

# St Aidan's Newsletter

January 2023



Happy New Year!

## Spring whole school focus

This term, our whole school focus will be **Shaping Our World**. As we start 2024, our pupils will focus on those who have and who continue to work towards making the world a better place for us to live.

In PSHE, we will learn about our rights and responsibilities in the world we live in. As a school we will be celebrating Holocaust memorial day, looking at how the events of the Holocaust can teach us valuable lessons about how to make Earth a better place to live. In March, we will celebrate International Women's day, World water day and Fairtrade fortnight, studying inspirational people who inspire us to work together for the good of the planet. Our Aspire to Inspire focus this term is **Teamwork** and **Confidence**. Our faith focus will be **honesty**. We will celebrate pupils and classes who demonstrate these values.

## Increasing the length of the school day

Thank you to those of you who shared your opinions on this through the googleform which was sent out. We do value the opinions of all parents/carers. As previously stated, the DFE directive for all schools to increase the length of the school day to 32.5 hours is statutory. As from April 1<sup>st</sup> the school day will start at 8.45am.

Nursery hours will not change. If your child attends Nursery for 30 hours, they will continue to start at 8.30am and finish at 3.15pm.

The school gates will be open for Parents/Carers to bring their children onto the yard from 8.30am. Children will be brought into school ready to start at 8.45am. The school gates will be locked at 8.50am and reopened at 3.00pm.

## Clubs

We will send out information about new clubs and signup details as soon as we can next week but they will include a range of art club and book and abiscuit. Information will be confirmed next week.



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### **School improvement work**

The children continue to enjoy the new playground and are certainly loving the installation of the new football posts on the lower yard. Mrs Poynton and her Eco committee planted trees at the front of the school at the end of the Autumn term and school meadow continues to thrive. We love that some of our children are working with Mrs Poynton and looking at ways for our school to be more environmentally friendly.



### **School uniform**

Just a reminder that any earrings should be removed before entering the school. Clear plastic retainers may be worn to preserve the holes.

Please ensure your child arrives to school in correct uniform and PE kit - including black shoes, **not trainers**.

**The school does have a significant amount of pre-owned school uniform, most of which is in excellent condition. If you would like to request some – free of charge- please contact the office and Mrs Jobling or Mrs Shortt will be happy to help.**

A quick reminder, our fabric bin on the school yard has been emptied at the end of Autumn term so is ready to be filled up again. You can find a list of unwanted items that can be deposited on the bin itself. Thank you.

### **Social Media**

The best way to find out about what we have been doing in school is to follow us on Instagram and/or Facebook.



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### **Dates for the diary**

Please find attached a comprehensive list of dates and chances to be involved in this coming term. We are in the process of finalizing some school trips/experiences as well as School Council Events and will inform you of these as soon as dates have been finalised. Wherever possible, we hope that this list remains unchanged, however, if we need to, we will always try to keep you informed of this well in advance.

A reminder that we pray together as a school on a Monday afternoon at 2:45 -any parents/carers are always welcome.

### **A-Star Attendance**

Reminder, we are enrolled on a trial attendance monitoring scheme. It helps us to monitor attendance levels and supporting children in achieving all they are capable by being in school as often as possible.

A-Star attendance uses a traffic light system and attendances continue to be categorised as follows:

<b>Attendance %</b>	<b>Colour</b>
96% and above	Green
90% - 95.9%	Amber
Below 90%	Red

### **PSHE/RSE**

In the Spring Term, pupils will be studying citizenship and Economic Wellbeing. Children will be looking at what our rights and responsibilities are, what our community looks like and studying democracy. Later in the term, they will focus on money and how we can manage and look after our money. We want to keep parents informed of these topics as some students could be sensitive around the issues raised. Please see our Long Term Plan on the website for greater detail.



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### **Trips and events**

During this half term, we have some lovely experiences organised for the pupils of St Aidan's:

On Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January the children will experience Virtual Reality exploring themes linked to their science topic. We have Rockpool workshops coming into school, allowing children to explore unique seaside habitat and how we can protect it. We have a live STEM Spaceship Earth live interactive show, exploring how Space science can help combat climate and change and STEM Robotics and coding workshops later this month.

Arrangements are being made for the Year 3 Camp out, Year 4 Kip on the Ship, Year 5 London Day trip and the Year 6 Robinwood residential. You will continue to find out more information about these in coming months and there will be a parent meeting for each.

Please remember that the cost of one of these will never be prohibitive to the children taking part in one of these events. If you are struggling with the cost of living, please speak to us in confidence and we will support any of our families in whatever way we can.

### **Staffing News**

Mr Moran is currently off sick so we would like to welcome Mrs Pegman to Year 3 while Mrs Teer steps up as Acting Headteacher for the interim.



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