

Princess Fred's Matters

"Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a real blessing." Psalm 127:v3.



Tuesday 5th September '17

Dear Parents and Carer,

Welcome back everyone! We hope you had an enjoyable, restful and safe summer. It was lovely to see the children yesterday; they were all looking excited and ready to start their new learning journey through this academic year. We hope you as parents enjoyed your break and we are looking forward to working with you towards our common goal: ensuring our children are happy, well supported and given the best opportunities to flourish during their time at this school.

New strategies for homework in Years 1-6

As a school, we are always thinking about how effective our provision is in different areas and have been considering the role of homework at Princess Frederica. I'm sure you will agree, a balance between home life and homework is very important and, as research suggests, a small amount of homework can be positive. We also recognise that extra-curricular activities from swimming or visits to galleries and museums to learning an instrument or sharing a book with a friend or family member are as equally important as formal written work and should be recognised as being as important as the more traditional, formal view of homework.

Taking all this into consideration and in response to parental views, we are planning some updates to our homework strategy. We will continue with spellings, times-tables and reading books but you may notice a new approach to maths and English homework. This could involve a greater focus on projects. More information on this to follow.

Communication Lines

A reminder that teachers are available to parents both at the start and end of the day. For a quick chat, please feel free to speak to teachers when they are in the peace garden first thing until the bell goes at 8:50am. Please be aware that while teachers are happy to talk after school, their first priority is ensuring all children are safely picked up by their parents or carers. For longer conversations or confidential matters, please e-mail admin (admin@princessfrederica.brent.sch.uk) and highlight who the message is for the attention of. Alternatively, you can make an appointment through the school office. For further information, and for an outline to the daily working of the school, please see the PSA parents handbook (available by request from the school office).

Welcome Back

A big welcome back to Mrs Brookes, Ms Hurley and Ms Foster (the later two who returned last year). We are supportive of staff members returning after maternity leave and are delighted that Mrs Brookes and Ms Foster will be working together in Year 4W while Ms Hurley will be supporting children in Year 2USA.

Thank you to the PSA for the new Parent Handbook

Many thanks to Nursery parents Lisa Leaf and Nifa McLaughlin who led the project to produce the new parent handbook. With the support of the PSA they have produced a superb document, designed by parent Stephanie Caw, which has been sent to our 2017/2018 Nursery and Reception parents/carers and any new in-year admissions. We've already received fantastic feedback on how useful the booklet is and we would like to thank everyone involved for their efforts. We are proud to be part of such a committed school community!

If any parent/carer would like to see a copy of the booklet please ask the school office and they will email it to you.

Pub training in pub for Philosophy 4 Children

Nick Chandley, who last year worked with parents on philosophy with children and continues to work with staff on this exciting subject, will be present during a philosophy session at a pub. Philosophy in pubs is an idea developed by Rob Lewis (also part of the Philosophy for Children project in England) and you can read more about it by visiting the link: <http://philosophyinpubs.co.uk>. Please look out for more details coming soon on this.

Work on the roofs and other maintenance

We are pleased to report that three roofs had important work done on them over the summer period. The kitchen roof, caretaker's flat roof and the side roof by the hall all had important work done on them. The work was funded by the London Diocese of Schools (LDBS) and the work totalled over £90,000. The roofs were in a poor condition and we were delighted that we won this bid to have this work done. Also, over the summer, in order to improve the general condition and appearance of the building, many walls in class rooms were painted along with door frames. There was also a significant amount of deep cleaning done through out the school meaning the school is looking bright and ready for the school year.

Schools Direct and Staffing

Some of you may know that Princess Frederica works in partnership with the Institute of Education to train teachers on the Schools Direct programme. This initiative helps us use our experienced staff to train new teachers so they are ready for teaching in the school. Many of the teachers who train at Princess Frederica stay on at school after they complete their training. Ms Christopher is the lead on this initiative.

This year we would like to welcome student teachers Mrs Hannah Greenaway and Mrs Ghazaal Majidi.

Great news for our community, we have seen the lowest staff mobility in 4 years. We welcome back all of our existing staff members and extend a big welcome to the new staff joining us this year. We wish them all the best of luck on a successful academic year.

School Prayer

Dear God,
Thank you for the flowers and for the trees. Thank you for our school and the teachers.

Amen

