

# St Luke's CE Primary, ENDON

'Together, in faith, we will succeed'



6<sup>th</sup> September 2016

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back to a new academic year – one which promises to be exciting for all involved with learning at St Luke's. We hope that everyone has returned fully charged and raring to go. There are one or two adjustments to a few areas of school life that we would like to bring you up to date with and things for you to get involved with. As always we have an open door policy and invite you to come and share any celebrations or concerns you might have in order that we can develop our school together.

## **Clubs**

A letter outlining the clubs available for this term will be distributed tomorrow and we ask that you return this by the end of school on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September. Clubs will begin on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September and run until Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December. We would like to encourage the children to commit to the clubs they sign up to for the whole term. If on any occasion they cannot attend they must speak to the teacher in advance as a matter of courtesy and so that we know where they are and that they are being looked after.

## **Swimming lessons**

We have reviewed our approach to our provision of swimming lessons in order that the children have the best opportunity to be successful. This year only Year 3 children and children from Yr 4, 5 & 6 who cannot yet swim 25m will engage with swimming lessons provided by the school. These lessons will be taught during 45 minute sessions on Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday afternoons for four consecutive weeks, starting on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September. By taking this approach we reduce the gap between lessons and provide more opportunity for children to practice and progress. Letters will go out later this week with further details to those children involved.

For those children who are keen swimmers we are intending to arrange provision for this after school in the Spring Term. Unfortunately, those attending this club would have to contribute towards the cost. We are keen to maintain St Luke's high levels of performance in the gala season and look forward to your support in this.

## **Gold Cards**

Since last summer term we have started to review our reward systems, and have subsequently adjusted our approach. Please look out for Gold Cards coming home that will be a reward for outstanding work, attitude or behaviour. Achievement cards will cease after this term - we hope that the Gold Cards will be an instant reward and one which helps you to be able to celebrate your child's achievements more frequently.

## **Car park on the field**

Some of you may be aware that a local newspaper ran an article on the last day of term in July, explaining that the Parish Council would be turning our school field into a car park. We are unaware of any plans and as yet have not been consulted. We are not sure where this story has come from but please rest assured we will be working in the best interests of your children in this matter.

### **Residential Trip Meetings – for Year 5 and Year 6 parents – 5:30pm, Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September**

To prevent the need for you to come into school on multiple occasions we have scheduled meetings for Year 5 parents to come and find out about the residential plans for their children for this academic year and a final meeting for the Year 6 prior to their children's trip on 19<sup>th</sup> September.

### **Meet the Teacher – 6:00 -7:00pm, Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September**

As a school we are keen to work in close partnership with our parents in order that your children can flourish and expand their potential whilst at St Luke's.

There will be an opportunity to meet your child's teacher next Tuesday to find out about classroom systems, PE days, ways in which you can support etc. This is a great first contact and chance to start building a relationship with your child's teacher.

In discussion with governors, it has been agreed that we welcome and encourage strong communication between parents and teachers (preferably face-to-face when possible). However, it has been explained to staff that they should only respond to emails between 8:00am and 6:00pm and not before or beyond these times. This provides a ten hour window of communication and whilst some staff may well be marking books outside of these times, we need to try and establish a more practical work-life balance. In order to support this we will work hard to make sure that our communications through newsletters and the website are done in a full and timely manner.

### **Parent Reading Team & Parent Maths Team**

At the start of October we are hoping to launch our Parent Reading Team and Parent Maths Team. These two teams of parent volunteers will hopefully come and work alongside children during the afternoon sessions, either reading or playing maths games. We will provide some training around questioning and organising maths games. If this is something that might interest you please come and chat with Mr Wright – this is a great chance to support the school and work alongside us to make it an even better place to learn.

### **Parent Workshops – 16<sup>th</sup> November**

We are planning an evening of workshops on 16<sup>th</sup> November to support you in supporting your children's learning at home. If there are any particular areas you would like us to cover please complete the slip below and we will tailor the sessions to your needs. Feedback from last year told us that these were really engaging and helpful sessions and so we look forward to working with you again.

### **Mrs King & Mrs Clowes are moving on**

It is with sadness that we will be saying goodbye to Mrs King & Mrs Clowes on 16<sup>th</sup> September. If you would like to contribute towards a gift please speak to the office. We are very grateful for the contribution both Mrs King & Mrs Clowes have made to St Luke's.

Celebration assemblies will start next week on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> September – Key Stage 2 will be kicking us off! Please come and join us if you are free!

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I would be interested in attending a workshop about \_\_\_\_\_ and  
\_\_\_\_\_ if they were available.