



Friday 7th September 2018

Dear Parents,

NEWS

A very warm welcome to everyone at the start of term and a special welcome to our new families who have joined us this week. It was wonderful to see all our children return safe and sound after the long summer break and with the sun shining (just about); it has certainly been a very enjoyable start to the school year. We hope that you had a very restful but enjoyable summer break and took advantage of the lovely weather we had.

You will be pleased to hear that all the children have settled beautifully and it has been lovely to see so many friendships blossoming.

This newsletter will be detailed in content as there are some pressing pieces of information I need to pass on to ensure the smooth running of St Nicholas House this year.

INFORMATION

There is an updated A to Z which I have attached to this letter for parents' information.

NEW FACES

We are delighted to welcome all our new pupils and a special welcome to our new Heads of St Nicholas U6th prefects Heledd Evans and Fergus Stevens. They are taking over this post from Hannah and Henry and we shall be enjoying getting to know them better over the course of the year. Heledd is a familiar face and kindly volunteered at St Nicholas House last year, joining Y6 on their weekly visits to Trenewydd Residential Home. Heledd and Fergus will be spending lots of time with us and will be a great support and asset to the junior section. We wish them well for the year ahead.



STAFF NEWS

We are thrilled to welcome some new, but familiar faces to the St Nicks teaching team.

Mr Tim Trumper will offer a weekly lesson of PSE to all pupils.

We are very excited that Mrs Sarah Bawler, our LAMDA teacher

will be delivering some curricular Drama lessons to St Nicholas pupils on a fortnightly basis.

Mrs Emma Blatt will continue to teach a weekly Science lesson to Year 5&6 in the Science block.

Similarly, Mr Jonathan Ling will continue to teach curricular Music to all year groups. Mr Ling will also be supporting the juniors with weekly singing sessions and preparation for choral events, concerts and performances which is fantastic.



All of Year 3&4 are going to be receiving tuition in string instruments once a week. They will be introduced to the cello and violin with our fantastic instrumental teachers Berri Munn (violin) and Mr Alan Davies (cello). This is following the success of previous years where our youngest children have enjoyed dedicated sessions with string and woodwind instruments. We hope to enjoy a short performance once children have gained a few skills.

We are also very excited to have secured a termly Art workshop with Head of Art, Mrs Deidre Houghton. Pupils will visit the senior school art department for a ceramics,

printmaking and textiles workshop over the course of the year. Where possible this will be linked to our current topic.

END OF DAY ROUTINE

Parents can collect their child at 5.00 pm every day if they wish. By 5.00pm, all children will have completed prep and activities (Tues/Weds/Fri) and Games (Mon/Thurs). The routine for Monday and Thursdays will remain the same as normal, except we will not set prep on these days, collection will be at 5.00 pm. We would be grateful if parents can ensure that they arrive promptly for all pick-ups.

Supper Club (5.00-6.00 pm) is available for those parents who wish to use it and an additional charge applies. Pupils who are not collected by 5.05pm will be entered into Supper club where an additional fee will be charged. Please see Supper Club terms sent in an earlier email.

Please complete pick up information charts inside Home/School diaries on a Monday morning to enable duty staff to safely monitor pupil pick up times on a daily basis.

Please note the following coding information:-

1=5.00 pm pick-up (from SNH playground)

2=6.00 pm pick-up and entry into Supper Club (pick up from the quad)

B=Travelling home by school minibus and automatic entry into Supper Club

If your child has an out of school commitment and you wish to collect at 3.30pm (Tues/Weds/Fri only), please write the time in the appropriate box on the pick-up chart.

Please note there is no facility to stay beyond 6.00pm.

Please see attached Safe Collection policy, which details our procedures for pick up, which we encourage you to read. If you have any questions, please do get in touch.

SUPPER CLUB

We have refreshed the activities offered for Supper Club attendees. From this term onwards, we will operate an ABCD four weekly programme offering a range of activities such as:-

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| <p><u>A is for Active-week 1</u> Football Playground Parachute Welly walk Basketball Table tennis Tennis Charades Capture the flag Rounders</p> | <p><u>B is for Brainy-week 2</u> Puzzles Quiz Board games Logic games Sudoku Chess Crosswords Buzz! Quiz Library/story</p> |
| <p><u>C is for Creative-week 3</u> Arts and crafts Colouring Drawing/painting Collage Bookmarks Badge making Lego/construction/k-nex Hama beads Loom bands</p> | <p><u>D is for Digital -week 4</u> i-pads IT suite Wii sports/music Karaoke Online quiz Movie time</p> |

CONTACTS

Please ensure that the school has up to date emergency contacts and mobile numbers in case of emergency. **Please note that for safeguarding, we must have two emergency contact numbers for each child.**

If you have moved house or changed contact details, do get in touch.

I have attached an up to date communication letter which reinforces how parents can get in touch with us should they need to.

The main school number (reception) is 01874 615440 (for all queries from 8.30-5.00pm)

The St Nicholas House mobile is 07798 823827 (for all urgent messages after 5.00pm, please note that this number should only be used after 5.00pm)

UNIFORM AND APPEARANCE REMINDER

Thank you to parents for acknowledging the uniform regulations that we have here at Christ College. I must say the children are looking very smart indeed. Please ensure that all pupils have their regulation CCB coat in school every day as we like to get out whatever the weather. We regularly walk pupils to and from the dining hall, assemblies and music lessons etc and so having a coat in school is most necessary (labelled please).

Perhaps it is timely to mention that until the 28th September, summer dress can be worn. Tights/kilts will be then become compulsory and striped summer dresses should not be worn after this time. Boys should wear long trousers. All pupils will need to wear blazers in school. Footwear -Girls should wear plain black 'polishable' shoes (boots, suede shoes, heels, buckles or logos are not allowed)
Boys should wear plain black lace-up or slip on shoes which can be polished (not suede). Trainers should only be worn for sporting activity.

We discourage the wearing of jewellery in school on health and safety grounds, but simple stud type earrings may be permitted for girls. These should not be worn for PE. Bracelets and necklaces should be avoided.

HAIR

If long, girls should wear their hair tied up in a ponytail. Hair accessories should be not overly flamboyant or excessive and preferably navy in colour. Boys' hair should be neat, out of the eyes and not exceed collar length. Many thanks for your cooperation with uniform and appearance matters.

SCHOOL PHOTO

Please note that the annual whole school photo will be taken on Monday 10th September at 4.00pm. Please note that there will be no Games on this day and all SNH pupils should wear winter dress to school for the photo, including blazers.



OFF WITH HER HEAD!

We are very excited about our new project "Off with her Head" which covers all aspects of the Tudor period.

We will be learning more about this era in History, Geography and Art lessons but also giving the children a real taste of how it was to live in Tudor times during a hands on workshop and trip to Llancaiach Fawr on Friday 5th October <https://your.caerphilly.gov.uk/llancaiachfawr/education-learning/education-learning> .

Children will have an opportunity to learn about children's lives in the 16th century and will meet a 16th century servant in the various workshops we attend. More details to follow.



This term, pupils will also be learning all about King Henry VIII who founded Christ College. We will be becoming History detectives and using the school site and its knowledgeable historians to help us learn more about the period and King Henry's involvement with the school. Many exciting activities have been planned and more detail will emerge in the next few weeks.

INFORMATION FOR PUPILS

Also attached is a new general consent/permission form which parents should fill in, sign and return for the new academic year 2018-19. These need to be renewed on an annual basis and should be returned directly to Julie Rowlands or sent in via your child, preferably by Friday 14th September.

Paper copies have been sent home for convenience.

SOCKS, GUM SHIELD AND SHIN PADS

Please ensure that pupils have their long regulation navy striped sport socks in school every day for our twice weekly Games slots. Pupils will be doing hockey and tag rugby this term and long socks are required for both. Please ensure that your child has a gum-shield and shin-pads for hockey. These items are both compulsory and essential for pupil safety. These items have a habit of getting forgotten or lost so please label clearly. We advocate buying two sets of gum shields and to keep them in school.

We do have a supply of gum shields in school to sell should pupils forget. The cost of these will be added to the school bill.

For Michaelmas cross country events, children will need white PE shirts, shorts/skorts, white short sports socks and trainers.

**Pupils are expected to bring kit to school on a Monday and on a Thursday and wear Games kit home, carrying their uniform home in their bag on these days. This will mean that pupils will not be able to store Games kit in school between sessions. Please do not send overly large kit bags.

The school rucksack is an ideal size.

The first Games session of the year will be on Thursday 13th September.

ART SHIRTS, WELLIES AND WATERPROOFS

We get very creative in school and uniform can get a bit messy. It is a good idea to provide your child with a sleeved painting shirt at the beginning of term. Charity shops are ideal places for these. Similarly, if you haven't already done so, please ensure your child has a pair of labelled wellies and waterproofs to keep in school. We do like to get muddy!

INSTRUMENTAL LESSONS

A message from the instrumental teachers: If your child has instrumental lessons, please could they remember their music books and instrument on the correct day (if applicable). A little bit of practice is strongly recommended between lessons, short regular periods are best. The week's schedule is posted up in House on Monday break time so pupils can see when their lessons are. This timetable is also available for parents to look at on the rear exit door in the playground. Children are encouraged to write their lesson times in their Home/School diaries. Instrumental lessons commence week beginning Monday 10th September.

PARENT CONSULTATIONS

We will be having early 'settling in' meetings on the 24th September, primarily as a means of communicating how pupils have settled in after the first two weeks. All new parents will be offered appointments by email and following feedback, we will be offering these meetings as an option for returning families. Please let us know if you would like an appointment and we will let you know a convenient time slot.

We will have more in-depth parent consultation meetings week beginning 26th November which will provide you with detailed feedback on your child's academic progress during the Michaelmas term and an opportunity to share your child's targets. We hope that you agree that this offers good opportunities for communication and ensures that you are clear about your child's progress. As always, if you have any concerns about your child's progress, please do get in touch via the usual channels.

MEDICATION

As detailed in the attached A to Z issued to parents, we would like to emphasise the importance of completing the necessary paperwork should your child need to take any regular medication or medicines. It is essential that all medicines, however innocuous, are handed in to the sanatorium where they must be administered once paperwork completed.

Pupils are not allowed to self-medicate, even with medicines such as calpol, antihistamine, lotions/creams or over the counter remedies. The exception to this is asthma inhalers which are stored in the teacher's desk or in pupils' bags for easy access. Your cooperation in this matter would be greatly appreciated. Please contact school if you have any queries relating to medicines or your child's health.

If your child's medical details have changed over the summer, please get in touch. Also, all new pupils should have returned medical questionnaires to school. If your child has any dietary needs or allergies that we are not already aware of, please get in touch.

TWITTER

You can follow us on Twitter at @CCBStNicks. You can see some of the exciting and interesting things that we are getting up to in the juniors. This is often a favourite way for us to pass on information or reminders so it would be fantastic if you could embrace this platform as a means of communication. For all those 'techno-phobes', we are all too happy to help if you need Twitter advice or support.

Our twitter feed can also be accessed by typing the above details into a google search.



FRIENDS OF CCB

The Friends of Christ College Brecon would like to appeal to parents of pupils in St Nicholas to become part of the committee. There seems to be a shortage of junior parents in the current group and they would really welcome input from parents across all phases of the school.

If you are able to give up your time to attend one meeting every half term (usually a Thursday at 7.00pm) and/or help out at some social events, please do get in touch with Ruth Bowen who will advise further

ruthbowenjazz@btinternet.com .

This is a very proactive committee

and there are plenty of opportunities to contribute ideas for fund raising events whilst having a good time. The pupils at St Nicholas have benefitted greatly so far from Friends donations in the form of the recent trophies for prize giving, our fantastic playing strip not to mention our brand new fantastic welly racks. It would be marvellous if there were some more junior parents who would be keen to join and put forward ideas on our behalf.

If you think you would like to help out occasionally but cannot commit fully, please do get in touch as an extra pair of hands is so useful during large events.

We recommend that as many families as possible attend the very entertaining and fun social on Saturday 15th September at 6.00pm.



The infamous 'Sheep Racing Night' is ideal for families with younger children and perfect for new parents to get to know others.

THE SOCIETY OF FRIENDS FAMILY SHEEP RACING NIGHT

After the success of last year's event, the Family Sheep Racing night is back! **Bring the kids, meet new people, have some fun and a flutter, this is a great way for families to socialise. Bring a plate of food to share.**

Y Neuadd Goffa: The Memorial Hall, 6pm

Free - contact ruthbowenjazz@btinternet.com



The next committee meeting and AGM will take place on Sunday 16th September at 6pm in the Clive Richards Room.

EXEAT

Please do not forget the early finish on Friday 28th September as it is Exeat weekend. Pupils should be collected by 3.30 pm and school minibuses will run at the earlier time.

CROSS COUNTRY

We are delighted that the first fixture of the primary schools cross-country league will take place on Thursday 27th September, here at Christ College. The first race will start at 10 am.

There will be 8 races:

Year 3 boys

Year 3 girls

Year 4 boys

Year 4 girls

Year 5 boys

Year 5 girls

Year 6 boys

Year 6 girls

Parents, friends and families very welcome to come and spectate and cheer on the athletes!

Please make a note of the next two fixtures of 4th and 15th October. We will be hosting the final event.

LAMDA

Many of our junior pupils enjoy attending LAMDA (Speech and Drama) sessions and there are spaces available for more juniors should they wish to take it up. Our specialist tutor Sarah Bawler, will run sessions on Tuesdays during activity time. Please note that this is a chargeable service. Do get in touch if you would like more information.

SPELLINGS

All children have a weekly spelling test on a Monday morning. Each week, pupils are issued new lists of words and complete daily tasks using their spelling words to help embed the patterns they are learning. Children should remember to bring home spelling books over the weekend and practise their spellings in readiness for the test on Monday morning. Please could we remind parents to help support their child by going over spellings over the weekend and initial the spelling list accordingly so that we know spellings have been practised. We cannot over emphasise the importance of learning spellings and are more than happy to discuss fun methods of remembering words should you need some ideas.



READING

We like all pupils in all year groups to read daily at home. Please encourage your child to read either with or to you and note any comments in their Home/School diaries. Pupils will receive a sticker for each time they read at home and a little reward from time to time. You will see some guidance on how to support your child's reading in the inside cover of Home/School diaries. Do ask your child questions as they read, as good comprehension is the key to reading success.

SUNFLOWER COMPETITION



For those of you with green fingers, you will remember we launched a sunflower competition back in May. Please take photos and record your sunflower's height and email them to school. The competition will be judged on Friday 28th September and there will be a prize for the tallest bloom!

ASSEMBLIES AND CHAPEL SERVICES

You will know that we have regular whole school assemblies and the occasional chapel service where we have the opportunity to gather, sing and worship with members of the wider school community.

This term, we are delighted to announce a change of chapel routine which will see us attend chapel services in the school's beautiful and historic chapel every other Thursday alongside members of Alway (Year 7&8). Once a month, parents will be invited to attend the chapel service. The first opportunity for this will be Thursday 27th September at 8.25am which we very much hope you can attend. Refreshments will be available afterwards with myself and the school's Chaplain.

A reminder that the school day starts at 8.45 am and all juniors should be in school by this time. Where there is a whole school assembly or chapel service, we ask that children arrive before 8.25 am so that we can arrive in good time. Whole school assemblies and chapel services are compulsory for all pupils so if you could aim to make these timings we would be very grateful.

ABSENCE

If your child is unable to attend school or will be late, please contact the school as early as possible either by email or telephone (from 8.30am). We request a reason for non-attendance so we can complete our registers accordingly.

The school year is 34 weeks long and parents are strongly advised not to book any holidays during term time to minimise disruption to pupils' education. Term dates are detailed within pupils' Home/School diaries and on the school website. Attendance figures are detailed in end of year reports.

It is also worth pointing out that only the Head can grant permission for time off school, therefore all requests should go to Mr Pearson via his PA Jo Robinson-Davies.

jo.robinson.davies@christcollegebrecon.com

ACTIVITIES

We pride ourselves on the amount of extra-curricular activity we can provide for such a small school. We like to discuss ideas with pupils and rotate clubs around, offering a new range of activities every half term, though some clubs remain a constant throughout the year.

We are very excited to report that there will be some new extra-curricular offerings from senior school colleagues this year, enhancing our provision even further. Clubs offered are governed by staff expertise/availability and we are confident there is something for everyone. Parents can

look at the selection below and discuss the best choices with their child. All clubs will commence in the first full week back of school.

The Junior School will generally encourage children, who have signed up to clubs, to honour their choices until the end of that half term, hence encouraging perseverance and commitment. The majority of clubs we offer are free and organised within the school day before pick up at 5.00pm on Tuesday, Wednesdays and Fridays.

The clubs on offer this half term are as follows:-

Tuesday

IT club (coding etc)- Mrs Clare Parsons (senior school teacher)
LAMDA-Sarah Bawler (extra charge)
Petanque-Miss Hallinan

Wednesday

Spanish Club- Mrs Anne-Marie Doran (senior school teacher)
Golf (driving range at Cradoc Golf Club y minibus)-Mr Simon Hill (Deputy Head Pastoral)
Art & Craft-Mrs Lewis

Friday

Indoor Multi-Sports Club (Badminton/5 a side/dodgeball)-Miss Brown
Hide & Seek (CCB Rocks)-Mrs Gardner. This is currently a very popular activity, where children decorate rocks, hide them and try and locate them. <http://talgarth.fyinetwork.co.uk/my,47451-Brecon-and-Talgarth-Rocks>

**please note that for some activities, there will be a maximum amount of members for safety reasons and so pupils might need to be placed in a ballot where there is a big demand.

Sadly due to timetabling difficulties, Mr Ling will be unable to commence Junior Choir for Y5&6 until after half term. Y5&6 will also resume weekly visits to Trenewydd Residential Home after the October half term break to allow time for training.

SWIMMING



We are very happy to announce that swimming lessons will commence for juniors in the school's new pool from Monday 17th September. Year 5&6 should bring regulation swimming kit every Monday and Year 3&4 every Tuesday. We are delighted that Miss Lawrie Jones (swimming instructor at Brecon Leisure Centre) has agreed to continue teaching the children and this will be excellent for continuity and progression. For new families, do let us know of your child's swimming ability by noting in Home/School diaries or by email.

If you have any queries with regards to the above, do get in touch. I hope you have a lovely weekend,

Yours,
Mrs Julie Lewis (Head of Juniors)

Dates for your diary....

September

- Tuesday 11th-PC Skeyrme "It's your choice" workshop for Y6
Monday 10th-Whole school photo 4.00pm
Friday 14th-Dementia Friends training Y6
Saturday-CCB Society of Friends-"Sheep Racing Night" 6.00pm Neuadd
Sunday 16th- Society of Friends Reception & AGM: CRR 6.00pm-9.00pm
Monday 17th-First Swimming lesson for Year 5&6
Tuesday 18th-First swimming lesson for Year 3&4
Wednesday 19th-SN House Council Elections
Monday 24th-Settling in meetings from 3.30pm onwards
Wednesday 26th-Eco-Council election
Thursday 27th-Chapel service for pupils and parents 8.25am
Thursday 27th- Cluster Cross Country event at CCB 10.00am Y3-6
Friday 28th-Macmillan bake sale
Friday 28th-CCB Exeat weekend-please note 3.30 pm finish for all pupils

October

- Thursday 4th-National Poetry Day
Thursday 4th- Cluster Cross Country event 10.00am Y3-6
Friday 5th-Y3-6 History trip to Llancaiach Fawr
Thursday 11th-Canal outreach STEM workshop
Friday 12th-Children in Need ramble
Thursday 15th- Cluster Cross Country event at CCB 10.00am Y3-6
Thursday 18th-SNH Harvest Service chapel 8.25am (parents invited)
Wednesday 24th-break up for half term please note 1.30 pm finish for all pupils