

SEPTEMBER

14.9.26

Let us love one another for love is from God 1: John 4-7

Learning and worshipping together.



Welcome back! We have had a calm and positive start to the new year and it has been lovely to see our four classes settling so smoothly with, for some, new children, and for others, new teachers. We hope that you had some lovely quality family time over the summer break.

Before diving into this first newsletter, you might like to grab a cup of tea or coffee - and perhaps a biscuit or two! This edition includes a few key annual updates, along with some important safety reminders to help ensure a smooth beginning to the term. Your support with these matters is greatly appreciated.

A huge welcome to the 14 new Reception children and the 5 new Nursery children who have begun their Tushingham journey in Robins, along with Alfie who has joined Y6, Martha who has joined Y4, Ava-Lily who has joined Y3 and Kit who has joined Y1. We are really looking forward to getting to know you all. We currently have 105 children enrolled.

This year, we also welcome Mrs Hart (teaching assistant in Robins); Mrs Burton (teaching assistant in Wag-tails); Mrs Wilkinson (teaching assistant in Tawny Owls) and Mr Osborne (our new Site Manager).

Uniform

In school, we are having a push on encouraging higher standards of presentation in the work that the children produce and this goes hand-in-hand with higher expectations around uniform. Thank you to all those who are following the uniform policy. The children are looking particularly smart on non-PE days and this is building a sense of community, and even an improved focus in the classroom. Uniforms contribute to a positive school environment in many meaningful ways.

Please ensure that you have labelled your children's uniform, especially jumpers and cardigans. Children often take these off during the day and it is already proving difficult to return them to their owners when they have been left around school, as so many are unnamed!

We have a huge stock of pre-loved uniform - mainly made up from lost property items that we have been unable to return and have remained unclaimed. If you require any items, please get in touch with our PTA, Friends of Tushingham School (FoTS).

There has been some misunderstanding around PE kits. Huge apologies for not being clear about the expectations. The only hoodie permitted now is a school one with the logo. Navy and black hoodies are not to be worn. As the school hoodie is optional, please send your child into school with their usual jumper or cardigan in the colder weather if they do not have the school hoodie.

A reminder that PE shorts should be navy, not royal blue, and plain - no football shorts or logos please.

I know that there are problems with our uniform supplier and I am looking into alternatives. If you are waiting for PE t-shirts with the school logo, please do not worry at this moment in time about sending your child in a plain yellow t-shirt.

Jewellery

Apart from watches and stud earrings, jewellery is not permitted in school. As per our policies, children who cannot take their earrings out are not able to join in with PE. As this subject is part of our core offer and not optional, please refrain from getting your children's ears pierced during the school year. Thank you.

Parking

I appreciate that the vast majority of our school community drive to school and that parking, therefore, is particularly difficult, even more so with the builders taking up a big section of the layby. Can I please ask though that we park considerately and with respect to our neighbours. If you are able to find a spot in the layby, please reverse in so that you have full sight of the road and potentially any children when pulling out. In addition, please do not park just beyond the zig-zag lines where the cones are situated on the grass verge. This space is reserved for our school minibuses. Furthermore, please do not park in front of the green gates opposite school that clearly state, 'no parking'. This is a private entrance which shouldn't be blocked for access reasons. For similar reasons, please do not park in front of or opposite the gates into our local farmers fields, as tractors need a lot of space to enter and exit.

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TUSHINGHAM WITH GRINDLEY COFE PRIMARY

Newsletter

Reading

Well done to all of those children who took part in the summer library reading challenge ... and thank you to parents for supporting this. Last Friday, in our Celebration Worship, we recognised the efforts of those who have taken part. If your child completed the challenge and have not shared this in school, please remember to send in certificates and medals for this Friday's worship.

Astonishingly 1 in 8 adults across the world cannot read. We believe that everyone has the right to read and this is why it is so important to read at home—it is the most important home learning a child can do. When children read regularly, supported by a adult taking an interest in their reading, it will become a pleasure (for them and the adult too). The overwhelming majority of children require adult interest and support throughout their primary years if they are to be independent and thrive at High School. Children whose reading is not supported by adults at home do not make the same good progress as their peers. Reading impacts on children's achievement in all other subjects. For this reason, **we ask that the children read at least 4 times each week** and that this is recorded in your child's reading diary. (Children in KS2 should independently record this.)

An Early Phonics and Reading meeting for Reception and Year 1 parents will be taking place on Monday 21st September at 3:30pm. Please make every effort to attend if you have children in these year groups. Thank you.

Attendance

Article 28 and 29 of the Rights of the Child ensure children have the right to education no matter who they are and that this education develops their personality and abilities as much as possible. Together, we need to support our children to access their right to education and the opportunities that regular attendance and engagement in their learning provide.

There are many things that families can do to help our children make the most of what education can offer them. Ensuring that children have enough sleep, maintain healthy routines and focus on what they enjoy about school prior to returning is always a useful start and a good way to maintain motivation as the school year progresses. It may seem that an odd day off school doesn't really matter, but when a child or young person is persistently absent, research tells us that this can impact on their levels of participation, attainment and ultimately their future opportunities. We would ask that, where possible, term time holidays are avoided - whilst we appreciate the impact the cost of living is having on our families, the consequences of missing teaching time can be significant for all learners. **If your child's attendance falls below 95% then school will be in touch to offer support to help with this.**

We ask that, where possible, medical appointments, including the dentist, are made outside of school hours. If your child is absent due to an appointment, we may need proof of this so that we can keep our registers up-to-date.

Please let us know by 9.30am on the first day of absence the reason for your child's absence. To ensure that your child is safe, it will be necessary for us to contact you by telephone if we have not received confirmation of your child's absence by then.

Lateness

A reminder that the school day officially starts at 8:50am and that the children should be in their classrooms by this time. Although occasional lateness due to unforeseen circumstance is understandable please ensure that your child is able to join friends entering their classroom, as this allows them to take part in the normal settling-in routines and ensures that they are able to take part in all learning from the very beginning of the day.

Like every school, we monitor attendance and lateness and it may be necessary to be in contact with you to discuss this in order to avoid this becoming routine.

Benedict's Law: Allergies and Anaphylaxis

We are a nut-aware school and all staff have recently completed allergy and anaphylaxis training in line with the expectations of Benedict's Law. This helps ensure that pupils with severe allergies are kept as safe as possible while at school.

Please continue to be mindful of children with food allergies when preparing packed lunches. Avoid sending foods identified as high risk and follow any allergy guidance provided. Small actions can significantly reduce the risk of accidental exposure for children with severe allergies. As a reminder, please avoid giving children peanuts, peanut butter sandwiches, other spreads containing nuts such as Nutella and snacks/bars containing nuts or labelled "may contain nut traces" in school lunches. Please also remind children to not share their food.

The advice for school packed lunches is that sweets, chocolate and crisps should be avoided. For lunchbox ideas and recipes please look at the NHS website: <https://www.nhs.uk/healthier-families/recipes/healthier-lunchboxes/>

Latex Allergy

A member of our school family has a severe allergic reaction to latex. This allergic reaction (anaphylactic shock) can occur through simply breathing latex particles that may be in the air. Since this condition can be life-threatening, we are asking for your help in minimising the risk by not allowing your child to bring anything that may contain latex into school. This includes any fidget tools or sensory chew necklaces. If your child needs one of these as part of a reasonable adjustment, this must be discussed and agreed with Mrs Latham and school will provide the resource.

School Reports/Assessment

Informal assessment is part of everyday teaching and learning, whilst more formal periodic standardised tests in mathematics and English help us to check that our children are making the progress that we would expect. In addition to this, the following statutory tests are undertaken:

- Reception children in Robins will complete a baseline assessment in the next couple of weeks;
- Y1 children will complete a phonics check in June (plus any children in Y2 who didn't pass last year);
- Y4s complete an online multiplication check in June;
- Y6s complete SATs in reading, spelling, grammar and punctuation, along with mathematics in May. Writing is teacher assessed based on a number of pieces of independent work that take place throughout the year.

All assessments, whether informal or formal, help teachers to identify areas of learning that are strengths or indicate gaps in knowledge (at both class and individual child level). This year, we will be holding two 'Assessment Weeks' for children in Year 1 to 6 - one in January and one towards the end of the school year. During these weeks, the children will sit assessments that will provide us with standardised test scores. These will support our on-going teacher assessments.

As usual, Parents' Evenings will be held in both the autumn and spring terms providing an opportunity to discuss your child's progress with their teachers. A written report will be sent home towards the end of the summer term.

Thank you for your anticipated support in all of these matters. If you have any questions or would like to discuss anything further, please do not hesitate to get in touch. Thank you in advance for your continued partnership.

Every blessing,

C Mackenzie

Key Dates

Thursday 17th September	4pm	Y1– 6 cross country event at Bishop Heber High School
Sunday 27th September	Evening	FoTS Quiz Night at Reubens
Monday 21st September	3:30pm	Early Phonics and Reading meeting for parents of children in Reception and Y1
Wednesday 30th September	6pm - 8pm	Open Evening at Bishop Heber High School
Thursday 8th October	9am	Harvest service in church
Friday 9th October	All day	World Mental Health Day <i>Wear the colour yellow for the day</i>
Thursday 15th October	All day	Y5s attending Pilgrim Day at Chester Cathedral
Thursday 15th October	TBC	FoTS Discos
Friday 23rd October	3:20pm	Finish for half-term
Monday 2nd November	All day	INSET Day