



STIVICHALL PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Artsmark
Silver Award
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Council England



8th September 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

This is the beginning of a new school year and we would like to extend a very warm welcome back to you all. I hope that you have all had a relaxing summer and filled the time making wonderful memories. Please note that this is a lengthy newsletter, you may want to grab a cup of tea or read it in instalments. There is a lot of information so it may be one you keep to reference at a later date; this would really help to prevent unnecessary and time consuming calls to the school office which can prevent other important tasks from being completed.

The children have started the new academic year with enthusiasm and settled in well to their new classroom surroundings with their new teachers. Our new reception children have also visited school this week for a 'stay and play' session as well as attending for half-day sessions. We look forward to them all starting full time on Monday.

We are still busy compiling the Autumn diary dates which we hope to be able to share with you next week.

Important Dates this term:

- Monday 11th September - Reception children start full time
- Wednesday 13th September - PTA AGM Meeting at 6.30pm in school staffroom – Everyone welcome
- Friday 15th September - PTA Welcome Back Event – 3.20 – 5.30
- Monday 25th September - Teacher Training Day – school closed for children
- Tuesday 26th September - Class 2S, 2P & 1/2M Warwick Castle Trip
- Tuesday 26th September - Last Forest school session for class 1S and 4S
- Wednesday 27th September - Year 1 to 5 individual and siblings school photographs
- Friday 29th September - Open session for parents to visit their child's classroom 8.30-8.50
- Monday 2nd October - Teacher Training Day – school closed for children
- Tuesday 3rd October - Reception and class photos
- Tuesday 3rd October - First Forest school session for 1P and 4P
- Wednesday 4th October - Highly Sprung Workshop for year 4 TBC
- Wednesday 4th –Friday 6th October - Year 5 PGL Caythorpe Residential trip
- Thursday 5th October - Superhero and Princess themed lunch
- Monday 9th October - Bewise Flu Immunisations
- Tuesday 17th October - Yr 6 trip to Coventry Cathedral TBC
- Wednesday 18th October - Parents Consultation Meetings 3.30 – 7pm
- Friday 20th October - PTA Disco
- Wednesday 25th October - Parents Consultation Meetings 3.30 – 7pm
- Monday 30th October - Half Term Week

Dismissal at the end of the School Day

You will be receiving a message via your ParentMail account next week to complete a form detailing the names of people able to collect your child at the end of the day. If your child is in Year 5 or 6, then you may allow them to walk home unaccompanied, should this be the case, please complete the appropriate section on the form. Please log on to your account, click on the dots at the top left-hand corner of your home page which should reveal a drop-down menu where you will be able to click on the 'forms' heading. We would appreciate your early attention in doing this so that the staff have access to the necessary information ASAP.

We would like to make you aware of an incident that took place this morning. A number of pupils (at a school in close proximity to ours) who were walking to school on their own were approached and spoken to by two men in a car. This is obviously concerning. If your child walks to school on their own or with friends, please speak to them about how to keep themselves safe and discuss strategies that they might use if they are approached. In addition we would encourage parents/carers to inform the police of any suspicious incidents like this and also inform the school so that we are aware. If you have any concerns please contact us immediately and we will endeavour to help.

Mobile Phones

Children in Year 5 or 6 for whom we have received permission from parents to walk home without parents are able to bring a mobile phone in to school. Any phone brought to school must be handed to their class teacher to store in their cupboard. School accepts no liability for any damage, loss or theft of any phone. All phones must be switched off whilst they are on the school site.

School Bags

Every day bags should be flat and easy to fold and should be able to be stored in your child's class tray. The red school book bag is a good example which all children were given when they started at the school. Please do not send your child into school with a rucksack unless it is absolutely necessary. If you believe it to be necessary, please take the time to communicate this to your child's class teacher and they will decide whether an exception can be made. Exceptions would include, attending an after-school event for which a change of clothes is needed. We have been made aware that there is a delay at the suppliers of the red book bags but a drawstring swimming /PE bag or a bag for life would be a perfect alternative.

Where exceptions have been made, this is not a sign of inconsistency or inequality, it is in response to the circumstances for individual children. There are exceptions to every rule due to circumstances and context, therefore, please understand that when you see some children with rucksacks, there will usually be a very good reason. We thank you for your help and cooperation with this matter.

Seesaw

The 'roll up' for the children's class has now been completed and new login details have been generated for each child. Class teachers will issue the newly printed codes within the next week if they have not done so already. Please ensure that your child uses this to login and keeps it safe. You are now able to link more than one child to a seesaw account. Please follow the link below for instructions on how to do this if you wish
[How to add another student to your family account – Seesaw Help Center](#)

Seesaw will continue to be used to:

- Sharing class messages and learning for the following week
- Setting home learning tasks
- Uploading learning from home or school

Parking

Can I kindly remind parents that when dropping off at the start of the day or picking up your child/children at the end of the day and parking kerbside to switch your engines off. It is very unpleasant for the families who are waiting on foot and the whole environment, when car engines are left running unnecessarily. It is also an offence in law under Section 42 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 and Rule 123 of The Highway Code. When your vehicle is parked up and stationary, please switch off your engine to help clean up the air that we all breathe. Thank you for continuing to take care when parking.

Celebration and Class Assemblies

We value the achievements of all our children here at Stivichall and we celebrate these in assemblies You will be notified via parent mail if your child has been nominated for a Celebration Award and invited to attend the assembly a week prior to the date. Information on class assemblies will be shared through the newsletter and Seesaw so please keep a look out.

Reporting child absence

May I kindly remind you that all absences must be reported to school by 9.30 am on the first morning of absence. Parents should call the school number and select option 1 to report a child absence. This service is available 24 hours a day. Please remember to give a brief description of the reason for the absence noting that 'unwell' is not sufficient and causes extra work for the office staff in following up any such messages.

Lost Property

Sadly, despite all the reminders given throughout the year and the requests made towards the end of the academic year, there were seven large refuse sacks of lost property left on site. I would estimate the costs of repurchasing these items at circa £700. This phenomenon is easily remedied by labelling all clothing and equipment and encouraging children to be proactive in looking for mislaid items. We urgently request your help in reducing our lost property problem. Please label belongings.

PE

Children must come into school on their PE day/s in their school PE kit which must be suitable for the weather (please see timetable below). They can wear jogging bottoms over shorts if for example they have gymnastics or dance and it is a cold day. If they are doing outdoor PE, then they will need school shoes to change into to avoid mud being spread around the school. If children have pumps instead of trainers, these may not be supportive enough for a full day's wear and particularly for lunchtimes, therefore school shoes may be sent in to change into. Any spare shoes brought in must be in a small carrier bag that can fit neatly into the child's individual tray. House colour PE hoodies are allowed, or alternatively, school jumpers/cardigans can be worn over the top to keep warm but no other hoodies or jumpers please. If children have an extra-curricular activity requiring a change of clothes, they will need to bring their kit with them to change in school. All items of clothing must be clearly named. Any unnamed lost property will be put in the lost property box located on the school playground near to the office window.

PE Days are as follows –

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Reception	Inside- Real PE				
Year 1	Inside- Dance				Outside- Multi skills
Year 2 & 1/2M		Inside- Real PE			Inside- Dance
Year 3 & 3/4M	3S only Inside- Real PE		Inside- Real PE		(3/4M 3P) Inside- Dance
Year 4			Inside- Gym	Outside- Outdoor Adventurous	
Year 5 & 5/6M	Outside- OAA	Inside- Gym			
Year 6		Inside- Dance		Inside or Out- Athletics	

Communication

Our main method of communication between school and home for letters/forms/correspondence will predominantly be via your ParentMail account so it is imperative that you check your emails and messages regularly. Please remember to inform the school office of any contact changes including address, mobile number or email addresses. Thank you for your cooperation.

School Meals

A reminder that meals need to be chosen and ordered by midnight on the Thursday prior to the week they are to be taken. Parents will need to log on to their ParentPay account, select view menu and choices, then choose the meal items for each day their child will need a meal prepared in school and then confirm bookings. When you confirm your booking, any payment due to cover these meals must be paid within 2 hours. Failure to do so will result in meal bookings being cancelled. It is advisable for parents to keep their account in credit at all times.

Please note, school will no longer be responsible for booking school lunches for your child unless in very exceptional circumstances. Children who are entitled to universal free school meals (Reception, Year 1 and 2) or benefit-related free school meals, will still need to order their child's lunch in the same way as above. When you start to add items to order, a total will be created but once you click on confirm this will revert to £0. ParentPay will automatically be set to recognise when a child is entitled to free school meals.

Please remember to check your ParentPay account regularly for any outstanding balances. Cheque **only** payments are accepted via the school office (cheques made payable to Stivichall Primary School).

Packed Lunches / Snacks

Can I please take this opportunity to remind everyone that we are a **nut free school**, some of our pupils have serious allergies so we ask you to be mindful of this when sending in snacks or packed lunches. If children are having grapes can we ask they are cut into halves or quarters as they present a choking risk in their whole form.

Free school meals

Are you eligible for benefit-related free schools meals?

All children in Reception to Year 2 automatically receive a free school meal. However, if your family also meets the eligibility criteria to enable a free school meal to be awarded, it is important to make an application in order that your child's school can receive this pupil premium.

Entitlement to Free School Meals are processed as part of Housing Benefit/Council Tax Support claims by the Benefits Service. Free School Meals are a statutory benefit. Applying for a free school meal could raise up to an extra £1320 per annum for six years for your child's school (funded by central government). This can help to fund valuable teaching and learning support for your school (and is still paid to the school even if your entitlement ceases).

Please use this link to access all the criteria and complete the form – it only takes two minutes:

[Free school meals – Coventry City Council](#)

Payment Reminders

The following trip payments are now due. You can pay either via your ParentPay account or by sending a cheque into school.

- Year 5 Residential Trip – Final balance due by **Friday 8th September**
- Year 6 Residential Trip – Final balance due by **Friday 29th September**

Music Lessons

Music lessons will resume next week and all requests have been met, unless you have been told otherwise. Please note that keyboard and guitar lessons are not an option for children in Year 2 so, unfortunately, these children will have to wait another year.

The timetable is as follows:

- Drums - Monday
- Strings - Tuesday
- Guitars - Tuesdays and Fridays
- Piano - Wednesday
- Woodwind - Thursday
- Strings - Friday

The children who will have their guitar lesson on Fridays, will be told in advance. Please make sure that any instruments are clearly labelled with your child's name, new starters will be allocated their instrument in their first lesson, and children will need to remember to bring in their books. New practice diaries will be given to them.

Orchestra will take place during Thursday lunchtimes and will start in the next couple of weeks.

Thank you for all the support you give the children with their practising at home and we look forward to seeing many of them perform throughout the year.

Music Contracts: These have been sent home today. Please sign and return one copy to school by Monday, 18th September. The Autumn invoices will be sent out later this half term.

Knights of the Times Table Update

Children are doing well at sticking with their times table learning at Stivichall. The ‘Knights of the Times Table’ initiative continues to work well. Children say that the badges and medals are helping to motivate them to learn and practise these key number facts – learning them so thoroughly means that the confidence and quick recall will hopefully stay with them for life. The following is a reminder to show the tables that each year group will be learning this year and gives a suggestion for what previous tables to practise. The tables ‘badge challenge’ that your child will be taking next week depends on what they have already achieved. Good luck to all children and keep practising.

Year Group	Teaching and Learning	Focus for checking and practice
Reception	Counting in 10s, 2s and 5s	Counting in 1s
Year 1	Number Bonds to 10 (and to 20) 10 and 2 times tables	Number Bonds to 10 (and to 20) 10 and 2 times tables
Year 2	2, 5 and 3	Counting in 2, 5 and 10s 10 times tables
Year 3	4, 8 and 6	2, 5 and 3
Year 4	7, 9, 11 and 12	4, 8 and 6
Year 5	All times tables to 12 x 12 checked, practised thoroughly and applied	
Year 6		

Please note from the National Curriculum that for the end of Year 4 children are expected: ‘to recall multiplication and division facts for multiplication tables up to 12 × 12’.

National online Times Tables tests will begin for all Year 4 children in the Summer term..

Extra-curricular Activities

Clubs are due to start over the next week or two.

Below is a timetable of clubs that will be running:

Day	Name	Year Group	Provider	When
Mon	Gymnastics	Year 3 - 6	Flyte Gymnastics	Lunchtime
	Athletics	Year 5 – 6	Mrs Matthews/Mrs Keefe	After school
	Bricks for Kids	Year 2	Bricks for Kids	After school

Tues	Gardening	Invitation	Mrs Cribdon/Mrs Maish/Mrs Dixon/Mrs Taplin	After school
	Boys and Girls Football	Year 5 - 6	Mr R Gould/Mr Hartopp	After school
	Punjabi	Years 1 - 6	Mrs Bains	After school
	Taekwondo	All year groups	Neil Guest	5 – 6 pm

Weds	Tennis	Year 2	Lynda Flynn	Lunchtime
	Choir	Year 3, 4, 5 & 6	Ms Wright/Mrs Moffatt/Miss Watson	Lunchtime
		Speed Stacking	Year 3	Miss Lole
	Punjabi	Years 1 - 6	Mrs Bains	After school
	Cookery Club	Year 3 - 5	Bayleaf Cookery School	After school
	Dance	All year groups	Leivers Dance	After school

Thurs	Gymnastics	Year 1 - 2	Flyte Gymnastics	Lunchtime
	Orchestra	Years 5 - 6	Jude Rees	Lunchtime
	German Lessons	Year 3 - 4	Mrs Ellefredt	Lunchtime
	Netball	Years 5 - 6	Miss Lole	After school

Fri	Gymnastics	Years 1 - 2	Flyte Gymnastics	Lunchtime
	Dodgeball	Year 4 - 5	Miss Lole	Lunchtime
	Boys and Girls Football	Year 3 - 4	DF Sport Coaching	After school
	Tag Rugby	Year 1 - 2	Miss Lole	After school

Flyte Gymnastics: Please contact Flyte Gymnastics if your child is interested in joining their lunchtime club sessions as there are a few spaces available. Email: info@flytegymnastics.co.uk for more information.

Punjabi Lessons: Punjabi lessons will start again next Tuesday and if demand is high, also on Wednesdays. If your child is interested in joining this club then please contact Mrs Bains direct on: 07886 001070.

German Lessons: will be continuing this term with Karen from Bilinguasing, there are still places available. If your child is interested please see the attached flyer for details and the link to book.

Letters have been sent out this week for the following clubs:

- Afterschool Netball
- Afterschool Athletics Club
- Afterschool Tag Rugby Club
- Afterschool Yr 5 – 6 Boys and Girls Football Club
- Lunchtime Tennis

We will continue to inform parents of any new clubs that are arranged throughout the academic year.

Health and Safety Notice – School Clamber Stack/Adventure Trail/Bikes/Scooters/Dogs

For health and safety reasons, children are **not** permitted to use the Adventure Tyre Trails or Clamber Stack before school. Children can use the equipment at the end of the day if they are supervised by their parents – staff are not available for supervision at this time. The Golden Mile can be used at any time and we would encourage you do so with your children.

Bikes and Scooters: A reminder that both children and parents **must** dismount their bikes and scooters at the school gates and push them whilst on site. This ruling applies to any time of the day, due to health and safety reasons. Thank you for your co-operation.

Dogs on Site: A kindly reminder that dogs are not permitted on school site in line with Coventry City Council’s ruling. This also includes carrying dogs on to the school site. The only exception to this policy is assistance dogs. One of our families have taken on the lovely role of looking after a Guide Dog in training so you may well see him at pick up or drop off. Thank you for your cooperation

Year 6 Secondary School Applications

This process is now open. Please visit www.coventry.gov.uk/schooladmissions and follow the instructions on how to apply. Your child was given a leaflet earlier this week to take home with further information. Please note the closing date for applications is **31st October 2023**.

Rising 5 Admissions for September 2024

Applications are now open for any children due to start school in September 2024 (date of birth between 1st September 2019 and 31st August 2020). Please visit www.coventry.gov.uk/schooladmissions and follow the instructions on how to apply. **Applications must be made by 15th January 2024**.

PTA News

Welcome back and welcome to all new parents and children of Stivichall Primary school! We hope that you have all had a relaxing summer and are looking forward to 2023/2024.

We would also like to take the opportunity to welcome all new Reception children and families, we hope that you have had a good week and are putting your PTA gifted book bags to good use.

Follow us on our Facebook page to keep up to date with the latest news @ptastivichall

The PTA are hosting a 'Welcome Back Family Event' at the school next Friday, 15th September from 3.20-5.30pm. Please use the Coat of Arms Bridge Road entrance and follow the path along to the Reception playground. There will be circus skills, candy floss, samosa's, soft drinks and a sweet shop. We will also be selling second hand uniforms. It is open to all year groups and is a great opportunity for children and their families to meet up. There is no entrance fee, we are looking forward to welcoming you all along!

If there are any volunteers that are able to support the event then please contact the PTA on Facebook or through email (ptastivichall@gmail.com).

The PTA will also be holding their AGM on Wednesday 20th September from 6.30pm in the school staffroom – Everyone Welcome.

The current Chair will be stepping down at the meeting and not putting themselves forward for re-election. All parents are welcome to put their name forward for a Trustee Role (Chair, Secretary or Treasurer) and all Nominees will be considered at the AGM .

Please do this via email ptastivichall@gmail.com prior to the meeting

Yours sincerely

Mrs K Ferguson

Mrs K Ferguson

Head Teacher

2660parle/zf

