



All Saints' C.E. Primary School

-- Newsletter 15th December 2017

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Advent & Christmas Faith Focus Day

This month, Key Stage 2 took part in our first Advent & Christmas Faith Focus Day. Great fun was had by all and lots of new knowledge about Advent and Christmas was gained. Year 3 and Year 4 made Jesse tree and Christmas tree decorations, and learned about the different stories on the timeline of Christianity. Year 5 and 6 undertook an exploration of the four themes - KING, SAVIOUR, FRIEND and WORD, and how they relate to Advent and Christmas through the eyes of a Christian.



Many of the themes explored will be showcased in our forthcoming Christmas Service in church on 18th December.

Attendance Update

There will be some changes with our Attendance Policy which will be in place by January 2018. Follow the link below to view our newly updated policy on the website.

<http://allsaints->

alrewas.staffs.sch.uk/sitetemplate/allsaints/uploads/Policies/ALL%20SAINTS%20ATTENDANCE%20POLICY%20-%20DEC%2017.pdf

Just to summarise:

- Headteachers are still advised against granting leave of absence during term time 'unless there are exceptional circumstances.'
- Requests for leave will have to be made in advance and in writing.
- If a child/children are absent for more than 10 days a penalty notice may be issued.
- If a child/children are late on 10 occasions over a 12 week period a penalty warning notice, and potentially a fine, may be issued.

Our overall attendance is excellent and we recognise how seriously our parents take this matter. We are always on hand to support with any issues around attendance and will strive to work with families and parents to resolve any problems.

See attached information provided on a letter from Staffordshire CC.

Dear Parent / Carer

Changes to Penalty Notices for Absence from School

Ensuring your child has access to a good education is very important to us.

A key part of this is for all children and young people to regularly attend school, as this gives each learner the best chance to achieve their full potential. In light of the recent Isle of Wight court case and the subsequent Supreme Court ruling on school absences, we wanted to clarify our position for parents where there may be the potential for any ambiguity and to also ensure we are fully compliant with legal requirements.

As a result, we have made a few changes to our previous guidance to schools, parents and carers regarding absence from school. The new guidance will come into force from **1 January 2018** and is detailed below:

Penalty Notice for leave of absence (holiday) in term time

From 1 January 2018 **any** period of unauthorised leave may result in you as a parent receiving a penalty notice fine. Your head teacher will continue to be the only person able to authorise leave in term time, but this will apply only in exceptional circumstances. Any unauthorised absence will be referred by your head teacher to the local authority.

Penalty Notice for persistent lateness

Previously a pupil had to achieve 20 unauthorised late marks before a penalty notice warning could be issued. **This has now changed to 10 marks**, and late marks do not have to be one after the other in order for the penalty notice to be issued. You are therefore encouraged where possible to ensure your child attends school on time. However, if your child is late you must inform the school of the reason(s) why, as they may be able to offer you some form of advice or support.

Period of time used to measure persistent absence and lateness

If your child has had 10 days unauthorised absence or is late 10 times over a twelve week period, you may receive a penalty warning notice and also potentially a fine.

These changes have been agreed with local head teachers and have been implemented to help promote and support good attendance to school. Further details and a copy of the revised Code of Conduct for issuing Penalty Notices can be obtained from the council's website www.staffordshire.gov.uk/education.

The vast majority of children and young people in Staffordshire have an excellent record of school attendance, and we recognise the efforts of so many parents to ensure their children attend school regularly.

The Local Authority will continue to take appropriate action for absences during term time when we are notified by head teachers, both to support them in their role and to ensure local children can continue to achieve the best possible outcomes from attending local schools.

Yours faithfully

Paul Senior

Head of Education Vulnerable Learner Services 0-25

Parent Survey Feedback - November 2017

Thank you very much for completing this recent survey. Please see below for a summary of your responses. At the bottom there is an outline of things planned and/or in place to address or clarify the issues raised. Individual queries and concerns have been dealt with on an individual basis where contact details were supplied.

QUESTION	YES	NO	MOSTLY
Do you think your child feels safe in school?	95%		5%
If your child felt unsafe or worried do you think they would know what to do or who to speak to in school?	79%	4%	21%
Do you mostly feel able to approach the school with concerns or questions about any aspect of your child's experience in school?	87%	7%	9.5%
Does your child enjoy school?	89%		11%
Do you feel that your child/children get a reasonable amount of homework which is suitably challenging?	79%	11.5%	9.5%
Do you feel that your child is taught well?	83%	1 said didn't know	13%
Do you feel that your child is appropriately challenged in lessons?	60%	1 said didn't know	40%
Do you feel that you are well informed about your child's progress?	56%	11.5%	40%
Do you feel that news and events are generally well communicated?	40%	11.5%	48.5%

Safeguarding and Safety: We have displayed personalised posters with photographs of designated safeguarding leads. Each half term children are reminded in assembly about what to do and who to turn to if they feel worried or unsafe in any way.

Approaching School and Communication: We have an 'open door' policy. Parents are welcome to communicate with us in whatever way is easiest; phone call, letter, email (headteacher@allsaints-alrewas.staffs.sch.uk) or by making an appointment at the office.

We hold Parent Forum meetings each half term (see website) and parents can attend and suggest agenda items on the day or beforehand (suggestion box in office). Sometimes parents ask other parents to raise issues on their behalf. Queries and requests are always responded to very quickly - normally within 24 hours.

Newsletters are generally sent out every 2 weeks. Dates are put initially on newsletters and then on the website calendar. To further improve communication about sporting and extra-curricular events we will include an information section on every newsletter describing current and forthcoming events, starting January 2018.

We will endeavour to send texts out to remind about events such as non-uniform days etc well in advance.

Homework: We are looking at ways of making homework (particularly maths) more challenging, interesting and easily accessible for parents. In January we plan to introduce a scheme for maths homework and it will be set and taught as part of lessons before being sent home in a clearly labelled homework book for children to complete. There will be a range of activities including open ended problem solving, which will hopefully be more fun for the children. There will also be examples for parents to refer to clearly showing working out steps and methodology.

Opportunities for Year 3 and 4: We have planned a number of specific activities for these year groups for next term. There will be archery for years 3 to 6, canoeing and hockey for years 3 and 4. We have also booked extra coaching hours to provide lunchtime football clubs on Thursday and Friday lunch times. This will operate on a rota basis.

School Dinners: We have served notice to our current school meals provider, and will be using a different provider from April. Please see future newsletters for more details nearer the time. We should see an improvement in the meals served and more children eating them on a regular basis.

Parents Evenings and Communicating Progress: Parents receive three, termly, written reports on their child's progress and attainment. At each parents' evening a written report detailing children's progress against previous targets and setting new targets is given. In addition, parents receive a report on their child's attitudes to learning (Secrets of Success). The summer report also includes details of children's progress, attainment and effort in each curricular area. It states whether children are working towards, at or above the expected level in each area of the National Curriculum. Please speak to your child's teacher directly if you have questions regarding their attainment.

We currently offer one day time and one afternoon/evening appointment. For the next parents' evening we will extend the time of the later session in an attempt to meet the needs of more parents, and longer slots. If there are parents who need longer extra time, an appointment can always be made for another time. Parents can request to see or talk to a teacher if there any concerns between parents evenings.

Governor Newsletter

Please follow the link to view the latest Governor Newsletter

<http://allsaints-alrewas.staffs.sch.uk/sitetemplate/allsaints/uploads/GOVERNORS/Governor%20Newsletter/Dec17.pdf>

School Council Newsletter

Please follow this link to view the latest school council newsletter:

<http://allsaints-alrewas.staffs.sch.uk/sitetemplate/allsaints/uploads/School%20Council/School%20Council%20Newsletter%20Aut%202017.pdf>

Christmas Jumper Day

The children look really festive today. We thank you for your generous donations towards Save The Children. We will let you know how much was raised until the new year.



Maths Rockstars Update.

Are you a rock legend yet? Children in all classes have been logging on and completing a range of challenges. The more you play the more gold coins you will earn. Use these to purchase a range of memorabilia! Over the next few weeks all classes will compete with each other in 'Battle of the Bands' to see which class can achieve the most correct answers.



We have asked some of the children about this latest initiative...

'It helps me because it tells me the right answer if I get one wrong. I like building my character. I've got £16,000 so I can buy loads of things!'

Toby Dennard

'I like my avatar, I have a trophy. If I work hard I will get my stadium for £3,000!'

James Collins.

'I like how we are involved in competitions (Battle of the Bands). Each group is set different times tables so everyone is challenged. I enjoy the leader boards and charts to see which times tables I need to improve.'

Ben Gardner

Thanks for your continued support with this. Come and ask in school if you are having any problems with using it.

The children are really positive and on board with it

Watch out for the new maths homework books in the new year.

And finally.....

Happy Christmas and best wishes for 2018. We look forward to seeing you safe and well in the new year.

We'll collect and chip your Christmas tree from your home or workplace in return for a donation to St Giles Hospice.

From 8th to 12th January 2018
Book early to avoid disappointment!

www.stgileshospice.com/treecycle
treecycle@stgileshospice.com
01543 432538

Register online by **Friday 5th January 2018 12pm.**

We collect from Lichfield, Rugeley, Burntwood, Burton, Sutton Coldfield, Tamworth, Walsall and surrounding areas.
We are unable to chip fake trees.

Payment is regarded as acceptance of the terms and conditions, full terms and conditions can be found at www.stgileshospice.com/christmastree

St Giles Hospice, Fisherwick Road, Whittington, Lichfield, Staffordshire WS14 9LH



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