



WELCOME BACK to our new school year! I would like to extend a warm welcome to the new families who have started with us this September and to our new staff. We are constantly improving the school site and I'm delighted with the results from the work over the summer holidays in our hall and kitchen areas, in lime, elm and horse chestnut classrooms and in the Year 6 block. The children are looking very smart also in their full school uniform and I thank parents for supporting the uniform guidelines and sending the children to school ready to learn, fully equipped and dressed in the correct uniform including footwear.

This Launch Letter for term one gives you a flavour of all that is planned for this term. Please note that the timings of the school day have changed. There is more detail below. We have been keen to start our welcome meetings for each year group as they are an essential part of settling back in. Again, read on for more detail.

The more time children spend in school, the better their chance of success. We know this is true across all groups. If you are considering whether to book a holiday during term time, please see the information below about how to apply for this and the guidance that we must work to.

We will be trying a different approach for this year's Harvest Festivals in order to allow more people into the hall to watch these services. They will be ticketed events and will take place across two mornings of Wednesday 5th October and Thursday 6th – FS/KS1 and KS2 will perform on both days. More details to come. Newsletters will be back next week as usual – sent out each Thursday by email.

We are proud to have a culture of open communication and would encourage you to raise any concerns with your child's class teacher at pick-up time in the first instance. Please also see our communications poster here for a reminder of the many ways that families and school can keep in touch.

Punctuality: please support us by making sure your child arrives at school at the correct time – the register is taken at 8:50am (at which point the school gates close) – arrival at 8:40am is recommended so the children have time to settle in etc. Please read this useful document that outlines pick up and drop off arrangements by year group. If you drive, do consider active travel by parking at The Crown in the morning and walking in.

Enjoy the rest of the week,
Mrs Sage.

Let us know what you think...

Please take a couple of minutes to fill in the parents' survey before the end of Friday. All parents have been emailed this week with a link to the short online survey. We value your feedback enormously and are grateful to everyone who contributes their thoughts.

**Hands up if you
think this is the best
first day back ever?!**

...overheard on Monday from a child in Palm class



Swimming pool update

We are making good progress on working towards re-opening our pool for swimming in this school year. Structural engineering reports are currently with the insurance company and we are waiting to hear from them.

We are hopeful that we will be in a position to re-open for terms 5 and 6.

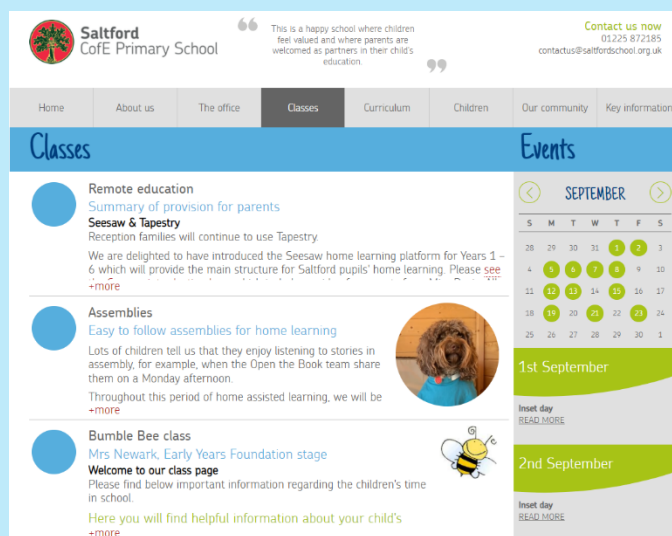
Changes to timings of the school day

This year we are working to changed timings for the beginning and end of the school day. Please note that new timings are as follows:

8.40 am	Children should be arriving at school
8.45 am	Children will be in their classrooms
8.50 am	Registers are taken and school gates are closed
8.50 – 9.00 am	Anyone arriving now is marked as late
9.00 am and later	Any arrivals are marked as unauthorised absence for the morning
3.00 pm	School gates are opened
3.15 pm	End of the school day for all year group, including Reception classes after their settling in period.

For full information about timings and the routines to follow at drop-off and pick-up times, please [see our guidelines for 2022-23 here](#).

Welcome meetings and information



The screenshot shows the Saltford CofE Primary School website. The 'Classes' page is active, displaying several news items: 'Remote education' with a link to a 'Summary of provision for parents', 'Assemblies' with a link to 'Easy to follow assemblies for home learning', and 'Bumble Bee class' with a link to 'Welcome to our class page'. A calendar for September is shown, with the 1st and 2nd highlighted. The website header includes the school logo, contact information, and a navigation menu.

We would strongly encourage you to attend the welcome meetings as they are a great way to get the school year off to a good start, by giving teachers and parents/carers a chance to talk through the year ahead and also visit the classrooms where your child will be based.

We have already held some welcome meetings for parents this week, for Year 6 on Tuesday and Year 5 on Wednesday. We are looking forward to welcoming our Year 4 parents to school at 6pm this evening and our Year 2 and Year 1 parents at the beginning of next week. Current Year 3 parents came into school last term for our "Welcome to KS2" meeting.

Your child's class page will be updated with the information from these meetings, and all the information you need as the year progresses. You can [find all the class pages on our website here](#).



New staff

Welcome to our new Year 3 teachers, Miss Benton in Maple class and Mr George in Sycamore class.

Miss Benton and Mr George have joined us as ECTs (Early Career Teachers) after working at Saltford as Bath Spa teachers during their training period. We're delighted that they have chosen to join our team.

Holidays in term time

When it comes to booking family holidays, please support your child's learning and make sure that your holidays are planned during the 13 weeks of school holidays. This is doubly important this year after the recent disruption the children have experienced.

All parents have a legal responsibility to ensure their child attends school.

If you feel you need to book a holiday or absence during term time, you should make an appointment to see Mrs Sage before you do so. You can find the absence request form on the [Attendance page of the website here](#). This form must be sent to school at least two weeks before the planned absence. We expect to be able to publish next year's term dates next week.

If you choose for your child to have 5 days (10 sessions) or more of unauthorised absence, you may receive a fine from the Children Missing Education Service (CMES). The amount is £120 per child for each parent with parental responsibility (even if they are not living with the child), which reduces to £60 per child if paid within 28 days. For example, this would cost £480 for a family with 2 children and 2 parents, or £240 if paid within 28 days.

Please read [this recent letter about attendance, absence and holidays](#) for an understanding of our approach. We aim to work in partnership with parents to achieve high attendance and the best outcomes for all our children.

Pastoral support update

We are very pleased to be able to extend our pastoral and well-being support this year, with the introduction of a new Pastoral Support Teaching Assistant role. Mrs Pippa Saunders has joined the well-being team, and will be delivering our Thrive, ELSA (Emotion Literacy Support Assistant) and well-being check-ins to support pupils with Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs. She will also be working alongside Mrs Sage and Mrs Godwin in their safeguarding role, working with families to support attendance and attending Team Around the Child/Family meetings. In addition, she will be supporting our SENCo, Mrs Godwin, with some much-needed admin support. You can find out [more about well-being at Saltford School here](#) and see [further support for parents here](#).

This term's focus

- Delivering a new scheme of work across all Foundation Subjects – see below.
- Further developing writing – working with South Gloucestershire school improvement team.
- Exploring areas for development linked to our Pupil and Parent Questionnaires.
- Launching new pupil leadership groups: School Council, House Captains, Green Group etc.

We will share updates and links to information on [the news page](#) of our website, in [our newsletters](#) and through our Twitter account [@SaltfordPrimary](#).

Continuing work on our School Improvement Priorities:

We have developed new schemes of work across all Foundation Subjects. We will continue working on these across this term – with new resources and schemes in Design Technology and Music.

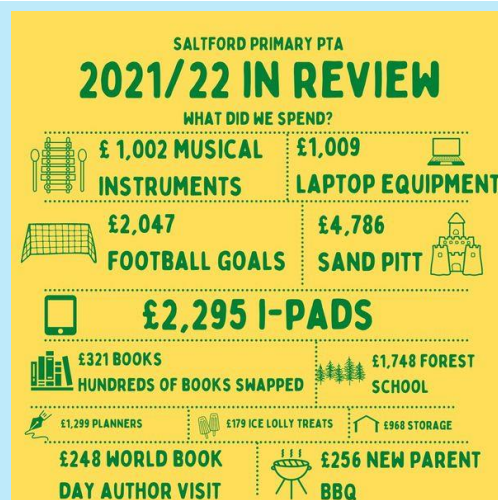
Our governing body

The school's [governing body](#) is responsible for the strategic direction of the school and for holding the Headteacher to account for the academic progress of the pupils, to name just two areas.

Our committed group of volunteers is led by Chair Richard Rowland. To find out more about the individual governors and their roles, minutes of past meetings and what it takes to be a governor, please [see our website here](#).

Get involved with the PTA

To keep in touch and get involved [join the PTA Facebook group here](#). The next PTA meeting will be held at 7.30pm in the school staffroom on **Monday 12th September**. New members are always welcome – do come along and see what it's about. Last year our PTA raised a staggering £20,000. The events were not only profitable but were extremely enjoyable for the children and families. You can see from the review of the year how much this money can directly affect every child's school experience



Get involved by volunteering

We love having volunteers in school and there are so many roles a volunteer can take:

- Volunteer to help on a regular basis in class or with swimming.
- Share your gardening skills and help look after the Secret Garden. Please call (01225 872185) or e-mail the school office (<mailto:contactus@saltfordschool.org.uk>) if you can spare time to help all the children get the maximum benefit from this great resource.
- Become a Library volunteer and support our team.

See more about [what it's like to be a volunteer here](#), including [this lovely account](#) from the point of view of one parent volunteer who wrote to us about her experience.

Parent Voice Group

With parent representatives from each class, **the Parent Voice Group (PVG)** is an important means of communication between school and families. See [the PVG section of our website here](#) to see how it works, who your representative is and how you could become part of it. We still have vacancies for representatives for the following classes: Bumblebee, Butterfly & Palm. We will be in touch once we have a date for our next meeting.

Futura Learning Partnership



We are a Futura Learning Partnership school. You can catch up on the Futura news by reading their monthly newsletters for parents [on our website here](#) or learn more by visiting [the Futura website here](#).

Key dates

Thursday 8th September, 6pm school hall: Year 4 welcome meeting for parents.

Friday 9th September: deadline for completing the parent survey.

Monday 12th September, 6pm school hall: Year 2 welcome meeting for parents.

Monday 12th September, 7.30pm school staffroom: PTA meeting for around an hour. ALL ARE WELCOME.

Tuesday 13th September: [special school dinner menu for Roald Dahl day](#).

Tuesday 13th September, 6pm school hall: Year 1 welcome meeting for parents

Tuesday 13th September 6.30pm at Bath Forum: [Years 5 & 6 Oratorio performance](#).

Monday 19th September 6pm school hall: Literacy meeting for Early Years parents More info to follow.

Wednesday 21st September: play afternoon for the prospective 2023 starters

Friday 23rd September: cake sales resume after school. This time it's the Year 1 cake sale.

Wednesday 5th October morning: Harvest service session 1. Approx times:

FS/KS1 9.15 – 9.45am and KS2 10 – 10.45am.

Thursday 6th October morning: Harvest service session 2. Approx times: FS/KS1

9.15 – 9.45am and KS2 10 – 10.45am.

Monday 10th October 6pm school hall: Early Years Maths evening. More info to

follow.



This term's clubs

At Saltford School we offer a wide variety of extra-curricular activities. The [clubs section](#) of our website provides full details of all the clubs we offer and the timetable, including the start and end dates for each club.

Chuckles Before and After School Club: all children who attend Saltford School are offered wrap around care provision. This means they have access to supervised before and after school care. This is run by [Tiddlers Day Nursery](#).

Reception places at Saltford

Please get in touch if you are interested in your child starting in September 2023. We will be hosting a fun play afternoon for pre-school children on Wednesday 21st September. Please [book online here](#) or email contactus@saltfordschool.org.uk to secure your place.



Starting school in September 2023?

SALTFORD SCHOOL

PLAY AFTERNOON

For pre-school children at 2 – 3pm
on Wednesday 21st September 2022

Your child and you are invited for a fun afternoon of play, games and exploring our wonderful Early Years facilities.
Meet the Headteacher and our Early Years team.



"Pupils are taught well and teachers have high expectations.
Children make strong progress demonstrating confidence and enthusiasm."
OFSTED, JUNE 2019

We also offer tours for interested families throughout September and October.

The tour dates are as follows:

- Monday 19th September 2022 at 1.30pm
- Wednesday 21st September 2022 at 9.30 am
- Wednesday 21st September 2022 at 11.00 am
- Friday 23rd September 2022 at 1.45 pm.
- Friday 7th October 2022 at 1.45pm
- Monday 10th October 2022 at 9.30am
- Monday 17th October 2022 at 1.30pm

Each hour-long tour, guided by Mrs Sage, our Headteacher, gives parents and children the opportunity to see us as we really are and ask any questions. To book email contactus@saltfordschool.org.uk or call the school office on 01225 872185.

We look forward to meeting you.