

Parentmail Bulletin – 7th September 2017

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"Enjoy, aspire and achieve together to be the best that we can be."

Welcome back! I hope you all had a great holiday and feel refreshed to begin the new term.

Thank you

Over the holidays there was a good deal of building work being carried out and it is delightful to see the improvements to the school fabric in those areas.

Toilet and wash room areas for Rainbows and Unicorns have been completely renewed. This has also enabled us to give the two classes complete independence from each other which is a much-appreciated improvement.

The major news of course is the move to opening our own pre-school – Pixie Class. There was a great deal of work throughout the pre-school building to create a marvellous new space and of course Dawn to Dusk children will also be enjoying this great new space.

The staff returned to these three rooms needing complete re-setting – every piece of furniture and all the working materials had been moved out of the way. Many thanks to all these colleagues who have worked incredibly hard to get the spaces set up beautifully for the children.

Talking of whom...

The children have made a very positive start to the year. Classrooms and playground are buzzing as they should be and we are off to an upbeat start to the school year.

As a new face in school, I have been made to feel very welcome indeed – thank you.

Peter Haddon

Staffing

Our staffing this year is as follows:

Mrs Minta Ms Copeland	Pixie
Miss Parkinson / Mrs Young Mrs Carboni Mrs Clarke Mrs Wotherspoon Miss Cooper	Rainbows
Mrs Matcham Mrs Cross	Unicorn Year 1
Miss Sharpe Mrs Burton	Dragon Year 2
Mrs Stickland Mrs Webster	Centaur Year 3
Mrs Ross/ Mrs Mossop Mrs Young	Phoenix Year 4
PPA cover – Mrs Wotherspoon / Mrs Carboni Social Emotional Support and SEN – Ms Copeland	

Mrs K Young is our Deputy Headteacher and SENDCo.

School Office

Our school office is open from 8:30am – 4pm daily. Our office staff are Mrs Howard (Secretary) and Mrs Davison (Finance/HR Assistant).

Our new Pixie Class- Pre-School provision

Our new Pixie class will open its doors next week for mornings only. The staff have been working very hard to make the newly refurbished pre-school building ready for the new intake. We look forward to welcoming the children on Monday.

Medicines in packaging

Please be reminded that all inhalers and auto-injectors in school must be brought into school in their original packaging with the official label outlining the prescribed dosage/name etc. If medicines do not have such labels, new ones should be sought from the GP. The medication should also be in date – please check that this is the case before bringing it into school. All staff received their annual training on the use on epi-pen/auto injectors at the start of the term.

Swimming

Years 1-4: We hope that the weather allows us to maximise the use of our swimming pool; please send your child in with their swimming kit just in case.

Assemblies

Please note that celebration assembly will now take place on a Friday, celebrating a range of children's achievements. Please can sports awards from home come in on the last Friday of each month, the first being Friday September 29th. On a Friday, we will also be celebrating birthdays with a song and candles, if children would like to bring anything in to share with their own class they may do so.

Communication

In our parent survey communication once again came out as a strength of the school. We will be continuing with our systems:

A **weekly bulletin** via ParentMail will be sent out every Thursday. Please ensure you have signed up for this. For those that do not have access to ParentMail, please request a hard copy from the office. The weekly bulletin contains timely information about events at the school and information for parents.

Class teachers will send out a **curriculum overview** at the start of each term. These will keep you informed as to the key topics that your child will be exploring for the term. These are in a new format this year and we hope you find them useful.

A half termly "**Shillington Lower Snapshot**" will be issued at the end of each half term to bring together and celebrate all the fantastic work that has been happening across the school.

Each child will be issued with a separate reading record and **home/school book**. This communication book is a two-way process; if you wish to write a comment to bring something to the class teacher's attention, please do so. The class teacher will also be recording in the book as appropriate. This book should not replace the on-going personal approach – if you wish to discuss anything with the class teacher or myself, please contact the office for our availability; a face-to-face discussion is often quicker to resolve/clarify any issues.

Homework

Our current homework timetable is as follows:

Rainbows	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5 mins per day sharing a book• Phonics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reading 5 – 10mins per day• Phonics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reading 5 – 10mins per day• Phonics• Maths facts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reading 10 mins per day• Half termly mini-project• Maths facts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reading 10 mins per day• Weekly task• Maths facts

Spellings

A spelling activity will be given to all children in years 1-4 every Monday linking to the phonics or spelling work your child will be doing in class that week. Please work with your child to complete the activity and return it to school the following Monday.

Uniform

Lots of the children arrived in their new uniforms this week and looked really smart and proud of them. We are aware that the new ordering system has had some teething problems as the new uniform is being phased in, old uniform will still be acceptable.

We would like all children to wear their uniform with pride and Staff will be recognising children for smart appearance. Please remember to label all items.

Horticulture Show

Shillington Horticultural Society Flower and Vegetable Show is being held at the village hall on Saturday 16th September 2017, doors open at 2.30pm. There are lots of exhibits and the popular children's section too. Please come along and see the children's display of their art work at the show.

Dates for your diary

18 th September	Rainbows children begin full time
	Year 4 PGL residential information session for parents 3.40pm
26 th September	Phonics parent information session 9.00am
29 th September	Parent open session 2:50pm – parents/carers welcome
2 nd October	Harvest festival 2.00pm at Shillington Church
17 th October	Individual & Sibling Photographs
11 th /17 th /19 th October	Structured conversations
30 th October	Teacher training day – school closed to pupils
31 st October	Open morning for prospective parents 2017

Term Dates

Autumn Term 2017

Tuesday 5th September 2016 – Tuesday 19th December 2017
(Half term 23rd – 27th October)

INSET DAY 30th October

Spring Term 2017

Wednesday 3rd January 2017 – Thursday 29th March 2018
(Half term 12th – 16th February)

Summer Term 2018

Wednesday 17th April 2017 – Friday 20th July 2018
(Half term 28th May – 1st June)

INSET DAY 4th June

Our current value is "Excellence."