

# St Laurence Church Infant School

## Newsletter

Issue 1  
Autumn 2011



### Welcome back!

We do hope you had an enjoyable summer break and we look forward to a happy year ahead.

May we extend a warm welcome to those children and families who are new to our school.



### Dates

NB Dates for individual Year Group events will be notified separately.

#### Tuesday 27 September

Parents' Evening 5.00 pm - 7.30 pm

#### Wednesday 28 September

School photographs

#### Thursday 29 September

Parents' Evening 3.30 pm - 6.00 pm

#### Friday 7 October

PALS Reception Disco 6.00 pm - 7.00 pm

#### Monday 17 October to Friday 21 October

Healthy School Week

#### Thursday 20 October

Harvest Celebration at  
St Laurence Church 9.15 am

#### Monday 24 October to Friday 28 October

Half term holiday

### September 2011 Classes

#### YR

Miss Murphy [Year Group Leader]	RR	Red
Miss Ricketts	RY	Yellow
Miss Douglas	RB	Blue

#### Y1

Mrs Wheale	1R	Red
Mrs Wallach & Mrs West	1Y	Yellow
Mrs McFall [Year Group Leader]	1B	Blue

#### Y2

Miss Pugh	2R	Red
Mrs Whitehouse [Year Group Leader]	2Y	Yellow
Mrs Griffin	2B	Blue

### St Laurence Church Infant School Vacancies

Details available from the School Office

Parent Governor

Clerk to the Governing Body

# Session Times

Early Years Foundation Stage [YR]

Morning Session 8.55 am to 12.15 pm

Afternoon Session 1.05 pm to 3.05 pm

Key Stage One [Y1 & Y2]

Morning Session 8.55 am to 12.30 pm

Afternoon Session 1.20 pm to 3.10 pm

At the beginning of the school day, a bell is rung at 8.50 am for the children to line up in the playground with their teacher. **Please ensure your child arrives at school on time.** The children then walk into school with us, ready to begin the day at 8.55 am. **Please encourage your child to line up on their own to avoid congestion.** In addition, please be aware of class lines walking past as they go into school, as it is sometimes difficult for the children to get through the parents who are waiting.

Please wait until you are happy your child has gone safely into school before you leave the playground. At the end of the day staff handover the children to parents in the playground. Please stand towards the back of the playground, behind the road track, to enable us to see that each child has gone safely to their parent. **Children are not allowed to leave the site unless a parent or other known adult [18 years or over] is there to collect them.**

Children must not use bicycles or scooters in the playground either before or after school. Our playground is very busy and we are concerned that a child, either of school age or a younger sibling, may get hurt.

## Healthy School Week Monday 17 October - Friday 21 October

We have organised a week of fun activities designed to support our work in the four key areas of the National Healthy School Standard - healthy eating, physical activity, PSHE & C and emotional health & well-being. All of the children will also be visiting the **Life Education Caravan**, which will be at school on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

## Collective Worship

An act of Collective Worship takes place each day. Parents are invited to attend on **Mondays** for our **Star Award Assembly** when children's special achievements during the previous week are celebrated and on **Tuesdays** when **Father Charles** joins us and we congratulate children with **birthdays** for the week from Monday to Sunday.

## Parents' Evenings

**Tuesday 27 September**

5.00 pm - 7.30 pm and

**Thursday 29 September**

3.30 pm - 6.00 pm

Our Parents' Evenings this term are an informal opportunity to visit your child's classroom and meet their class teacher in the hall. Parents are invited to make an appointment by signing the sheets, which will be displayed on classroom doors from 8.50 am on Thursday 22 September 2011. **Please note this evening is for parents/carers and children should not attend.**

## Food in School

Children receive a free piece of fruit or vegetable each school day under the **Government's School Fruit & Vegetable Scheme**. This initiative is to encourage children to eat more fruit/vegetables and help towards their 5 a day!

We have a **nut free policy** in school and to support this we would like to ask parents who give their children a packed lunch to only include food which does not contain nuts. Many thanks for your help.

**It is essential that you inform us of any allergies, including nut allergies, your child may have so that we can ensure they are not given anything that might harm them.** An official **Diet Request Form** is available from the School Office for those children who have school meals and require a special diet.

# Water is Cool in School!

We would like the children to bring a named water bottle to school each day filled with fresh drinking water. Research has shown that when children drink more water they:

- become less tired
- have fewer headaches
- are more receptive to learning
- have better concentration

At morning break, children may buy a drink of fruit juice or milk, or bring a small carton of fruit juice from home. Children who have sandwiches for lunch may either have water provided by school or bring a small carton of fruit juice from home to drink with their meal.

## Malawi Fundraising 'Thank You'

In the Summer Term each class designed and planned their own fundraising event to raise money for a Church School in Malawi which the Diocese of Birmingham has been supporting for over 40 years.

We are delighted that we raised a total of **£1322.95**, which has been sent to the Diocesan Board of Education. Many thanks for your generous support.

## Attendance and Punctuality

Please report to the School Office if you bring your child to school late or need to collect your child early. It is important for us to have an accurate record of all children who are in school for Health & Safety reasons.

Parents/carers sign our **Home-School Agreement**, which states:

### AS A PARENT/CARER

#### I WILL

#### DO MY BEST TO...

Ensure that my child attends school and that my child arrives and is collected on time.

Not take holidays during term time.

Holidays should not be taken during term time. In **exceptional circumstances**, permission to withdraw a child from school for a holiday must be applied for in advance. Please apply in writing to the Deputy Headteacher, Mrs Hodgkiss.

If your child is absent, please telephone the School Office before 11.00 am on the same day. If you know in advance that your child will be absent, perhaps for an appointment, please inform the class teacher.

## Photographs

**Wednesday 28 September 2011**

Individual photographs will be taken of all children at the Infant School on this day. In addition, photographs of Infant family groups will also be taken [ie brothers/sisters in YR, Y1 and Y2]. Proofs will be sent home and there is no obligation to purchase.

## Playground Equipment

Thank you for respecting our request that the playground equipment is for supervised use during school hours only. Please note the signs:

Children may only use this play equipment whilst being supervised by St Laurence Church Infant School staff.

# Harvest Celebrations

Our **Harvest Festival** will be on Thursday 20 October 2011 at St Laurence Church at 9.15 am. Father Charles will be welcoming us into the Church and we would love parents to join us. Mrs Wheale's class, 1R, will be leading our worship at Church. It would be extremely helpful if parents could wait whilst the children are registered in the morning and then walk to Church with us. Please note there is usually standing room only for parents at the Church.

We will be collecting food to be given to the South Birmingham Young Homeless Project and would like the **children to bring their donations to school on the day of the Harvest Festival** [tins, jars and dried packet food - not fresh produce please]. **Please send the food in a carrier bag, which your child will be able to manage themselves on the walk to Church.** Each child will take their food to the front of the Church where it will be blessed by Father Charles.

## Text Messaging

On Monday 3 October we will be sending a trial text message to the **first contact mobile number** listed on each child's Confidential Data Check Sheet. We are, therefore, sending home the data sheets this week for you to check the information, make any necessary changes, and return the forms to the School Office by Monday 26 September 2011.

We will be using this facility to send important messages eg in the event of the school being closed due to extreme weather conditions.

Please note, in order for you to receive such messages, it will be essential that you notify the School Office immediately of any change to the first mobile contact number throughout the year.

## School Term Dates 2011-2012

Children should attend on the following days:

### Autumn Term 2011

Monday 5 September 2011 to Friday 21 October 2011

Tuesday 1 November 2011 to Friday 16 December 2011

### Spring Term 2012

Thursday 5 January 2012 to Friday 10 February 2012

Monday 20 February 2012 to Friday 30 March 2012

### Summer Term 2012

Monday 16 April 2012 to Friday 1 June 2012

Monday 11 June 2012 to Thursday 19 July 2012

There are **5 Teacher Days** for the academic year when children do not attend:

Thursday 1 September 2011

Friday 2 September 2011

Monday 31 October 2011

Wednesday 4 January 2012

Friday 20 July 2012

Monday 7 May 2012 [May Day] is a Public Holiday - **school will be closed.**

The additional Bank Holiday for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee will be taken by schools on Tuesday 3 January 2012 instead of Tuesday 5 June 2012.