Bingham & Mrs. Laura Wing
5MW	Miss Megan West
5CD	Mr. Callum Donaldson
5CB	Miss Chloe Bush
5KA	Mrs. Kath Atkinson
5KJ	Miss Kinsley Jones
6LW	Miss Laura Wardle
6JR	Mr Jon Riches
6KL	Mrs Kate Probert & Miss Laura Parker
6LJ	Mrs Laura Jakobitsch
6KP	Miss Katie Price

Good Communication

Staff are available before school (until 8.40am) and after school. If you would like to speak to a member of staff before 8.40am then please come to Reception first or call the school office before 8.30am. The School Office opens from 8am-4pm.

Your child will have small blue **Homelink Book** so you can write any questions, etc. or comments you would like to pass on to your child's teacher. Your child will be bringing one of these books home within the first few days of term.

You are also welcome to meet or discuss any concerns with the Year Leaders. For each year group they are, as follows:

Year Three – Miss Michelle Pickett

Year Four – Miss Helen Armstrong

Year Five – Miss Megan West

Year Six – Miss Laura Wardle

The **CCJS Facebook Page** can be a good source of information. This was set up and is run by parents, although a few members of staff have joined the group. In the interests of our staff having a good work-life balance, please avoid 'tagging' or directly messaging members of staff.

PTA Meeting on Tuesday 19th September 7.30pm

We have many enthusiastic volunteers who have all contributed to having a successful PTA that has raised considerable amounts of money and events over the year such as, school discos, Firework Evenings, Summer Fairs, etc. Our next meeting is in a few weeks and we look forward to welcoming many of you to the first meeting!

Clubs

Last term we sent out a Clubs List for those run by external companies. A second clubs list will come out next week, which will include the clubs run by our staff. We try to offer a great variety and ensure that children have these additional opportunities. As always my thanks go to our providers and school staff for their commitment. After School Clubs will start week beginning 18th September, when Year 6 return from their trip.

Absence

If your child is absent from school the office should be notified by 9am. You can do this by emailing or phoning school. As a school we have a duty of care to ensure all children are present in school and to follow up if any children are absent. Very occasionally you may need to take your child out during the school day – absence request forms will need to be completed prior to the day. The Department for Education have stated that holidays are not acceptable reasons for absence so please do ensure you book any planned holidays outside of the school term dates.

Fantastic Friday on 13th October

Planning has started for our first Fantastic Friday on 13th October. Prior to the day we provide opportunities for the children to pick the activities they wish to undertake. There is a lot on offer and the children will be able to choose their activities with their teachers in class. Fantastic Friday runs once a term and we do try and run some of the most popular activities again during the year. We know that Fantastic Friday will be a favourite day in the calendar for our children! As a parent, if you have time and would like to volunteer to run or help with any of our sessions, we'd be delighted to have your help. Please do email via our admin office adminoffice@crookham-jun.hants.sch.uk and provide any details. As mentioned previously, we would need to organise a DBS check ahead of this but if you have a talent, skill, interest or just want to demonstrate your enthusiasm we'd love to hear from you.

Year 3 Induction

There are several induction activities planned for the first few weeks back in school and parents are welcome to join these events and get to know other children in the class and our school. We know you'll enjoy these and we look forward to working with you over the next four years.

Year Six Residential and Activities Week

Our Year Six pupils are looking forward to their residential trip to Osmington Bay or taking part in a range of activities in the local area on the week beginning 11th September. There will be updates on our school visits twitter account @ccjsvisits. We know they will have a fantastic week, learn a range of new skills and make memories they will have for a lifetime!

Travelling to and from School

Children are encouraged to walk to school, travel by scooter or by bike. If children are travelling to and from school on their bike, they will need to be wearing a helmet to keep themselves safe. Please do check with them and remind them to be wearing it all the way on the journey! There is also parking for 'stop and drop' at the Bowenhurst Church car park and children can safely arrive using the crossing on Aldershot Road, if you need to drive your child to school. Please avoid using the local immediate roads of Oakwood, Tweseldown and Tudor Way as they are quite narrow and busy with children and parents arriving/leaving. Unfortunately, our school car park is closed to parents, with the exception of those with accessibility needs, as it is not safe for our children to have so many cars travel through it first thing in the morning and at pick up time. If you do have a reason for needing to drive through the school car park then please do contact our school office so we are aware and make provision for you to safely come into school.

Uniform

We encourage our children to wear their school uniform with pride; our uniform policy creates a real community feeling and avoids every day becoming a fashion show or a competition as to who has the latest styles.

Our school uniform means that children should wear:

- black flat shoes, which does not include boots, trainers, canvas pumps or backless slip-on shoes.
- plain white, black or grey socks (or tights if they'd prefer) and this means that children should not be wearing brightly coloured socks
- If children are wearing a plain white shirt with a collar that buttons up to the neck they should be wearing a school tie too, but if their shirt is open neck then they do not need to wear a tie
- trousers that are plain mid-grey –children should avoid wearing leggings or tracksuit bottoms
- a blue jumper or cardigan (preferably one with the school logo on).

Children should bring to school their PE kit which includes:

- White plain t-shirt or polo shirt (no football shirts)
- Blue or black shorts
- A tracksuit (preferably black, blue or grey)
- A jumper, such as the Church Crookham Junior School fleece, which children like to wear in colder weather.
- Plain black or white trainers or plimsolls

All of these items can be purchased easily – school jumpers, cardigans, school ties, fleeces and PE kits are available from “Brendas”, who do offer an online shop <https://www.brendas.co.uk/collections/church-crookham-juniors> . School does have some second hand uniform which can also be purchased – our PTA run this shop and they will be selling uniform early in the autumn term.

Children should not be wearing nail varnish or jewellery (except for a watch or studded earrings). As we head towards the new term please do help to check that your child is wearing the appropriate clothes so that they can take pride in their appearance and do not get distracted.

If children have long hair they need to have this tied back – this helps the children to look smart, able to see and minimising the spread of headlice.

Items Children bring to School

Every child is able to store their school bag and PE kit in a locker (this does not have a lock on the door). Please can we request that children only bring to school the items which they need and this does not include toys, balls, etc. This helps the children to be more focussed on learning and not having items which distract them. In a few rare cases, some children do bring in a toy item to help with transition, but this has been agreed with the class teacher to help support them. Children do not need to bring in pencil cases, but if they do so, they only need coloured pencils, rubber, sharpener, pencil and a whiteboard wipeable pen.

It also helps if your child can bring in a water bottle (in a plain bottle and not a branded bottle like a ‘Prime’ bottle). Again having plain bottles avoids distractions and keeps them hydrated!

Having the right equipment, avoiding having toys brought into school all helps children to settle and focus on the learning in the classroom for all pupils.

Behaviour

Over the past few months we have been reviewing our policies and procedures for ensuring that standards of behaviour are high. This is based on the belief that good behaviour needs to be taught and that the support of parents with this is crucial too. To ensure that there are clear and consistent expectations we have three rules in school, which are:

- Be kind
- Be safe
- Be respectful

These link well to our five core values and a focus for embedding these rules into all aspects of school life. We will continue to reward pupils who follow school rules with House Points, Golden Pupil Assemblies, positive notes and phone calls home, to name but a few. Conversely, where pupils do not follow these rules there is a system of consequence. At a low level they will be reminded and explained how their behaviour needs to improve, which is linked to our school rules. If low level behaviour persists, children may be moved to work away from their peers in class and given a last chance before having some reflection time at break or lunchtime to review and understand how to make improvements. At a more serious level sanctions may include removal from lessons to work away from their peers in class. Our teachers will contact parents if this happens and, the joint partnership between parents and school staff is essential to helping the pupil to learn about their behaviour. It is essential that all members of our school community – pupils, staff, parents and carers and support these systems for everyone's benefit. We know that with your support, including helping your child have the right uniform and equipment brought into school, the highest standards of behaviour can be achieved.

WhatsApp Groups

There are several class WhatsApp groups which have been set up by parents with the aim of providing efficient and useful ways to communicate, send reminders and allow parents to ask questions. However, if you are using any social media, including WhatsApp, it would be helpful if the following guidelines are followed:

- show kindness and think carefully about comments that you may post, and consider whether they could be interpreted as being unkind
- avoid using it to air views/grievances regarding a member of staff, child or parent in the class or school
- the group should be used keeping in mind mutual respect and cultural sensitivity between all its members
- should anyone in the group breach these rules contact the Administrator of the group, who can act on this. Also, do avoid sharing information about inappropriate comments made by other adults with your child.

All of our school values, particularly those about kindness and respect are important for us to apply in all we do.

WhatsApp's minimum age in the United Kingdom is 16 years old. This is because often children below the age of this find using WhatsApp hard. Unkind comments can have a significant impact on a child's emotional wellbeing and, often children are unaware of how to report and block unwanted contacts. If you have made the decision for your child to have WhatsApp, or any other social media which is below their current recommended age range, you should monitor your child's phone everyday to check that your child and their friends are using it appropriately, as well as talk to your child regularly about how they use it and, what they can do to keep personal information private.

Online Learning

As a school, we set homework through Google Classrooms, Spelling Frame, Timetables Rockstars and My Maths. As we move into the new school year, this does 'roll over' and takes a little bit of time to set up. When this is set up fully we will be sending out details of your child's log in so that they can access homework. We expect this to be very soon.

What's in the News?

This year we will be continue to share with children in weekly assemblies about a news story, helping our children develop an understanding and appreciation of the news. Having an age-appropriate conversation with your child about the news helps to keep them interested about what's happening in the world. We will send out a summary of our weekly news which we have been sharing in assemblies with you and, this may well help promote discussion at home and help with your child moving from wanting to know what happens in MY world to what happens in THE world and their place in it. Discussing the news of the day doesn't have to be formal but can be done naturally and casually in everyday moments, such as on the way to school or preparing a meal. Look out for these weekly news items sent out to you to discuss with your child. We know how popular they were last year amongst our pupils!

Last Night of the Proms

The Last Night of the Proms will be on BBC1 on Saturday 9th September. Why are we telling you this? Mr Riches, who teaches in Year 6 and is also a professional musician, will be performing. Do take some time to watch this and see if your child can spot Mr Riches amongst the orchestra members. An extra challenge will be if they can find out the name of the instrument he plays (Hint: it's in the brass section!).

Meet your Child's Teacher

On Wednesday 6th September there will be a chance to pop into school and see your child's class and meet your child's teacher between 3.30-4pm. (Please note that this will take place on Tuesday 5th September for 6LR and 4HA). It is an informal opportunity for your child to act as a tour guide and show you the class and for you to introduce yourself to your child's teacher. Of course, there will be more formal Parents' Evenings in a few weeks and you can always request a meeting to discuss anything with your child's teacher but this session is designed to be an informal chance to pop into school.

Timings for the School Day

8.35am Gates open and children (and parents) can walk onto the school playground. If children are early they are asked to wait at the gate as there is no supervision on the playground until 8.35am

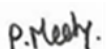
8.40am The bell rings and children can come into school

8.50am The school day officially starts with the register being taken (children should be in school by 8.50am)

8.50am All the school gates will be locked, so parents/childminders, etc. should have left the school site. (In the first few days of term the gates will be kept open until 8.55am)

We very much look forward to welcoming your child to school on Monday 4th September!

Kind regards,



Pam Meek
Headteacher