



September 2018 Newsletter

Welcome back to the new season! It has been fantastic to see a few familiar and new faces over the last couple of weeks, albeit that we are not yet back at Pittville for Saturday training due to the state of the pitch. We will keep you posted as soon as we know whether or not it will be playable next week! If you have not already joined our closed FB group and you use FB, please ask to do so via

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/431248616952914/>

There is a lot of information on there, and it is usually updated in the event of training being cancelled or moved.

Girls Squads

Huge congratulations to the U12 Vipers who played their first competitive Gloucester Girls league match last week and did themselves proud. We are still recruiting girls, particularly for the U14 age group. If you know anyone who is interested, please ask them to e-mail lisa.roberts@prestburyphantoms.co.uk for details.

U5 Academy

We are hoping to start our new U5 Academy after Easter 2019. We are busily recruiting coaches, and already have 14 children signed on. We will only take 30 in the first instance, so if you know someone who wants their child to play, please ask them to submit the subsonline form (choose U5 Academy) as soon as possible.

If coaching is something that interests you PLEASE do get in touch. We are bursting at the seams in some of the age groups and desperately need people to step up and volunteer to be able to give more children access to grassroots football. It is a commitment, but it is also incredibly good fun and very rewarding. You can see what we offer our coaches here <https://www.prestburyphantoms.co.uk/coaches>

Safeguarding

All current members should have received an e-mail from our Child Welfare Officer, Clare Eccles. A quick reminder that we are a "telling club" and if you have any safeguarding concerns at all, please do reach out to Clare. You can access all our policies and procedures, including our Charter, Respect and Safeguarding policies via our website <https://www.prestburyphantoms.co.uk/policies>

Referees and Respect

The Cheltenham Youth Football League have lost almost a quarter of their referees this season compared to last. The top reason for them stepping back is abuse from

parents and coaches. The league is sufficiently concerned that they have issued all children under the age of 18 who are refereeing with purple referee tops this season to remind all adults that these are CHILDREN and abuse of them is child abuse. We will not tolerate, as a club, any abuse of any referees by either parents or coaches. If you see a referee being abused, please report the game and the detail to Clare immediately. Any coach or parent found to be abusing referees will be asked not to attend matches, and in the worst case scenario, may be asked to leave the club.

The FA are also running a #WeOnlyDoPositive campaign. The campaign follows extensive research carried out during the 2017/18 season to understand the effect of negative behaviour at football matches from Under 7s to Under 18s.

The campaign emphasises the role of parents and coaches whilst highlighting the importance of positive behaviours and environments – both on and off the pitch – for young footballers involved in mini-soccer and youth football.

The video has been shared to the closed FB group but you can also search for it on youtube or access it via vimeo on <https://vimeo.com/289280845>

And finally..

It's still a bit early but as this is the only newsletter before December/January for anyone thinking about Christmas, here is where you can buy kit!

Phantoms kit can be purchased from macron via

<http://www.macronstoregloucester.com/shop/club-shops/prestbury-phantoms/>

There is no guarantee that they will run a promotion this year, but last year they did 10% off all orders on Black Friday.

I have also had a few enquiries about where we purchase our equipment, particularly goals. The vast majority of our kit comes from The Soccer Store (www.thesoccerstore.co.uk), which is an online football shop selling all sorts of football training equipment and goals. They are pretty good value and offer a very quick delivery service.

In an attempt to reduce our carbon footprint also don't forget that, as soon as we are back at Pittville, we will be selling our travel mugs at £5 each including a free cup of tea or coffee. They are dishwasher and microwave safe and look pretty cool to boot!