



SHENFIELD ST MARY'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

HALL LANE SHENFIELD BRENTWOOD CM15 9AL
(A member of the Mid Essex Anglican Academy Trust)

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September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to Foundation

We are delighted to welcome all the children to our school and are really looking forward to getting to know them all. Their initial time in Foundation will be spent settling in. This will incorporate undertaking a variety of activities and developing lots of skills with increasing independence. We will be helping the children to make friends and build relationships with one another through activities that require co-operation and team work. Children will gradually be introduced to all the areas of the classroom and taught how to use them appropriately and with independence.

Our theme for this first half term is 'All About Me'. Through this topic the children will be learning about how unique and special they are, and getting to know how they are a part of the St Mary's community. When all the children come together full-time we will have our topic Stunning Starter of playing fun games to get to know each other. We look forward to performing some songs to you for our Marvellous Middle at the Macmillan coffee morning. For our Fantastic Finish we look forward to welcoming you to an informative and practical EYFS workshop where you can spend some of the afternoon with your child in their class.

After half term our topic will be 'Terrific Tales'. In this topic the children will be learning about many classic and well known modern stories. The children will enjoy finding out about the different characters and settings where the stories take place. We will begin our learning by meeting a character from a story book. This will be followed by watching an improvisation of the story of Little Red Riding Hood. The topic will come to a finale with the children participating in our Infant Nativity Service.

PE

Our PE session will take place on Wednesday afternoons for both classes. Please remember that the children come to school dressed in their PE kits but wearing their school shoes. The children's trainers should now be in school. These are kept in school for our daily mile runs and PE lessons. Please ensure that your child's PE kit is labelled and also remember that earrings must be removed for PE, taping is no longer permitted.

Helping at Home

To enable you to further support your child's learning we will publish a weekly 'Homelink' letter on our class Google Classroom stream. This will inform you about what we will be doing in the following week. As the term goes on we will gradually start to send home some homework. We very much encourage 'little and often' and find that setting aside a set time each day works very well. During the term look out for;

- Weekly mark-making/handwriting practise, (please note that this will be submitted through a photo via Google Classroom)

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- Weekly sound and sight word practise,
- Daily reading (building up to a maximum of 15 minutes a day),
- Parental Voice forms for your parental contribution about your child's progress.

School events

The first event we would like to invite you to is our Harvest festival in church on Thursday 28th September, which you are welcome to join us for.

A House morning will take place on Friday 13th October. We ask that the children wear either blue, green, yellow or red. Children may wish to dress in their house colours (you will be notified of your child's colour in due course) or select a different colour for the day. More details will follow when the theme is finalised.

Parent and teacher consultations will take place on Tuesday 7th November and Thursday 9th November. Time slots can be booked online and details about this will be given nearer the time. We also have an informal drop in parents evening on Wednesday 27th September to catch up about how your child is settling into school.

We will have our annual Christmas Dinner on Tuesday 19th December where your child may wear a festive Christmas jumper!

We will not be undertaking any class worship during this term whilst the children settle.

Please don't forget to come and join us for our Macmillan Coffee Morning on Friday 29th September to raise some money for a good cause, enjoy some cakes and hear us sing.

Also we look forward to welcoming you to our EYFS workshops (week beginning 16th October), during which you will be able to observe a phonics session and spend time with your child in their classroom undertaking a variety of activities.

Please look out for reminders or changes in the whole school newsletter for house days, fundraising events and others (such as flu immunisations and school photo days).

We look forward to teaching your children and working with you this year.

Yours faithfully,

Miss Johnson & Miss Pidgeon