

A warm welcome back to school and a particularly warm welcome to all our new pupils and families!

Our value this half term is Thankfulness

“Be joyful always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Jesus Christ.”

1 Thessalonians 5: v16-18

It is only three days back at school, and already we have reason to give grateful thanks to staff and parents, going above and beyond to help us get off to a fantastic start. Especially thank you to Mrs Ciesielska for two huge boxes of pencils, Mr and Mrs Manko for a magnificent job on the garden and Mrs Sims for help in settling the younger children.

We also give thanks for the safe arrival of Edward (Woody) Carter, a few weeks early in July, and the full recovery of Mrs Vic Carter in the weeks that followed. We wish her well as she embarks on maternity leave. Congratulations, love and best wishes to the whole family.

Federation News

Following the news of the structure changes ahead, we have planned a number of opportunities for the children and parents to meet Mrs Bush, who will take over as Executive Headteacher from January 2020. Mrs Bush and Mrs Fraser will continue to work closely together throughout the Autumn term.



Federation Vision – Happiness Through Wisdom

We are very excited to have been awarded a small sum of money to launch our new Federation Vision with an art project. This term, all pupils will be involved exploring what it means to achieve happiness through learning rather than through material possessions, and we will be creating a piece of artwork to take centre stage in our school.

Refurbishment at Christopher Reeves

Thank you for your patience as we tackle the double challenge of starting a new school year AND moving the school office, installing new telephones and rebuilding the entrance.

We hope the new solution for pupil access is a little easier to manage. Staff / visitor and daytime parent access is by cutting across the car park. The contractors, Mineralstar hope to be completed all works by the week after half term but if you have concerns in the meantime, or if you have ideas for better solutions, please do let us know.

There has also been a great deal of work that is not visible – heating improvements and insulation – that will have an enormous impact on our energy efficiency.



Communications to Parents

School life is incredibly busy, and especially for small schools where each member of staff has multiple roles to play. We would really like to improve the efficiency of our communication with parents to make planning easier for you, and to cut out duplication of how we communicate.

There will be one newsletter each half term, containing key information about our school events and giving advance notice of Diary Dates. We will also start to use the Upcoming Events facility on our website homepage, so if you lose the emailed newsletter or calendar dates, you can make a quick check online.

<https://www.christopher-reeves-school.co.uk/>

We will now only text you about events if details have changed.

Club News

Due to the school office move, we will not be ready to start afterschool clubs until w/c 16th September.



The Petit Etoile French Club is running its free trail session on Tuesday 10th September. Details of all other clubs are coming out this week.



Breakfast Club from 7.45am

A reminder that for the coming week, parents can use the Breakfast Club on an ad

hoc basis. The daily cost of £3.50 is payable either in cash, or can be added to the half term bill when the booking system come in, also w/c 16th September.

Dates from the Diary

Monday 16th September 3.30 – 4.30pm

Parent Forum – Behaviour Audit

Come and meet Ian Lindsay who conducted our school Behaviour Audit, to hear about our findings, the recommendations we have put in place and to contribute your thoughts for further consideration. To book your place please email admin@crls.org.uk putting 'Parent Forum' in the subject heading.

Wednesday 18th September 3.30 – 4.30pm

PTA AGM

All parents are automatically members of the PTA, so please do come along to our first meeting of the new school year. We would love you to get involved, but if you just want to pop along and listen to how we work, that is fine too!

Wednesday 2nd October

Juniper Class – Portals to the Past WW2 Day

Details will be sent out in a class letter.

Wednesday 9th October 10.30am

Whole School Harvest Service



Parents/Carers are invited to squeeze into St Mary's Church with us to celebrate Harvest! It is a long held tradition for pupils to decorate and fill a cardboard box with fruit, vegetables or non-perishable food items. Some of these are donated to the Sanctuary Foodbank in Rushden and others are auctioned at the Parish Harvest Supper on Friday 11th October where the proceeds go to the Bishop of St Alban's Harvest Charity – this year it is a project in Tanzania.

Wednesday 9th October 6 – 7pm

Autumn Term Curriculum Evening

This term we are going to talk about the 2 R's! Reading and Religious Education. Please come along to find out how we teach these subjects, and how you can support you children at home.

Thursday 10th October

World Mental Health Day

Thursday 10th October 8.30 – 11.30am

School Nurse Advice Clinic

This is very popular and useful confidential service provided by the School Nursing team who can advise on any of those things that you feel might not warrant a visit to the GP, such as bed-wetting, night terrors, anxieties, limited diet, etc. Parents can book a half hour appointment; children do not attend. We will let pupils settle into the new school term, and then send out appointment forms towards the end of September.

Wednesday 16th October 5 -7.30pm /

Thursday 17th October 3 – 6pm

Parent Consultation Evenings

The purpose of the Autumn Parent Consultation is to discuss how your child has settled – a focus on their well-being – and to set learning targets.

Friday 18th October

School finishes for Half Term Holiday

Monday 28th October

Staff Training Day – no pupils in school

Tuesday 29th October 8.50am

Pupils return to school

Church News

Sunday 29th September

Chellington Team Service at St Mary's 11am Eucharist followed by Bring and Share lunch in the Edward Reeves Memorial Hall, Christopher Reeves C of E Primary School

Sunday 6th October

Harvest Service at St Mary's Church, Podington 11am Eucharist



Important Information

Caterlink Online Accounts

If your child is now in Year 3 (or above), you will need to set up an online account with Caterlink. Mrs Mustoe emailed details in July, but if you cannot locate this, just ask again at the school office. Please ensure your account is in credit at all times. The school is instructed not to serve meals to pupils where the account is in debt. If we do, the school becomes liable for that debt. Meals cost £2.10. For pupils Year 5 or 6, portions are slightly larger and meals cost £2.20 each.

Special Dietary Requirements

Please notify Mrs Mustoe if your child has special dietary needs so that we can ask Caterlink to provide a specific menu.

Free School Meals

All pupils in Years R, 1 and 2, are entitled to a free school meal – this is a government initiative known as Universal Free School Meals.

It is also possible to apply for 'free school meal' status which opens up a range of support for children and families, both in school and beyond. If your household income is below £16,190, you should apply, even if you are automatically receiving universal free school meals.

You can apply on line or download a form: https://www.bedford.gov.uk/education_and_learning/education_grants/free_school_meals.aspx

Healthy Schools Snacks

We had a number of questions about this last year, so for clarity, here are the school guidelines for the provision of a healthy mid-morning snack:

Pupils in Year R, 1 & 2 receive a free snack as part of the Fruit & Veg Scheme. As the title suggests, it will be a piece of fruit or salad veg; the school receives several deliveries in a week but we do not have a choice of foodstuffs, so unfortunately, if your child does not like what is offered we may not have an alternative. Mrs Cranage manages the scheme for our school; if you have any questions, do speak to her. Pupils in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 are welcome to bring a mid-morning snack from home, but this must also be a piece of fresh fruit or veg.



Water bottles should only contain water

Please take them home daily and refresh the water. Children are also free to refill their water bottles throughout the day, from the classroom water taps. We appreciate that not all children will freely drink plain water, but ask, please, that you do not put squash in as an alternative. It might help to squeeze in lemon juice, or drop in strips of cucumber, to give fresh water a light but healthy flavour.

As a Healthy School, we have undertaken to ensure that pupil's lunches meet strict healthy eating standards. We ask therefore that packed lunches should include:

- 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 (please note that fresh water is always available)

Packed lunches should NOT contain:

- Chocolate, chocolate biscuits or chocolate covered snacks
- 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. Search for: **Change4Life Sugar Smart Food Scanner**



Earrings – New Guidelines

To date, the school has had a strict 'no earrings' school uniform rule, and I would like to thank parents for respecting and abiding by this.

From Sept 2019, we have produced new guidelines:

- Pupils can wear simple stud earrings to school (small, plain and smooth – no sharp edges or gems, no hoops)

- For PE, earrings should be covered with a plaster, or pupils can remove the earrings themselves
- Parents are encouraged to look for safety features now available for earring backs
- In relation to the wearing of earrings, school staff will only get involved if there has been an injury, and will not be able to deal with lost earrings or infected piercings.

Thank you for your support in this matter.

**STOP PRESS:
Telephone System**

If you are having difficulty getting through to us, please leave a message on the school answerphone, which we are checking regularly.

We hope to have the issue resolved soon.

We are looking forward to a wonderful Autumn Term and hope to see you soon at our school events.