



Christ Church CE Primary School

 Learning  Listening  Living

Sheinton Road, Cressage
Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY5 6DH
Tel: 01952 510383

Office: admin@christchurch.shropshire.sch.uk
Head: head@christchurch.shropshire.sch.uk
www.christchurchcressage.co.uk

20th July 2017

Dear Parents & Carers

This half term we have been consulting with the school community on our Curriculum Driver (a priority we consider when planning lessons) of '**Exploring Opportunities: Visits and Visitors**'. Pupils were asked their views via a pupil survey; all staff (teaching and non-teaching) and governors had the opportunity to make comments on the curriculum drivers at a 'look back/look forwards' school development meeting in June and parents were asked to contribute their views by attending the meeting on 18th July or to send them in via email.

Views expressed:

- **Overwhelmingly positive about the impact on learning** – children felt visits and visitors brought topics alive to them in a way that books/film/audio/teacher talk could not. This enabled them to understand more complex facts e.g. the Ragged Victorian showing them the reality of slum living. Staff could see the impact on learning.
- **Visitors in were as important as visits out** – parents asked for more visitors in to school, as well as our termly visits out which were also appreciated. Staff wanted to have more visitors in who could help children develop ideas about the future e.g. talking about university life, their job, what it was like being an apprentice.
- **Consider costs and give a good example of being 'green'** – parents appreciated that visits and visitors did cost and needed to be paid by parents as there is not additional money for this. Staff felt it was important to 'cap' each visit at £15 unless it was a residential and were grateful where PTA funding made up the difference or paid for the travel aspect. Parents suggested knowing in advance about costs and also suggested that the Squid basket could be used as a savings tool for those who found a larger sum difficult to pay (more than one child) by putting in amounts each week/month. Staff felt it important to reduce transport and journey times by always choosing the nearest place which offers the best educational experience and by sharing coaches where possible e.g. recent Red and Green visit to Ellesmere Nature Reserve.
- **Consider visits which help children understand our cultural diversity in Britain** – developing this area is on our School Development plan and was something identified by governors, staff and parents who all suggested ideas for visiting other places of worship and helping children experience difference cultures and traditions.
- **Consider the impact of changes to routine for very young children and those with additional needs** – parents expressed these views in terms of 'dress up days' and for those starting school. Governors asked us to give more advance notice to help parents prepare children, support the learning in the family, know about costs and be informed.

So that you can plan as parents for next term and have an idea of the contributions we will be asking for, these are the opportunities which we hope to offer in school (maybe subject to change):

Whole School

- **Love Cycling** – to help children develop their cycling skills and to promote this healthy and sustainable transport option we will be offering bike courses in September throughout the





Christ Church CE Primary School

 Learning  Listening  Living

Sheinton Road, Cressage
Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY5 6DH
Tel: 01952 510383

Office: admin@christchurch.shropshire.sch.uk
Head: head@christchurch.shropshire.sch.uk
www.christchurchcressage.co.uk

school. Y5 & Y6 (new school year groups) will be able to do their full 'Bikeability' qualification at Level 1&2 over two days of training. Y3 & Y4 will be able to do Level 1 of their qualification, working mostly on the playground and Y1 & Y2 will be able to do a 'Balance Bike' course on the playground which will improve their balance and co-ordination. There is funding available for Y3-Y6 so no cost to parents and a £5 charge for Y1 & Y2.

- **Theatre** – rather than a Birmingham visit in the Autumn we hope to support Sixth Form students at William Brookes by going to their pantomime and the PTA have offered to cover the cost of the coach, so no cost to parents. We hope to access a quality theatre production later in the year, either locally at Theatre Severn or Oakengates. This normally costs about £15 per child.
- **Charitable events in the Autumn term** - Yellow class will be taking part in the MacMillan Coffee Morning, the whole school will be taking part in Children in Need and we expect to have two more Dress Up Days (probably one for the PTA and one for a charity chosen by the children). We will also be doing a whole school sponsored event to raise money for School Fund.

Year Group/Class Specific

- **Red Class** – their first half term theme is '**Ourselves**' and they will focus on 'Visitors In' – we hope it will be you - their families who attend a Red Class wedding! Watch this space for details and get your hats ready! We also hope to invite in a recent bride to talk about her wedding and please be prepared to find wedding photos from your family's experiences.
- **Green Class** – their first half term theme is '**Castles**' and they will be going to Stokesay Castle to consider some of the local history of castles in Shropshire and architectural styles and reasons for them being built. If you are near a castle this summer and your child will be in Green Class please make the most of the opportunity.
- **Yellow Class** - their first half term theme is '**Rivers, Mountains and Coasts**' and they will hopefully be going to Carding Mill Valley to take part in a River Study and use the Educational Lab there – not options available on a usual family visit. They also hope to have visits in from the RNLI and Severn Trent.
- **Swimming for KS2** – although the National Curriculum says we only need to ensure children can swim 25 metres by Y6 (and many schools only take their non-swimmers in Y6), we are committed to providing yearly swimming opportunities for the whole of Y3-Y6. Children get an hour swimming and an hour 'dryside' of quality PE each time we go. We pay for the swimming and PE charges but are asking parents to contribute £1 per week towards the cost of the coach (it costs nearer £2 per child). This will be a total charge of £12 for transport for this activity which happens over the Autumn and Spring terms.

Thank you for contributing. Personally I have enjoyed listening to the views of all members of the school community and making sure that we respond where we are able. We all share the same goal of wanting every child to flourish and reach their full potential and I appreciate the time staff, governors, parents and children took in expressing their views. I hope that this information provides useful feedback from the process. Enjoy the summer holidays and thank you for your support.
Kind regards

Tracey Cansdale

