



Libertas Per Cultum
Headteacher: Miss C. Burge

Future Academies Primary Schools

Knowledge—Aspiration—Respect

Newsletter

November 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back after half term. We hope that you had a restful break.

Coffee Mornings

Throughout the year, Paul Smith (CEO of Future Academies) and I will be running parent coffee mornings. These are opportunities for you to come and chat to other parents and ask us any questions you may have. The next coffee mornings are:

- 21st November
- 27th March
- 22nd May
- 3rd July

All coffee mornings start shortly after 9am. You are, of course, also welcome to come and ask me questions at the gate at any time: that's why I am there!

Parent Volunteers

We are always looking for parents to come in regularly to volunteer. This may include: reading with children, preparing resources or helping in the library. If you have a special talent that may be helpful, we are also keen to hear about it. Please see Miss Chu in the office if you can spare some time.

Christmas Musical

This Winter, are staging our first whole school musical on December 5th. It will tell the story of Christmas. We are a secular school and therefore teach Christianity, and all other major religions, simply as part of the religious education curriculum. Next Winter's performance will therefore have a different theme. We are excited for the performance and hope that you can join us on the day!

Yours sincerely,

Miss C. Burge

Headteacher

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E-Safety Tip of the Month: Minecraft

There's no right or wrong way to manage your children's time on Minecraft, but it's important to get involved. Depending on the age of your kids, you should take a different approach to how they play Minecraft.



Aged 4 and Under

It's not unheard for kids to play Minecraft at this age – especially if they have older siblings. If your child wants to give it a try, make sure you play it with them.

Use the single-player option to stop anyone else from joining the game and choose Creative mode, which makes it impossible for your child's character to die.

Ages 5 to 7

Minecraft will be part of playground chat, and children of this age will want to give it a go. Playing in Creative mode lets your child explore the game freely, without fear of getting hurt. They can get used to the game before moving on to a more advanced mode like Adventure. You can adjust the difficulty within each mode: 'Peaceful' is the easiest.

Ages 8 to 11

If you have a child of this age, they probably talk about nothing else. If they're keen to go on to the multiplayer option, search online for a child-friendly server. If you're concerned about your child talking to strangers, turn off chat

For more e-safety advice, see: <https://www.o2.co.uk/help/nspcc>

Parent Rep Feedback

Shortly before the break, I met with our new parent representatives for the first time. Please find their questions, and the answers to them, below. Thank you to those parents for their time.

Can children wear roll-neck, long sleeved tops?

Yes. This is part of the optional winter uniform.

How many/ which books should children be taking home?

Children should be bringing home:

- **One phonics book**, if they are in phonics lessons (this includes all children in EYFS and Key Stage 1 and some children in Key Stage 2). The phonics book should be read at least once during the week, in its entirety.
- **One or two library books**: if the books are long, these do not need to be completed in one week. Write a note in the reading record and long books can be kept for multiple weeks.

Library books are chosen to encourage a love of reading! Therefore, we will guide children's choices but we will never stop them taking a book out, e.g. if it is too hard or too easy. All books in the library are of a high quality.

Can the children wear aprons for Art?

Yes. We have ordered aprons and the children will wear them as soon as they arrive.

**When are names displayed on the board in the lunch hall?**

Names are written up when children have finished their food. There is no reward for finishing first! We encourage good manners.

Can the children eat snacks before clubs?

Children are welcome to eat fruit before non-active clubs, e.g. Spanish. They can bring this fruit with them in their bags.

Will there be more Maths workshops?

Yes. We are running topic workshops on Addition (Monday 27th November, 3pm) and Subtraction (Monday 11th December, 3pm). Parents of children in Years 1 to 4 are encouraged to come. The sessions will give you greater insight into the methods we use in school. Additionally, we will run workshops for parents of children in Years 2 and 4: the dates are to be confirmed.

Can the children have more time for homework?

After consulting teachers, homework handing-in and setting days will stay the same. Marking the books thoughtfully takes time, especially alongside teachers' normal workloads.

Can the school run a homework club?

If any parents would like to volunteer to run a homework club on a Monday, we would be more than happy to host one. The school takes safeguarding seriously and any volunteers would be subject to a DBS check.

When is water allowed?

Water is always available from cups in the classrooms and the lunch hall. At break, children can help themselves using the water fountain. There is no need to bring in bottles from home: these are not allowed.

Which children go swimming?

All children will go swimming for a term in Year 4. For example, the current Year 3 will swim in September 2018.

Can children start to get changed earlier for Football Club on a Wednesday?

Yes. They will now start changing at 3.20pm.

Dates and Events

November

Monday 6th November 9am - Reception Open Class

Thursday 9th November—Year 3 and 4 visit to the Tower of London

Friday 10th November—Memorial Workshop in school

Monday 13th November —Nasal Flu Vaccine at school

Monday 20th November—Exeter Parent Progress meetings

Monday 27th November 3.00pm—3.30pm Subtraction Parent Workshop

(Years 1 to 4)

Tuesday 28th November—Reception to visit Pizza Express

December

Monday 4th December—Durham Parent Progress meetings

Tuesday 5th December—9am Christmas Musical, Whole School Performance

Thursday 7th December—York Parent Progress meetings

Friday 8th December—Manchester Parent Progress meetings

St James the Less Christmas Trail (Whole School Trip)

Please note that after school clubs finish on the 8th December. Therefore

there are no clubs in the final week of term.

Monday 11th November—Liverpool Parent Progress meetings

3.00pm—3.30pm Subtraction Parent Workshop (Years 1 to 4)

Tuesday 12th December—Year 2 Trip to the Planetarium, Greenwich

Thursday 14th December—Cambridge Parent Progress meetings

Friday 15th December— Last day of Term 2. **1pm finish.**

For Parent Progress meetings, please see the sign up sheets in the School

Office.

Winter Holidays: 16th December— Tuesday 2nd January
Term 3 begins on Wednesday 3rd January 2018