

# SHIPHAM CHURCH OF ENGLAND FIRST SCHOOL

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A Member of the Cheddar Valley Group of Schools



5<sup>th</sup> September 2007

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the new school year and a special welcome to our new Reception children and to Ashleigh Starr who has joined Year 2.

As ever there is a great deal of information in and with this first newsletter. This is probably the major mailing of the year and I would ask that you read everything carefully to make sure that you have all the dates; have sent back the right forms; are aware of any changes to routines etc etc.

This term's whole school theme is 'Starting from a story'. Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are basing their learning on the Elmer stories. Year 3 and Year 4 are starting from 'Stig of the Dump'. To kick off these topics, Blunderbus Theatre Company are coming on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> September for a performance and workshop based on Elmer. Year 1 (from both classes) and Year 2 are finding out about libraries through a visit to Weston Library. Class 3 are visiting Carymoor Environmental Centre to discover about waste and recycling. If anyone has a copy of either the book of 'Stig of the Dump' or of the latest BBC version, please could we borrow them.

## VISITS

Y1/Y2 visit to Weston Library, Friday 7<sup>th</sup> September and Y3/Y4 visit to Carymoor Environmental Centre, Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> September

Permission slips have been sent out, please return them quickly.

We would appreciate some parent volunteers for the Carymoor visit – please see Mrs Kenny or Mrs Gwynn if you are able to come with us. (Who could resist a visit to a recycling centre!)

## HARVEST

This year's harvest celebrations will be at 9.00 am on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> September at St Leonard's Church when parents are welcome to attend. Please bring your child straight to the church on that morning, with, if possible, a harvest contribution to add to the church's display. We will also be contributing to the church's harvest fundraising which is in aid of a Tear Fund project called Be Part of a Miracle and is bringing vital aid to Fombe village in Malawi. There will be an opportunity during the service to make a cash donation to this.

We would be particularly grateful if parents of Reception children could attend the service and walk back to school with their children. It will be their first experience of a school church service and the walk: extra pairs of hands and eyes would be welcome!

## START OF THE YEAR MEETINGS FOR PARENTS

We are again holding meetings for parents early in the year. These are opportunities for staff to explain classroom routines, to talk about the teaching and learning of, in particular, reading, handwriting and spelling, and to answer any questions you may have. In particular this year we would

appreciate the opportunity to describe the updated phonics teaching now in place. The meetings are:

Class 1            Monday 17th September  
Class 2            Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> September  
Class 3            Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> September

All the meetings will start as soon as possible after the end of school and will last about 30 minutes. If you are unable to find anyone to look after your children other members of staff will be available to 'mind' them.

#### INSTRUMENTAL LESSONS

Sessions with Mrs Spanring will start on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> September. All children will need a small notebook at every session. More details to follow from Mrs Spanring.

#### SWIMMING AND ICT SESSIONS – Friday mornings from 21<sup>st</sup> September

This term Y1/Y2 will be going to Cheddar First School to use their computer suite and Y3/Y4 will be swimming at Cheddar Leisure Centre. In the Spring Term the classes will swap over. A permission slip is in the mailing. We would much appreciate a contribution towards the cost of the coach – the slip gives details and a choice of paying for one term of ten sessions, or both terms at once.

We would very much like to have some parental help for these sessions and it might be possible to put together a rota so that no one has to do it too often. If you can help please indicate this on the Volunteer Helper application form.

#### FAMILY FRENCH EVENT

This event is the final flourish of last year's Fairlands Cluster project. It takes place on the Furlong Field in Axbridge between 6.00 and 8.00 pm on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> September. There will be activities, including boules, and refreshments. More details soon.

#### MENDIP LIFELINES PROJECT EVENT

Y3 and Y4 children took part last term in a dance session with Viv Gordon which was part of this project. There is an event at Charterhouse on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> September between 11.00 and 3.30 at which – I think – they are invited to take part. Details are very vague at the moment and I will try to find out more. There is a website about the project at <http://www.mendiplifelines.org.uk/> but there is no further information on it about the 29.9 event.

#### SCHOOL DINNERS

We are still hoping to re-start hot dinners on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> October but this depends on the number of pupils who want to take it. To encourage you and your child to commit to school lunches, Somerset Catering Services and their mascot Archie are providing a lunch for Reception Children and their parents on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> October and a tasting session for all after school on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> October. More details later.

And finally – one child came back to school with a rash which has now been diagnosed as impetigo. It is unlikely that anyone will have been infected but bear this in mind if your child does develop a rash in the near future.

Yours,

A. Gwynn