

Our value this half term is Community

"It is not that you think less of yourself, but that you think more of others."

The value of Community was beautifully celebrated at Harvest this year, when our Juniper Class joined the wider community of Church of England schools in the St Albans Diocese at an amazing and joyful service in the Cathedral itself. Pupils joined in with the songs we knew and listened intently to the songs we didn't know!

Bishop Michael spoke to all the congregation about this year's Harvest Appeal, which we have supported through our own smaller community Harvest Festival in St Mary's Church last week. Thanks to all

the families who brought the harvest

Give peas a chance

offerings and for the wonderful turn out of parents joining us in worship. The Parish raised a really substantial sum of money for the 'Give Peas a Chance' appeal, supporting farmers in Malawi with the 'super' pigeon pea that can withstand drought conditions.

We are also bringing our school community together on Friday 12th October, including pupils from the past, to celebrate and thank our funders for the generous support of the new building. It is hoped that in time this Hall, to be named the Edward Reeves Memorial Hall, will provide an opportunity for the school to host events bringing the community in to school. We just need to sort out the acoustics first! All parents and pupils are welcome to join us at 6pm on Friday – there will be refreshments, so if you are hoping to come, please let us know by emailing rsvp@crls.org.uk so we can cater for the right number.

School News



We are delighted to welcome a new member of staff to join the Juniper Class team. Mrs Barbara Aellen becomes class teacher with Mrs Wildman

from Wednesday 7th November. Mrs Aellen will be in school on Wednesday afternoons, Thursdays and Fridays.

Having said goodbye to Miss Spence as our Caterlink kitchen staff, we are also sadly saying goodbye to her as cleaner, as we did to Mrs Chaisty at the end of the summer. We thank them both for their service and high standards. In their place we welcome two new cleaners - Mrs Lawman and Mrs Lee. Welcome to the team that makes our learning environment a wonderful place to be.

Dates from the Diary

Friday 12th October

Juniper Class Multi-Sports Festival

Please make sure children have PE kit (including trainers) in school. All pupils will need to bring a packed lunch in disposable bags.

Friday 12th October 6pm

Formal opening of the Edward Reeves Memorial Hall

Following on from our Parent Preview and school opening of the new classroom and hall, everyone is invited to this second event, which is also open to past pupils and members of the community. We are delighted that guests from the local authority, the Diocese of St Albans and representatives of the trust which so generously funded the new building, will be present to dedicate the building. Please RSVP to rsvp@crls.org.uk if you would like to attend.

Monday 15th October

Year 5 / 6 Tag Rugby Team

A team representing the school will compete at Bedford Modern School

Wednesday 17th October 2.45pm

School Closes Early at 2.45pm due to:

Wednesday 17th October 3 – 6pm

Parent Consultations

An opportunity for 10 minute appointments to discuss how your child has settled into their new class; the class teacher will also share your child's learning targets.

Thursday 18th October 5 – 7pm

Parent Consultations

We hope that these evening appointments help working parents.

NB The deadline for return of 'preferred option' is past, so if you did not get your form in on time, please check the list which will go up in the classroom windows, as we will offer you one of the remaining slots.

Friday 19th October

Plastic Free Friday

This is our first event of the year organised by one of our Charity Champions. Please see the letter attached with this newsletter for information.

Friday 19th October 3.30pm

End of Half Term

The KS2 Football After School Club is still on.

Monday 29th October

Teacher CPD Day

Tuesday 30th October

Pupils Return for Autumn 2nd Half Term

Thursday 1st November

Pumpkin Lanterns Competition

Prizes for all who enter! Carve, decorate, get creative and surprise us with any kind of lantern that we can use to light the way to our Autumn Disco. Please bring your entries to school in the morning and take them home again after the disco.

Thursday 1st November

Autumn Disco

5.30 – 6.15 Key Stage 1

6.15 – 7pm Key Stage 2

This year we are experimenting with a split Key Stage Disco. We appreciate this requires parents with pupils in both key stages to have to juggle transport, but perhaps with some lift sharing it will be possible. Importantly we want to ensure our pupils have an age-appropriate experience at the disco itself. We are very happy to take

feedback after the event to see if it is a way forward.

Friday 9th November 10.30am St Mary's Church

Act of Remembrance

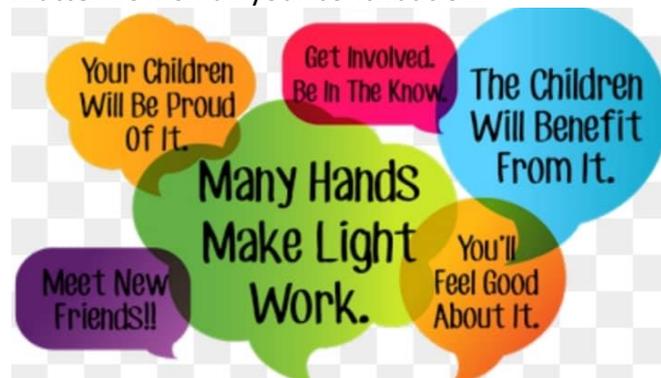
All welcome to join the service

PTA News

The school is extremely grateful to the PTA for its ongoing support in creating an irresistible environment for children to access books, in the new library space. It is already being used with great enthusiasm, and there are more plans afoot!

Weds 10th October 6.45 for a 7pm start

Christmas Bazaar Planning Meeting at the New Inn Pub, Wymington – please come along no matter how small your contribution.



Thursday 11th October 1.30pm onwards

Spiritual Garden Tidy Up

Please join us with whatever tools you can bring, to give the garden a tidy up ready for planting.

School Lunches

Caterlink Meal Portions

Finally Caterlink is able to offer larger meal portions for older pupils. There is the option to have a 'Secondary' portion at an additional cost. Details will be with you very soon, such that we can begin after half term.

Free School Meals

In addition to providing Universal Free School Meals for all pupils in years R, 1 and 2, it is also possible to have free school meals if your household income is below £16,190, or you are in

receipt of Income Support / Job Seekers Allowance. It is well worth applying, even if your children are under 8 and you are automatically receiving universal free school meals, because it unlocks other types of support. You can download a form or apply on line https://www.bedford.gov.uk/education_and_learning/education_grants/free_school_meals.aspx

Healthy Schools Packed Lunches

As you are aware, pupils can choose to bring in a packed lunch rather than have a cooked school meal. May I remind parents that to ensure that packed lunches meet the Healthy Schools standards of a balanced and healthy diet. We ask that you follow these guidelines:

Packed lunches should contain:

- A source of protein (meat, fish, cheese, egg, beans, nuts)
- Fresh salad, veg and/or fruit portions
- No more than one small pack of crisps or similar – please consider a low fat and low salt option, such as ‘oven bake’ varieties
- Sugar free drinks only

Packed lunches should **NOT** contain:

- Chocolate or chocolate biscuits
- Sweets

There is a fantastic app free to download which can be used as you go around the shops, giving you instant feedback on the sugar content of foods. It is very visual and will allow you to show children how many ‘sugar cubes’ are in the foods on the shelves.

Car Parking and Road Safety

For our own children’s safety and in respect of our long-suffering neighbours, Mrs Fraser is asking for some changes in our car parking habits.

The road through Podington is particularly busy whilst traffic is being redirected from elsewhere, and we are very concerned that road safety is being compromised. Parents should park either at the Cricket Club or the Garden Centre. The walk into school from both these car parks is a matter of minutes.

1. Out of respect to our community, please do NOT park across the front gardens or driveways of houses either side of the school.

2. Please could I ask parents NOT to park in front of the school unless you have pre-school children or mobility needs. It would be a great kindness to reserve these spots for those who need it most, to avoid having to cross the roads.

3. Please do NOT turn your vehicles in driveways, **including the staff car park entrance**, as children are walking across these to arrive and leave school, and we have had reports of some near misses. This danger may resolve if everyone uses the car parks as requested, however, if you do find yourself needing to turn around, the safest spot would be to enter one of the car parks.

Thank you in anticipation – a little inconvenience is a small price to pay for children’s safety.

Club News

A reminder that Football Clubs only run for the first half of the Autumn Term.

KS2 Table Tennis Club

starts after half term on Friday 3.30 – 4.30pm.

There are still a couple of places left.

There are places remaining for KS2 pupils in :

Multi Skills (Monday)

Tag Rugby (Thursday)

