



# MIDSOMER NORTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

LEARNING FOR LIFE

Head Teacher: Mr Damian Knollys LLB(Hons) NPQH

www.midsomernortonprimaryschool.com



## NEWSLETTER 1

5<sup>th</sup> September 2014

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Diary Dates:

<b>Mon</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>Sept</b>	<b>Y6 Camp starts (back on Fri 12 Sept)</b>
<b>Weds</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>Sept</b>	<b>Swimming starts for Neptune class</b>
<b>Mon</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>Sept</b>	<b>Clubs start – letter coming home today</b>
<b>Weds</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>Sept</b>	<b>New Homework regime starts – letter on Fri 12 Sept explaining all</b>
<b>Tues</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>Sept</b>	<b>Y1-Y6 Parents' Pop-in – 2.00pm Head's address, Q&amp;A; 2.45pm into class</b>
<b>Fri</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>Sept</b>	<b>Y5/6 Cycling programme starts</b>
<b>Tues</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>Sept</b>	<b>OPEN DAY for prospective parents – please spread the word</b>
<b>Mon/Wed</b>	<b>6/8</b>	<b>Oct</b>	<b>Parents' Evenings</b>
<b>Tues</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>Oct</b>	<b>Y4/Y5 Parents' Meeting re 2015 Camps for Y4 (6pm) and Y6 (6.30pm)</b>
<b>Wed/Thu</b>	<b>15/16</b>	<b>Oct</b>	<b>Photos</b>
<b>Thu</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>Oct</b>	<b>Infants' Harvest (School Hall)</b>
<b>Tues</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>Oct</b>	<b>Juniors' Harvest (Methodist Church)</b>
<b>Weds</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>Oct</b>	<b>Last Day of Term 1</b>
<b>Mon</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Nov</b>	<b>First Day of Term 2 - term ends Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December</b>

### Head's Message

Welcome to a new school year! This is going to be a term of 'lasts' for me – for instance, that's the last time I'll be welcoming you to a new school year in Midsomer Norton – and I am certainly going to miss it. But I haven't gone yet and there is a lot of work to do before I go. As ever, there is constant change in education, so I'm particularly pleased to be leading such a dedicated staff team, who are ready and able to implement those changes. Here are some headlines about what's coming up:

- The new curriculum: new topics and 'milestones' to achieve (letter coming out 12<sup>th</sup> September)
- Renewed homework policy: operating Wednesday to Monday (published 12<sup>th</sup> September)
- New assessment system: now online and ready to use – we did training on Tuesday
- New Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Code of Practice to implement: already using it
- Recruitment: new Head, new Nursery teacher, maternity cover for Mrs Hughes and Mrs Young
- New Subject Coordinators taking up the reins – all appointed
- New teacher training provision: School Direct. We have welcomed Mr Peasley in KS1
- New teacher appraisal system

Busy times, but we like it like that! As I said to staff at our INSET on Monday, every single one of those priorities above, while important, is about one thing: raising the standard of teaching and learning in our school. That is the sole principle behind any changes that we make and I shall be as committed to that principle on my last day in Midsomer Norton Primary as I was on my first. I hope very much that your child has embarked on what will be their most successful year in this school yet.

**Parents' Pop-In** With all these things going on in the school, we would like to invite parents and carers of Year 1 to Year 6 pupils to pop in on the afternoon of Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> September at 2.00pm. Mr Knollys will address the parents from 2.00pm and answer questions, then you will have the chance to visit your child's class from 2.45pm, just to see them 'for real' in their new classes. We have brought Parents' Evenings forwards to the second week of October (6<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup>), to give you an earlier chance to meet discuss your child's progress.

**Open Day** On Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> September we will be hosting an Open Day for parents of children not yet in our school. Our Year 5 pupils will act as tour guides and show them around. If you know anyone with young children who may be interested in coming to our school, including our nursery, please let them know about this. We shall be advertising this as well.

**Homework** On Friday 12<sup>th</sup> September (Monday 15<sup>th</sup> for Year 6 campers), you will receive a copy of our new Homework Policy, which tidies up some of the anomalies between yeargroups and states clearly the purposes and expectations with regard to homework. Please read this document carefully from cover to cover, as it will enable you to give you child an appropriate level of support for their homework. The first 'round' of homework (including Spellings) will be on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> September.

**General Information** Also next Friday, you will be receiving a summary of your child's curriculum for this term, along with a class letter with some general whole-school reminders and class-specific information. The key information is set out overleaf, as it bears some repeating – it is just in bullet points, so you can use it as a checklist. Please take time to read it. Thank you!

PLEASE ...

- All items of clothing, bottles, bags clearly named
- PE kit (named) in school Mon-Fri (wash at weekend)
- Art apron in school – a parent’s old shirt, usually!
- Daily piece of fruit for break-time – no sugary bars
- Water bottles for classrooms: clear/sports top
- No juice, squash or fizzy drinks in class
- Do not drive onto our premises – staff/visitors only
- Park legally and considerately around the school
- No smoking anywhere on the school site
- Read our homework policy, which includes reading
- No dogs on the premises
- Punctuality is important: 8.35 doors open
- No holiday in term-time requests
- Waterproof coats if risk of rain; warm coats if cold
- Sun-cream to be applied at home before school
- Bring reading books/logs into school daily
- Use book bags (available from office) daily
- Supervise children carefully before/after school
- No balls, bikes, scooters before/after school
- Ensure asthma inhaler/epipens are in date
- Read the newsletter each week
- For relevant class: swimming kit weekly



**Head Teacher’s Awards**



were given out today in Assembly to the following pupils for exceptional effort in their work  
Bailey Leo Harrison Jesse Ethan Leo Aria Aaron Esther Nada Tyler

**GOLD AWARDS** A remarkable first gold card of the year has been awarded to **Cerys!**  
*Gold Awards are given to children in assembly whose contribution to the life of the school has been exemplary.*

**Congratulations** to Fletcher, Ollie, Harrison, Charlie, William and Lewis, who have all been selected for the Bath and Wiltshire District Schools Football team. They were among over 300 who attended trials in July and we are very proud of their achievements. This bodes well for the new season for our school squad.

**Letters home this week**

*Clubs letter*

All letters are now uploaded to the website; follow this link to see them: <http://www.midsomernortonprimaryschool.com/index.php?id=94>

**COMMUNITY NEWS**

*An update on things going on in and around the area. Please feel free to notify us (by Wednesday) of any items to go in. The school does not actively endorse or vouch for any event publicised here.*

*Stratton on the Fosse Village Fun Day - Sunday 7th September 12-4 - BBQ, bar, live music, cream teas, raffle, smash the crockery, tug of war, tombola, nerf gun alley, skittles, quad bikes, bouncy castle, craft stalls and more. Please join us on the playing field behind the Village Hall. All proceeds towards Stratton on the Fosse Village Hall Trust.*



This splendid box for Yu-gi-oh cards was left in school last term and contains some precious cards belonging to Joe in Uranus class. We’ve had a really good look through the school, but they are nowhere to be seen. It’s just possible that the box has found its way home with someone else (quite a few pupils are Yu-gi-oh enthusiasts and have similar boxes), so please check at home. You might just make Joe’s day. Thanks!



**Many Happy Returns!**



*Pupils with birthdays between the 5<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> September are included in our list this week*

*Jecaela Lucas*