

19<sup>th</sup> October 2018

Dear Parents / Carers,

How time flies! As I write my second newsletter, I can't believe that we are almost at half term already and am sure that you can't either. It has been a half term of getting to know the school, children, staff and yourselves for me. I have met many of you at our Key Stage 1 and 2 Induction Evenings, Harvest Service, Celebration Assemblies, Douglas Macmillan coffee morning and on the path and playground at the beginning and end of the day.

As expected, the children have been a delight during my first half term and remind me daily of why I chose the career path that I did! Their enthusiasm, energy and ability to be learn and achieve never ceases to amaze me. From reciting, 'reading' and 'writing' nursery rhymes in nursery and reception, to learning how the author conveys meaning in *The Bog Baby* in Year 1, to researching and reporting how the Romans lived, reasoning and justifying in maths, blending and segmenting in phonics and using grammar, punctuation and spelling rules too – it truly has been a busy but productive half term!

Those of you that joined our Harvest Service were treated to the talents of our choir and behaviour that has been commended by the community. Thank you for your kind and generous donations for our Shoe Box Appeal. Your generosity has been applauded by our community churches and ensures that our 'Learning and Caring Together' is spread far and wide. On the subject of generosity and giving, I know that you would want me to thank the PTA on your behalf for raising £115.04 for Douglas Macmillan during our recent coffee morning. I feel blessed to have a PTA that is so committed and passionate about giving and raising money for charity and our children's learning experiences. I was really impressed at their recent meeting, where the children were at the heart of how the money raised should be spent. There is a very grand plan for outdoors – watch this space! The teachers are now using the children's influence to 'pitch' to the PTA for resources that they know will enhance our curriculum in school too!

One of my highlights of the week is Celebration Assembly, where I can hear, acknowledge and congratulate individuals and classes on their achievements. The children tell me that they are pleased that one person from each class now has the chance to achieve a duck award for behaviour each week. They are also rising to the challenges of 'Mrs Machin's weekly 'Mission Possible' too! So far, the children have worked hard to keep the cloakrooms tidy and safe, use their best, cursive handwriting and this week are focussing on using their cutlery properly. Ask them about my weekly missions and support them in achieving 'Mrs Machin's mission possible' for their class.

Within my previous letter, I acknowledged that your requests that communication be improved between school and yourselves. The feedback during our Induction Evenings was largely positive in relation to this (thank-you) but we are striving to improve yet further. Discussions between yourselves and your child's class teacher at Parents' Evening next week will focus on how your child has settled into their new class. You will also be introduced to your child's 'Year of Learning Report' that will be shared with you periodically throughout the year. This will inform you of how your child is achieving educationally, their targets, behaviour, attendance, homework and uniform compliance.

Having reviewed communication routes, I would also like to clearly define the process that will be followed after half term. Your child's class teachers are the adults best informed to liaise with you about your child's day to day experiences in school. If you need to share information or discuss your child's welfare, please write a message in your child's reading diary or leave a message with the member of staff on the door that will ensure that your message is relayed. Your child's class teacher, or an appropriate adult, will respond to you and will be arranging face to face meetings where further discussion is necessary. In most instances, this route will ensure that communication is effective and that any issues are shared and resolved. However, if you feel that this is not the case, you will have the opportunity to meet with the Phase/Key Stage Leader as your next port of call. Any further escalation will then be heard during a meeting with one of my Assistant Principals, Mrs Hordern or Mrs Clifford. I am confident that this process will ensure that quandaries and queries will be addressed promptly and by the staff best placed to explain, answer questions and move things forwards. On rare occasions when staff or parents feel that this route has been exhausted, I will be made aware and arrange a face to face meeting with all concerned. Of course, the office will remain as the contact for any administrative communications with you.

We have recently had a Teaching and Learning Review in school, where our leadership, provision, practice and outcomes have been monitored. I am very proud of the comments linked to the Personal Development, Behaviour and Welfare of our children and thank you and my staff for teaching and modelling appropriate morals and values. The children are growing up knowing and understanding the importance of respect and tolerance and are equipped to deal with conflict resolution in appropriate ways. As well as having high expectations for our children, I expect all adults to behave in an acceptable manner at all times too. I will act to ensure that our families feel safe and maintain the reputation and ethos of our school. I want to reassure you that, in any rare circumstance where standards fall below those expected at St Edward's, I will have no hesitation in barring adults from our premises until I am assured that acceptable conduct will be maintained.

Our Parish Council have written to me with a polite reminder about the Community Centre Car Park. We are very lucky in that we are able to use the Car Park on most school days. However, we must remember that this is a gesture of good will and a privilege. On the rare occasion where the car park is needed for other community events, we must be polite and respectful to direction and requests to make alternative arrangements.

Safeguarding, as always, is a priority for us. On that note, may I politely remind you all that parking on the zig zag lines and walking across the school carpark are both unsafe things to do and not allowed. Children must also not play on the outdoor equipment on the playground unless they are supervised by a member of school staff, so I ask for your support in this too. I know this may feel like I am 'telling the children off', but I am sure that you understand and agree with the important nature of my reminders!

Apologies for the confusion about The Beatrice Barge trip this half term and thanks for your understanding. The children (and staff) that attended had a wonderful experience and it is one that I hope can be offered to many more as we move forwards. As with my previous letter, you will find all upcoming events for the next half term on the back. Dare I say it.....Christmas will soon be here with all the joy and festivities that it brings along with the seasonal changes of autumn and winter.

Have a lovely, safe, half term with your families and friends.

Yours sincerely

Mrs S Machin  
**Principal**





## ST EDWARDS C.E ACADEMY CHEDDLETON DIARY DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| 05/11/2018     | ROBINS FORESTRY STARTS FOR 7 SESSIONS                                |
| 08/11/2018     | PTFA AGM MEETING IN SCHOOL 7.15PM                                    |
| 09/11/2018     | REMEMBRANCE SERVICE AT ST EDWARDS CHURCH 9.30AM                      |
| 09/11/2018     | FLU VACCINATIONS RECEPTION - YEAR 4                                  |
| W/C 12/11/2018 | ANTI-BULLYING WEEK   |
| 16/11/2018     | CHILDREN IN NEED DAY - DETAILS TO FOLLOW                             |
| 23/11/2018     | NON UNIFORM DAY DONATION FOR THE CHRISTMAS FAYRE - DETAILS TO FOLLOW |
| 05/12/2018     | NURSERY NATIONAL ADVENTURE FARM CHRISTMAS TRIP                       |
| 05/12/2018     | BOOK FAYRE - DETAILS TO FOLLOW                                       |
| 07/12/2018     | PTFA CHRISTMAS FAYRE - DETAILS TO FOLLOW                             |
| 12/12/2018     | NURSERY SING-A-LONG - DETAILS TO FOLLOW                              |
| 12/12/2018     | CHRISTMAS SONGBIRDS - SCHOOL CHOIR - DETAILS TO FOLLOW               |
| 14/12/2018     | CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY - DONNA LOUISE TRUST - DETAILS TO FOLLOW        |
| 14/12/2018     | WHOLE SCHOOL PANTOMINE - 1PM   |
| 17/12/2018     | ROBINS FORESTRY - LAST SESSION                                       |
| 18/12/2018     | CHRISTMAS SERVICE AT ST EDWARDS CHURCH 9.30AM                        |
| 19/12/2018     | WHOLE SCHOOL CHRISTMAS DINNER AND PARTY DAY                          |
| 20/12/2018     | SCHOOL CLOSES FOR THE CHRISTMAS BREAK                                |