

September 2019



Headteacher's Note

Welcome back everyone, I hope you enjoyed a lovely summer. We have been having a lovely start to the term and all children have been excited to be in their new classes. Thank you to everyone who came to Meet the Teacher this week. Don't forget that there will be another opportunity to Meet the Teacher on **Wednesday 18th September at 3.20pm**, and the Powerpoint Presentations will be added to the Curriculum newsletters on the website.

I hope you will join me in welcoming a number of new staff we have with us in school this year. Miss Wiggans, in year 5, joins our senior leadership team as Assistant Head, and we have Mrs Atherton, in year 2 joining our Middle Leadership team. We are also joined by three new class teachers; Miss Cafferky (y4), Miss Hassan (y3) and Miss Williams (y1). Miss Simmonds also takes Mr Higgins' role as PE teacher. Our support staff also have some new members; in EYFS we have Mrs Johnson and Mrs Raja and in y4 we have Miss Mohamed. All are great additions to our team at Pikes Lane.



Harvest Assembly for the children – Please bring a donation for Urban Outreach if you feel able to. A list of items required will be sent by email

Year 5 Class Assembly – Wednesday 16th October at 2.45pm – Parents Welcome

Parent Aid/Support - Every Thursday 2.30pm-3.20pm in the Community Room

Half Term: Monday 21st October 2019 to Friday 25th October 2019

Bolton Hospice Sponsored Reindeer Run! Children to wear Christmas jumpers – Friday 13th December 2019

Christmas Holidays: Monday 23rd December 2019 to Monday 6th January 2020 (inclusive)

February Half Term: Monday 17th February 2019 to Friday 21st February 2020

Easter holidays: Monday 30th March to Monday 13th April 2020 (inclusive)

Bank holiday: Friday 8th May 2020

May Half Term: Friday 22nd May 2020 to Friday 29th May 2020 (inclusive)

Term Ends: Friday 17th July 2020

Reminder: Holidays

The council informed us last year that parents will be fined at 5 days holiday. Please do not book your holiday before speaking to school. For holidays that are already booked, please be truthful and tell us where your child is. Please remember that children may lose their place for ongoing absence.

We are seeing a number of distressed children who have been taken on a long holiday who have missed transition week and the first few days of school. We ask you to consider all of the above when you book your holidays.

Parking and Dropping Off Children at School

The school has had new signage put up at the entrance to the school, kitchen delivery area and exit from the back of the school. We ask that these areas are not blocked and that parents do not park or reverse into them due to the risk of injury. Also please do not use the staff carpark for dropping children off.

It is important that this message is adhered to and so just to reiterate, please do not operate your vehicle in any of these areas due to the risk of injury to pedestrians.

Reminder – School Procedures

What should I do if my child is ill and can't come to school? Please ring school before 9am on the morning of EVERY day your child is going to be off school. We must hear from parents every day, whilst we appreciate that this can be annoying, it is for safeguarding purposes, to ensure that you have not sent your child off to school thinking that they have arrived, and we don't know. If your child has vomited or had diarrhoea you must keep them off school until they have not had any symptoms for 24 hours.

I have an appointment for my child, who should I tell? Please try and make all routine/check-up appointments out of school time. If children are absent for appointments, it disrupts their learning considerably, and it disturbs the learning of other children when we have to go and get your child out of class. We appreciate that some appointments are unavoidable i.e. Hospital. If you have to take your child out of school, please bring the appointment card/letter for your child's appointment or the absence may go down as unauthorised. Please ensure that you let the office know on the morning of your child's appointment. It is very difficult to get a child out of the hall when there is an assembly or it is lunch time. It will help us greatly if you can let us know in advance.

I'd like to take my child on holiday, is that possible? School tries to discourage this at all times due to the effect on the children who miss school and routine etc. Please note that you already have 13 weeks. If you still think it is absolutely necessary to take your child out of school for a holiday, you MUST make an appointment with the head teacher before booking any tickets and at least 2 weeks before. Last year was very disappointing to see so many Year 2 and Year 6 children taken out of school in such important years. It is also much appreciated if you are honest with school and tell us the genuine reason for a holiday, and the true date that you will be back.

When should I pay lunch money? Lunch money should be paid every Monday to the class teacher. It is also possible to pay dinner money at the beginning of every half term. The cost for school dinners is £8.50 per week for all children in Year 3 upwards.

I'm going to be late this morning! Please try to bring your children on time every day. Punctuality is closely monitored, and letters are sent to the parents of children that are often late. Children are also rewarded in assemblies/class for excellent punctuality. We have a 'Beat the Bell' award on the weekly newsletter which recognises the class that has the best attendance for that week. We know that at times it is not possible to be punctual. If you are late, please bring your child to the main office and we will take their name to ensure that we know they are in school.

I can't pick my child up tonight? I'm going to be late! If you are going to be late for school, please call the office as soon as you know and the child/ren will wait in reception for you. Letting us know in advance means that the children do not panic and get upset when no one arrives for them. Please note that you cannot regularly turn up late for your child. We do not offer an out of school provision in the evenings, and after one late collection you will be sent a letter reminding you to not collect late again. If you are sending someone different to collect your child and they are in Caterpillars, Nursery, Reception, Year 1, 2 or 3 you must let the office know or we cannot send your child home with them.

Do you have a Breakfast Club or After School Club? Yes we have a Breakfast Club but we do not have an After School Club. Children from Reception to Year 6 can come to our Breakfast Club from 8am every morning. The cost is 50p per child and we run lots of fun activities including multi-sports, art and crafts, Wake Up and Shake Up, yoga, help with homework, theme weeks, and family breakfast at the end of terms. Come along and join us! There are a variety of breakfast choices available, including cereal, toast, eggs, beans.

What should I do if my child needs medicine in school time? We can only give medicines that have a chemist label on that states your child's name, and is to be taken 4 times a day. If your child needs medicine 3 times a day we are not allowed to give it. The medicine should be given in the morning, after school and at bedtime. If your child needs cream applying please ask the teacher for children younger than Year 3 and over Year 3 please teach your child how to apply it themselves. Inhalers should be given to the class teacher to be kept in the classroom.