



Sharmans Cross Junior School

Striving for Excellence

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www.sharmans-cross.com

Dates for your diary:

September

13 - New targets shared
18 - Open Day (9-11; 1-3; 4-6)
18 - Sukkot
20 - Curriculum Overviews out
19 - Y3 Welcome Evening
19 - PTA AGM
20 - School Bank
24 - Y4 Curriculum Evening
26 - Y5 / Y6 Curriculum Evening

October

2 - Navaratri
3 - Parents' Forum
4 - Coffee Morning
14 - Open Day (9-11; 1-3; 4-6)
16 - Eid-UI-Adha
17 - Open Day (9-11; 1-3; 4-6)
21 - Cultural Enrichment Week
25 - PTA Bonfire
28 - Half Term

November

6 - Diwali
8 - Coffee Morning
11 - Mock SATs / SLTs
11 - Armistice Day
13 - Guru Nanak's Birthday
15 - PTA 80s Night
18 - Anti-Bullying Week (Cyberbullying)
27 - Hannukah
27 - Synergy PE Leads
28 - Parents' Evening

December

4 - Advent
6 - Coffee Morning
6 - Christmas Fair
18 - Parties
23 - Christmas Break

2014

January

6 - INSET - Playing for the Badge
7 - Return to school
10 - Coffee Morning
10 - Curriculum Overviews out
10 - Targets negotiated / shared / displayed
22 - Milad Un Nabi
29 - Chinese New Year
30 - Parents' Forum

Welcome back! I hope that you all had an enjoyable summer!

It has been an excellent start to the new academic year! All of the children appear to have settled in to new classes and new routines exceedingly quickly. It really feels as though we have never been away! I am once again exceptionally impressed by the way that our new Y3 children have become a part of the school and I look forward to getting to know them even better over the coming months, along with their parents.

A new school year has brought with it a new organizational layout and many of you have been very complimentary about the new reception area. It brings a fresh, professional look to the school, providing a clear identity and focus as you walk through the gate and a calm, ordered waiting area for visitors. It has also further improved the security of the site, allowing the office staff to effectively manage access to the building throughout the day.

The reception will be open from 8.30am until 4.00pm and becomes the main entrance into school, although children will still use the access via the playground and SC_Kids via the car park. Should you wish to speak to someone or your child attends Early Birds, please come to reception from 8.30am and one of the administrative team will take care of you.

In assembly this week, I have been sharing with the children and the staff what I am calling our Teamship Rules. These are the qualities and competences we hold dear as we "strive for excellence". These are:

1. Be relentless
2. Right place, right time, right kit, right mind
3. High personal standards
4. Be purposeful / intentional
5. Ask for forgiveness, not permission
6. Only do what is beneficial
7. Remain positive / optimistic
8. Support the community and accept support
9. Be brave for five minutes longer
10. Work hard, play hard

Over the coming months we will explore these even further as we aim to become the best that we can be. This includes a visit next Tuesday from Alan Rapley, the GB Swimming Captain from the 1996 Olympics. He will be talking to the whole school during a special assembly and then visiting Y6 classrooms as a way of inspiring the children.

We look forward to another great year!

Have a good weekend!

Mark



Parent Pay

All new parents should now have received an Activation Letter for online school payments. It is essential that you log on to activate your child's account. Anyone who needs assistance with setting up accounts or payments please contact Mrs Trumper as soon as possible.



Music Tuition

After much planning and careful financial management we were able at the end of last term to confirm the Y4 Wider Opportunities music scheme that has been so successful over the last few years. This means that everyone in Y4 will continue to receive music tuition as part of our ongoing collaboration with Solihull Music Service. We are still in the process of organizing this and expect this to begin the week beginning 16th September. All other music tuition from Solihull Music visiting teachers, such as brass, guitar and violins, will begin next week.

Getting to and from School

Over the summer I have been in regular contact with a local resident about the problems posed by parking in Woodlea Drive. We are in the process of setting up a meeting with residents, police, Solihull Council and even the local MP to try and address this matter. Can I ask that parents consider how and where they park when dropping off and collecting children. In particular, it has been noted that some parents still illegally park on the double yellow lines. Please be aware that we noted the presence of a PCSO and Traffic Warden this week around the school.

In line with the current Change4Life campaign it may even be beneficial to park a few minutes further away from the school and walk the remainder of the way.

At the start of the new year, we would also like to remind parents that as a school, we feel that in the best interests of safety, children in Y3 and Y4 should be brought to and collected from school by an adult. For those children in Y5 and Y6 we feel that it is more appropriate for them to arrive at school or leave the school premises unaccompanied, either meeting an adult or older sibling at a nearby agreed point or making their own way home.

Obviously children mature at different rates and some are more responsible than others. Ultimately this is a parents' decision and we can only offer our thoughts and advice.

Can we also remind parents that the school gates officially open at 8.30am, when an adult will be on duty to supervise children in the playground until school opens at 8.45am. Children should not be on the school site before this time, unless attending SC_Kids.

School officially begins at 8.55am. Children arriving after this time will then be considered late. Anyone arriving after 9.10am will need to be signed into school by an accompanying adult and will be marked as late after close of register, meaning that they will miss a mark in their attendance.



Uniform

We are currently still observing the summer uniform policy. This means that ties are optional, polo shirts may be worn, girls can wear gingham dresses and boys can wear grey short trousers.

The winter uniform of shirt and tie for boys and blouse or shirt and tie for girls will begin from 4th November.





Healthy Snacks

Please note that children should only bring fruit into school for a breaktime snack from Monday to Thursday. On a Friday, they can bring any small snack of their choice, ie a chocolate biscuit, packet of crisps or a cheesy string.

Nut Allergies

Please be advised that we do have several children in school who have significant allergies to nuts. Whilst we do not ban nut products from school, we do strongly suggest to parents that any food sent into school should be as nut free as possible in order to avoid serious incidents.

We thank you for your co-operation.

PTA AGM

We are extremely grateful to the PTA for the sterling work that they do and the support that they give to the school. In the last twelve months they have helped us to supplement the number of iPads that we have been able to provide to extend our curriculum provision through discos, fairs and sales.

We are always happy to welcome new members and the ideal time to start would be the annual AGM, which this year takes place on Thursday 20th September from 8pm. See you there!

SC_Kids

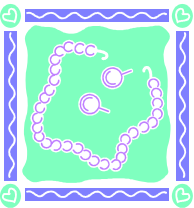
Please note that any places offered at SC_Kids before and after school club are subject to contract. Registration forms need to be completed prior to any child attending the club. Sadly, we cannot offer a place to any child arriving at the club without registration forms already having been completed.

Although we do have some places still available, they are now becoming very limited, particularly on a Monday and Tuesday.

Jewellery

Children are allowed to wear a watch, earrings and any other jewellery that has a recognised religious significance to school. Earrings should take the form of either studs or sleepers. These cannot be worn for any physical activity, such as PE or swimming in the interests of the child's health and safety. Please note that staff are not allowed to remove these and that we accept no responsibility for the safekeeping of any item. Neither do we provide or accept the wearing of tape or plasters over them.

Therefore on days when your child does planned physical activity, either in or out of school we would ask that such items are not worn. Should your child not be able to remove the earrings themselves, they will not be allowed to participate. Details of when your child does planned physical activity in school will be in their home-school diaries. Should this not be the case, please check with your child's class teacher.



Home School Diaries

Your child will this week have brought home their new Home School Diary. This has a new design this year after consultation with parents to ensure that it does everything we want it to do.

The front cover was designed by Mitchell Dean, one of our Y4 children.

It is important to note that the diary needs to be signed by in certain areas by children and parents. In particular the Diary Agreement, Class Rules, Homework and Acceptable Technology Usage pages should be read and discussed with the child.

Communication

We communicate with parents via our school website, www.sharmans-cross.com; Twitter, [www.twitter.com/sxjs](https://twitter.com/sxjs); a weekly emailed or online newsletter; an automated text messaging service or through the Home/School diaries. You can also contact the school by phone or email.

Should you wish to receive a paper copy of letters or newsletters, please contact the school office directly to arrange.

Generally we only send out communications on a Friday so as to avoid any confusion.

However, occasionally we will need to contact you more urgently than that.

Please make sure that the school has the latest contact information for you, including mobile and email addresses.

Thanks!

Curriculum Information

We will be sending out curriculum fliers to parents by the 20th September. These will outline those areas that your child will be learning about this term. To further support you with this, we will also be holding three information evenings. Y3 invite parents in on 19th September, Y4 on the 24th and Y5 and Y6 on the 26th.

Further details of these events will come out shortly.

Clubs

We are currently putting together a comprehensive list of clubs for the term and the year. Letters for these will come out shortly, but we expect them to begin the week beginning 16th September.

Please watch this space!

SEN

Over the summer, Mrs Williams has handed over the reigns of SEN to Miss Turley.

We thank Mrs Williams very much for all of the work that she has put into the role and the improvements that have been made!

Any queries should now go to Miss Turley, who we are sure will be as successful in the post as Mrs Williams.

