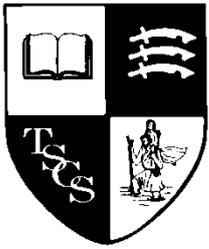


THE ST. CHRISTOPHER SCHOOL

SEN Trust Southend



Academy Trust - Special School

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Dear Parents / Carers,

8th January 2018

Welcome to 2018. Happy new year to you all.

I hope you all had a good Christmas and new year holiday and enjoyed the special time with your children. They all seemed to come back to school raring to go, but fairly settled on January 5th.

The orders for the DVD's of the Christmas productions were astronomical this year and we hope the children enjoyed watching them over the holiday.

Some information for the start of the school year:

New school menus and dinner choices- starting today Monday 8th January

We have revamped the school menu with some new choices. The full menu is available on the school website. We will be trying out the new recipes this half term and will have a couple of run through's of the new 3 week rotation of menus to see if we need to adjust slightly. There are more choices of dessert, by pupil request, but staying within the healthy school guidelines. Please let us know any feedback from children as we go along.

During the February half term break a new set of ovens will be installed in the kitchen to make things a bit easier for the cooks.

Pupil, Staff and Parent / Carer Questionnaires

You will find attached our annual Parent Questionnaire. We will be completing pupil and staff questionnaires in school. We do value your views so please take time to add anything in the text box at the bottom.

Secondary department parental open evening

31st January 2018. 6pm - 9 pm.

Appointment times and requests will be coming out soon in a separate letter. There will be some additional services present - SEEVIC College have been invited so that those getting ready to leave school in the next year or so can talk to them prior to visiting, ready for leaving. We hope that representatives from other local colleges are able to attend and will keep you updated about this.

Primary department 2nd consultation evening

As requested by parents we will be holding a 2nd open evening for parents of primary aged pupils in the year. The date will be **March 22nd** and you will be able to look through work and see all that has been done since September.



LOtC Mark (Gold)

Learning Outside the Classroom



Southend-on-Sea

Part of SEN Trust Southend, a charity and company registered in England Number 07973980 – Limited by guarantee



Annual reviews of Statements and EHC plans

All parents and carers are invited and encouraged to attend the review of the plan, which is your chance to fully discuss progress towards the targets and next steps. We try very hard to fully engage all parties in these meetings and last year Parents/Carers managed 85% attendance which is brilliant.

It is not easy to manage 226 meetings each year which is why these are arranged well in advance and after school so that we can have the maximum number of staff present. We will try and accommodate different times if possible, but this is not always easy. Please ring if there is a problem and the time is not possible. It may mean that the class teacher/tutor is unable to come or the LA if not given enough notice, as these meetings need to be arranged in advance.

Staff news

School: No new staff this January!! Staff employed for this school year are settled and are enhancing our hard working team.

Cottage: You may be aware that the Assistant Manager, Liz Mills, will be leaving us after 28 Years to take well-earned retirement (and time to look after grandchildren) at the end of March. Interviews took place and the senior care assistant Becky Shelford will be taking up post as the new Assistant Manager in March. We wish them both well in their new roles.

Other news

MAT: SEN Trust Southend

The new Multi-Academy Trust is up and running and we are working well together. On a daily basis you will not notice much change at the moment, but there are lots of new ideas and sharing going on in the background and our new link to a MAT website will be up and running soon.

There will be some changes in leadership in the other MAT schools due to retirement, but we are fully involved in the recruitment of the new Headteachers.

New Business and Enterprise centre

You may remember that we wished to develop the business and enterprise skills of our students even further and this was one of the few action points from our Ofsted report from June 2017. I am pleased to tell you that we are in the process of purchasing from our neighbours at 78 Mountdale Gardens, (the house right next to the school) and turn the already gained planning permission into a reality. It will create a new business and enterprise centre downstairs and some additional meeting and finance office space for the MAT upstairs. We have started the legal processes and hope to finalise the purchase shortly and then begin the work of adapting it to our needs. All staff are quite excited and will be involved in planning how we can use the new facilities. Ideas have included; workshops, café/tea shop (so you can drop in for tea and cake whilst waiting to pick up children!), market garden to grow our own food to cook. Nothing is completely decided as it depends on which internal walls we can move to make areas viable. As you will have seen by the Christmas Bazaar our pupils really enjoy making and selling things and working out their profits to enable them to have special extras. The new centre will give them a specific focus and place to go to 'work' during the day away from the school classrooms.

We hope to be open before the end of the summer term - we will keep you posted.

Yours faithfully,



Jackie Mullan
Executive Headteacher