

FRESHFORD CHURCH SCHOOL
AUTUMN NEWSLETTER
OCTOBER 2018



The first term of the academic year has been extremely busy and seems to have flown . We are delighted that all our Reception children now seem to be very settled into George Class, who have been creative with this year's plentiful autumn harvest, We wish to extend a belated warm welcome to all those families who joined us this term, both in George Class and throughout the entire school. We hope all your children will enjoy their time with us as they continue on their learning journey.



Maintenance of new school building

During the summer holidays Branded Schools miraculously managed to complete on schedule the repair and re-painting of the vast majority of our exterior woodwork in the new school building, install all pipework and outside tap for infant patio area, renovate, lay carpet and install a new glazed cedar façade to the lobby adjacent to George Class and replace all classroom and office lighting with LED lighting. This should result in a saving of around 30% on electricity consumption, which is part of ongoing and exciting energy saving initiatives. We shall keep you updated, but please read Energy Sparks news below.

We are hugely grateful to the PTA for funding the improvements to George Class. The teaching area has been vastly improved and provides an attractive and warm learning space.

Parent Pay : Communications and payments

Thank you to all those of you who are now successfully signed up to Parent Pay, which is now our first means of communication for payment of meals, trips and visits.

If you are experiencing any problems at all or would like an additional payee added on Parent Pay, please come and see us as soon as possible so that we can help you get set up and guarantee .

School lunches

Since the beginning of term we have been working closely with our new catering provider, Edwards and Ward, and cooks Jo and Wendy, to provide a variety of balanced, healthy and nutritious dishes, which we hope your children are enjoying. A reminder that both menus and Edwards and Ward Healthy Eating literature can be found under Parent Information / Mid-day Meals on our school website.

The cost of a school meal remains at £2.80 per day. If you are paying for lunches, the Parent Pay system is really simple. It's similar to online shopping - you can either pay as you go or top up your balance at any time and then this just reduces as and when meals are taken and you will notice a minus amount as soon as you need to top up again! We would recommend keeping a regular check on balances. We would recommend that you check balances on a regular basis in order to keep any debt balance to a minimum.

School Meals



Start of the school day – 8.50am

The morning bell rings at 8.50am and it greatly assists the children settling into class if they arrive punctually for registration and the day's learning.

Pick up arrangements at end of the school day

If for any reason your situation requires your child to walk home alone, please bear in mind that we need your written permission on each occasion. We would also ask your child to advise the member of staff at the gate that they are leaving the site.

Absences

Please remember to advise us either by e mail or phone before 8.50am if your child is not going to be in school , together with the reason for their absence, in order that registers can be fully completed at the very start of the day.

Freshford Village Pump Opening : 26th September 2018



Joyce Class children from Freshford School joined members of the community at the official opening of The Village Pump at The Galleries Shop on 26th September.

HRH the Duke of Gloucester performed the opening ceremony of this combined bottle filling and drinking fountain, designed to reduce the need for and expense of single use plastic bottles and thus reduce plastic waste. This initiative is part of Wessex Water's Watermark Awards 25th Anniversary celebrations to encourage communities to increase public access to drinking water.

The Duke was presented with a re-usable bottle by our children, these now being available for purchase at The Galleries Shop. We have one each for the children that will be handed out after half term.

Energy Sparks at Freshford Church School – Energy saving initiatives and visit to Downing Street

At the close of the summer term, Freshford School topped the schools' Energy Sparks scoreboard and we were awarded £200 towards an energy saving improvement of our choice. We have used this money to contribute towards a lighting upgrade to new LED tubes in all classrooms, which should have made an impact on our electricity costs, with an anticipated energy saving of at least 30%. The group are also identified heavy use of electricity by one of the kitchen's freezers, which has

now been replaced with more modern, energy efficient, model. The group continue to identify energy saving possibilities.

On 18th October our team were invited to Downing Street to meet with the Rt Hon Claire Perry, Minister of State at **the** Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, in recognition of the work that Claudia Towner has already been doing with Energy Sparks. Claudia is currently expanding this project to Sheffield. The project is a wonderful example of the ways in which children can become national ambassadors for energy management, efficiency and longer term sustainability which ultimately impacts on climate change.

Whilst at Downing Street the children took part in an 'Operation Earth' activity and met with the founder of Pavegen, who has developed paving slabs which convert energy from people's footsteps into small amounts of electrical power.

A wonderful and inspirational learning experience for our children. Enormous thanks to Claudia for making Energy Sparks part of our ethos.



Very many thanks to three additional parents stepping forward to fulfil lunch time supervision, two of whom are new to the school this term and to so many of you who help us in so many ways in providing your children with the experiences we believe they deserve. We are genuinely hugely thankful for all your continuing support and confidence in our school and look forward to working with you next term.

Wishing you an extremely healthy and restful break, we look forward to seeing you all on Monday 5th November.

Bath Strings Academy

BSA are privileged to be joined by the fantastic **Scordatura Women's Music Collective** for this special workshop looking at music by women composers. They have built a fine reputation through their work promoting music by women composers, and even featured recently in the Strad Magazine! <https://www.thestrاد.com/debate/why-are-female-composers-still-markedly-behind-in-terms-of-prominence/8118.article>

Deeds Not Words

We will mark two key centenaries: the end of WW1 and the beginnings of women's suffrage in Britain, exploring the power of music to **move, unite and inspire**.

This will be an immersive and creative workshop giving players of Grade 3 - Diploma standard the opportunity to explore music written by women, as well as composing and improvising some music of our own. It will be a great opportunity for string-playing GCSE and A-Level music students in particular to broaden their horizons and also put their composition skills into practice.

This is a chance for string players to discover hitherto under-appreciated music written by some incredible women. We would be grateful if you would encourage your string players to attend.

Scordatura Women's Music Collective was founded in 2017 by cellists Rachel Watson and Corinna Boylan to perform and promote music composed by women. The ensemble has three main aims: to bring historically neglected composers to a wider audience; to support young and emerging female composers by commissioning and performing their work; and to inspire women and girls to compose by providing them with role models of who a composer can be.

Bookings can be made on the BSA website [here](#).