



Shears Green Infant School

NEWSLETTER 1

4th September 2014

Welcome back to school everyone!

We all hope you had a lovely Summer Break. It was lovely to see lots of happy faces as the school day started today. I would like to offer a warm welcome to all our new children and parents who are now joining us. I hope your journey with us will be an amazing one.

School Lunches

As many of you may have noticed – we do still have a team of builders and kitchen fitters on site who are rapidly working behind the scenes to complete our new kitchen.

We are offering Free School Packed Lunches until 12th September when we aim to have our kitchen fully operational. Everyone is entitled to one of these or you can continue to send your child in with their own packed lunch from home.

The free hot meals will be available from the 15th September. Again – everyone is entitled to these meals. If you haven't filled in or returned the form for meals please ask the office team for support.

Just for your information – the lunch time organisation will change this year to accommodate everyone having the option of a hot meal. Lunch times have been organised into 3 sessions. All children will now be eating in the hall whether they have packed lunch or a hot meal.

Parent Meetings

Our first official parent meeting will be held on 22nd October whereby you will have the opportunity to discuss the progress your child has made in their first term.

We will be holding a Thursday visiting session on Thursday 25th September 3.20 – 4.00 whereby you can come in and see your child's classroom, look at work they have already completed and speak with the class teacher to discuss any concerns you may have.

We do operate an open door policy so please feel free to speak to our team as and when you need to. The teachers will prioritise your children coming into school safely in the morning but the office team and leadership will be available to speak with you.

Holidays in term time.

Following Government direction, holidays will no longer be authorised in term time. We will continue to work alongside the Attendance Officer ensuring holidays are taken in the 13 weeks of school holiday time and where this is not followed or absences can not be reasonably explained, Fixed Penalty Notices may be issued to both parents for each child.

We do consider exceptional circumstances and these need to be applied for in advance.

We thank you in advance for your cooperation with this.

Pupil Premium

When parents apply for Free School Meals they are also considered for Government funding to support their child's educational opportunities. If parents meet the criteria (claiming income support, income related employment and support allowance, income based job seekers allowance, child tax credit, the guaranteed element of pension tax credit) and are successful, the school receives £1,300 for their child. This is why we asked all parents to fill in the form for free school meals even though all children in our school are entitled to them.

We are accountable for this money and are required to report what we spend this on. An in depth report is available on our website but overall we spend the money in the following way:

- To support the costing for school trips for pupil premium children.
- To support the costing for tuition from 1:1 teaching assistants or teachers above and beyond classroom interaction for pupil premium children.
- To support the costing of extra curricula activities for pupil premium children.

Changes to school

Over the summer we have been very busy making improvements to our school for the benefit of all. I would like to thank Chris Hudson and his team for creating the fantastic office space in the entrance to our school. With the office space now comes space for a brand new meeting room / group work area and also individual spaces for children to work 1:1.

We have also had some changes made to our playground and I would like to thank Lee Taylor for his gorgeous building work creating the new wall and seating area. It just looks fantastic doesn't it?! I would also like to thank Chris Hudson and his decorating team for painting our fences, wooden toys and seating areas.

I hope everyone enjoys the changes.

Please note that in future the fortnightly news letter will be sent via email. Could you please ensure that the office has your up to date email address and details. If you have any issues with this then please let the office know. Many thanks.

