



Newsletter 9 – Friday 31st January

Dear Parents,

Rachel Piper

Rachel (our teacher in Rabbit Class) begins her maternity leave on Friday this week. Christina Dennett will be taking over responsibility for Rabbit Class and has already been working with the children to aid the transition. We wish Rachel all the very best.

Sarah Baker

Sarah Baker is leaving us at the end of this term. Sarah has been working as a Teaching Assistant in Owl Class this year and has been a highly valued member of staff over the last few years. We wish her well for the future. Interviews for a new Teaching Assistant are taking place next week.

Parking around the school

Unfortunately, this remains an issue. Please can parents respect double yellow and zig-zagged lines outside the school and also respect our neighbours in Shrublands Court by not parking where they shouldn't, particularly across people's drives and in the residents' only designated spaces. We have had more complaints recently; one resident was unable to leave her house in an emergency as a parent had blocked her drive.

The overwhelming majority of parents live within easy walking distance of the school and I would encourage parents to take advantage of the opportunities for conversation, exercise, and setting a good environmental example that walking to school provides. If you are finding it difficult to find a responsible place to park, the ideal solution is to leave your house earlier, or better still walk.

We have asked the residents to send us number plates and photos of cars parked inconsiderately so we can "name and shame" in our newsletters. I will also contact the local parking enforcement team so that they can make some drop-in visits again.

PE kit & school uniform

Please ensure your child comes to school with a full PE kit (including socks). We would also like to remind parents that nail varnish and jewellery are not permitted. Studs are permitted in children's ears although the child must be able to remove these themselves for PE lessons.

Mobile phones

We have noticed a number of children, particularly in Year 6, looking at or holding mobile phones while walking into or out of the school. I thought this would be a good opportunity to refresh parents of the school's policy on mobile phones. However, I would first like to say that no child needs a mobile phone in school unless there is a very specific need (if it is used for monitoring a medical condition for example).

Mobile phones are not permitted in school. We have had an understanding whereby if we do not see phones and we do not know about them, then we will not actively search for them. We take no responsibility for their loss. However, this appears to have been misunderstood and boundaries increasingly pushed. If this continues, and



we continue to see children with visible phones within the school grounds we will ban them outright unless there is explicit written permission by the school.

Any mobile phones seen by members of staff will be confiscated on sight and in the first instance kept for a day. Thereafter they will be retained until the end of the week. We do hope that children are mindful of this advice and that we do not have to put this into effect.

Digital Parenting Magazine

The latest edition of Vodafone's Digital Parenting Magazine is available to download here:

<https://www.vodafone.co.uk/digital-parenting-order-form/index.htm>. Previously we have ordered printed copies for each of our families, however in a bid to be more environmentally friendly, this time we encourage you to download a copy to read electronically instead. The magazine contains useful tips on how to support your children in engaging well with technology and is particularly relevant for upper Key Stage 2 parents.

School website

This is a reminder that the school website URL is <https://st-james.kent.sch.uk> . At present it still does not work when prefixed by www, so if you are having difficulty accessing the site, please ensure you are using this address.

John Tutt

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