

St Aidan's Newsletter

September 2023



Welcome back to everyone!

Autumn whole school focus

This term, our whole school focus will be **diversity**. As we start a new year, our school is becoming more diverse than ever. We start the year looking at our school ethos and values and how we respect each other's differences and uniqueness.

In PSHE, we will be looking at different families and our similarities and differences. As a school we will be celebrating Black History Month, studying inspirational black people and black history, using literacy lessons to write about what we learn. In November, we will kick start Anti-bullying week by wearing odd socks on Monday 13th and celebrating our diverse school. Our Aspire to Inspire focus this term is **resilience**. Our faith focus will be **respect** and **forgiveness**. We will celebrate pupil's and classes who demonstrate these values.

Staffing changes

Miss Dunning is now known as Mrs Emery. We will recruit her maternity cover this half term.

Miss Chambers has also begun to work for the school on a formal basis as a TA.

We have also enjoyed our first lesson with our new French teacher, Mme. Hewson. She taught all of KS2 today and was very complimentary about the children's behaviour and attitudes. She actually taught Mr. Moran French when he was at high school, which was some time ago!

Clubs

Clubs will be starting the week beginning 18th September. Apologies for the delay – we have had new IT technicians over the summer and the SLT and admin machines have been turned off the old network without any notice meaning myself, Mrs Shortt and Mrs Jobling in the office haven't had access to our machines or any of the systems until Monday this week. There are still ongoing issues and we have lost a huge amount of information and data which isn't great. Thank you for your patience.

We will send out information about clubs and signup details as soon as we can next week but they will include a range of football clubs, show club, art club, coding club, book and a biscuit. The Bounders will also meet again on a Friday at Newbiggin until the light disappears. Information will be confirmed next week.



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School improvement work

The yard looks fantastic and the children have really enjoyed the new games. There are two metal basketball and rebounder goals being installed on the yard next to the pitch at a cost of approximately £10,000 in the coming weeks.

Before the summer holidays I gave the go ahead for a new library to be installed at a cost of approximately £13,000. There is a significant amount of money being spent on additional books and resources too. The work will be undertaken and completed – without any snags – on October 16th and 17th. We would love to invite everyone in to see it once it is done.

These two projects were sponsored by our previous two years sets of school counsellors and they raised a huge amount of money to make it happen both times. They will rightly be rewarded with a small plaque next to each one with their names to make sure everyone recognises their contributions.

Dates for the diary

Unfortunately, the IT issues have stopped us being able to send out dates for the diary this week as we haven't been able to access the calendar etc. We will get all examples of parent involvement such as prayer and liturgy, assemblies etc. ASAP.

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

Fr. Shaun

I'm am incredibly sad to announce Fr. Shaun will no longer be Parish Priest at St. Aidan's. He has been relocated by the Bishop to Stanley, Byermoor and Consett. He has been such a huge part of our growth as a primary school and a huge support to myself as Deputy and Headteacher. We were incredibly lucky that he was so involved in school life and he will certainly be a big miss.

Our new Parish Priest will be Fr. Vincent and he will be assisted by Fr. Oliver. Both Fr. Vincent and Fr. Oliver are Spiritans and part of the Congregation of the Holy Spirit and are from Uganda and Nigeria respectively. I look forward to welcoming them to school.

Fr. Shaun will say Mass in school on Friday 15th at 9:15am as planned and Fr. Vincent will be there with him. There will be refreshments afterwards for all who wish to attend and say goodbye to him.



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School Councilors

I am delighted we have elected a new School Council and Head Boy and Head Girl. They will meet next week and outline their plans for improvement in the coming weeks.



There will be many more opportunities for children to take up leadership roles in school. We will be appointing Mini Vinnies, Play Leaders and new buddies for higher up the school.

Trips

We have lots of interesting trips and activities planned. There will be many similar activities to last year, including a sleepover for all of KS2.



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Sports

Good Luck to Jack and Luca who represent East Northumberland School Boys for the first time this Saturday at a tournament against other school districts in Leeds.

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.

Finally...

I thank you in advance for what will be another fantastic year of your unwavering support. The children are so lovely to be around but that is because they are products of their upbringing. We couldn't do it without you.

Mr. Moran.



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