

Catherine Infant News!

We are all stars

Newsletter: August 2021



Welcome Back!

Dear Parents,

A very warm welcome to the beginning of the new academic year 2021-22. Welcome back to those children already attending our school and welcome to Catherine Infant School if this is the first time your child has attended. Our hard working teachers have been planning challenging and exciting learning opportunities for your children. I am sure you will be happy with the rapid progress you will see your child make over the coming months.

The start of the Autumn term is always a busy time with many new things to get used to. The governors and I have put in Health and Safety measures to make the school as safe and healthy a place as we can for staff and pupils alike. I assure you we are continually reassessing the situation and making any necessary changes following Government and Public Health England Guidance. Our new risk assessment is available to parents on the school website.

Parents:

- We respectfully ask parents to wear a mask at the gates at drop off and pick up times and when approaching a member of staff or coming to the office.
- Please socially distance as much as possible at the gates whilst waiting.
- Parents can help us with this by arriving at the stated time and moving quickly away from the gates once their child is safely handed over to staff. If you arrive early, you are waiting around and it makes the gates very congested.
- Please queue up down the fence side of the boundaries and use the correct gate. Be patient with staff and allow for time for a safe handover for each child. This time was already quicker today when I was outside school. Over the weeks this becomes a quick turnaround.

Please remember that should you wish to contact me for any reason, please phone through to the office to make an appointment or to be put through to me over the phone.

We hope you and your child settle quickly in to school and enjoy all the learning opportunities we have planned for the children.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Harrold.
Headteacher, Catherine Infant School

School Bags

Space in school for hanging coats and storing bags is very limited. Bags have to hang on pegs. Backpacks cause coats and bags to fall to the floor, where they cause a trip or slip hazard and can be walked on. This is why we say NO BACKPACKS in school. There simply isn't anywhere safe to put them.

We politely ask parents to send their child to school with only a school reading bag. This can be purchased from the office via parent pay and stored in your child's tray for the day.

PE kit must be in a PE bag which can be purchased via Parent pay through the office. The PE bag must have pull up ropes so it hangs down off the peg and doesn't take up space.

Children should bring a named water bottle containing only water in case they get thirsty during the day. No squash, fruit juice or fizzy drinks please.



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Parents with children at both the Infant and Junior Schools

I have spoken to Dr. Badge at Catherine Junior School and we are sympathetic that pick up and drop off at the Juniors and Infants is rushed. Please inform your children's teachers if you have children at both schools so we are all aware. Your child's teacher or TA will always wait with your child at the end of the day. If you miss your arrival time, an adult will watch your child to their class.

Covid 19 Self-isolation

If you and your child are living with, or have contact with a positive covid 19 case you MUST ring the school office 0116 2625422 immediately. You will be asked to take your child for a PCR test. If the result is positive, your child will have to self-isolate. If the test is negative your child can continue to attend school but you must be vigilant for any symptoms of covid 19 developing.

If Track and Trace contact you, please remember to inform them that your child's teacher and TA are also contacts of your child.



Calls to the School Office

At this time of year the office is a very busy place. If you need to speak to a member of the office team please either ring in or come early before you pick up your child. My Deputy Head and I regularly check that all the children are happy and settled throughout the day. School is very calm and all the children have settled in well. We politely ask that parents don't ring the office throughout the day to ask how their child is. We will call you if your child is not settled or unhappy.

Beat the Streets

Many of our children took part in the "Beat the Streets" fitness campaign over the summer holidays. Catherine Infant School has come third in the North East area of the city with 368 players. School will receive a Waterstones voucher for £75 to spend on new books for the library. Well done everyone – we hope you enjoyed playing Beat the Streets and getting fit at the same time!



Naming on Clothes

We appreciate that kitting your child out for school is expensive. Please name all items your child wears to school with their first name, last name and class e.g sweatshirt, coats, trousers, shoes, gloves etc. There are 30 children in a class; that's 30 similar size sweatshirts all the same colour. By the end of term there is always a large amount of lost property in school without names on. We make every effort to return lost items to children if they are named.



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