

The Carpenter's Tale

Autumn 1, 2015

Dear Parents/Carers and children

Welcome back to the first half term of the school year, 2015-2016. It is wonderful to see everyone safely back and ready to learn. Our new Reception and Nursery children have managed really well this week and so have their parents! Coming into school on time and being picked up punctually is vitally important for all children. Please be in the playground by 8.55am at the latest to allow the children to line up. At the end of the school day could parents/carers please come to the **bottom** of the slope so that the class teacher can see you before allowing the child out of the building. At the start an adult may need to identify who they are to the class teacher and which child they are collecting as all teachers have new classes to send out.

Staff List

The names of all teachers are listed below. I would like to welcome Mrs Whiteside in Y3 to the teaching staff and congratulate Miss Soliman who got married during the summer holidays. We wish both of them success in their lives.

Headteacher	Mrs Partington	
Deputy Head	Mrs Madden	Y6
Teaching Staff	Miss Soliman	N/FS
	Miss Woolstencroft	R/FS
	Miss Mulligan	Y1
	Mrs Howarth	Y2
	Mrs Poole	Y2
	Mrs Whiteside	Y3
	Mr O'Regan	Y4
	Mrs Poulton	Y5

Dates for your Diary

Fri 4th September	Mass in Church at 10am
7/8/10 September	Cross Country practices, KS2 children only
14/15 September	Cross Country practices KS2 children only
16/23/30 September	Cross Country team events - chosen children only

Sat 26th September	Motown Night at George Lawton Hall
Thurs 1st October	Governor meeting at 5pm in school
Mon 5 th October	Individual School Photographs (Morning)
Tues 6 th October	Crucial Crew - Year 6
Thurs 8 th October	School Book Fair
Wed 14th October	Parents' Evening Year 1 - Year 6
Fri 23 rd October	School closes for Autumn half term holiday
Tues 3rd November	School reopens

Assembly Rota - Assembly is on Friday at 9.05 am in the school hall. All are welcome.

11th September	Year 5
18 th September	Year 6
25 th September	Macmillan Coffee Morning
2 nd October	Year 4
9 th October	Year 2
16 th October	Year 3
23 rd October	Year 1

Uniform Names

It is great to see the vast majority of pupils wearing the correct uniform. Thank you for preparing your child well. Could you also please take a few minutes to write your child's name on each item. Staff spend hours each year trying to help children find a lost jumper or pumps and every year we end up with bin bags full of perfectly good uniform that can't be given back as the items are not labelled. Names on everything please! All KS2 children should be able to do this for themselves.

Secondary School Places

Letters re application for secondary school are slightly delayed this year and will not be sent out from Tameside to schools until September 11th due to changes in the Admission Codes. All Y6 parents will need to apply online for places before October half term. Please look at Tameside's website. It gives vital information to parents and gives dates for each school's Open Evening. Do not delay in making your application once you have decided upon a school. Late applicants are very unlikely to receive their first choice of school.

Reception Class Places

2016 Reception class applications will not be until after half term and I will remind parents nearer to the time about the importance of applying on time. This year we had quite a number of late applicants which has resulted in appeal hearings, with 2 more yet to come, and the end result is that the Reception class is much bigger than usual.

Parents may call at the office to complete a form for a Nursery place at any time during the year and will be informed of a place in March each year for the following September.

Parking

The Market Place car park is now a charging car park. The result of this is that more parents are parking on the road. It is really important that parents park well to ensure all children are safe. No parking is allowed on the school side of the road. This allows free flow of traffic and also a longer stretch for visibility. Neighbours of the school have also asked that parents do not park across their driveways so that they have full access. Please remember to slow down, do not park on the corners or stop and drop children off in the middle of very busy roads. If everyone shows consideration to others **all** the children will arrive at school safely. Thank you.

Motown Night

I have been asked to advertise a Motown Night at the George Lawton Hall on Saturday September 26th. Tickets are £10 each and it is being organised by Mossley police officers for two local charities. If you want a ticket they are available from local officers, Jean Caldwell at St. Joseph's church or you could leave the money and a ticket request at the school office and I will pass it on to the organisers.

Ways to Communicate

The school has several ways of communicating with parents and hopefully each of them is useful.

1. Staff may speak verbally to parents as required at the start or end of the school day about specific incidents or needs. Comments may also be written into communication books.
2. Senior staff are also always available on the school playground before school starts.
3. Newsletters are sent out the first and last week of each half term to parents and a copy is placed on the school website www-st-josephs.tameside.sch.uk. Please check your child's bag for these. Letters specific to a class event are sent as needed to the given class e.g. trip permission letters.
4. Generic information is on the school website e.g. holiday lists, policies, photographs etc. Teachers also place a half termly newsletter under the class name to inform parents of class timetables, class rules and give information about subject and topic content each half term
5. By phone. All parents/carers are asked to give up to date phone numbers on which an adult can be contacted in case of an emergency.
6. Text messages. This service is used when there is a sudden change of planned events e.g. if the school had to close due to an emergency. A text message would be sent to the given priority one emergency contact number informing parents of the news. If a club has to be cancelled at late notice due to staff illness again the text service would be used. Please ensure school has up to date contact information for your child to ensure you are fully informed about school life.

7. Appointments can be made at mutually convenient times to speak to a member of staff. There are two parent teacher meetings each year also, plus a full written report in the summer term.

However if you are still unsure please just ask and someone at St. Joseph's will always try to help.

Holiday Dates (especially Easter dates)

A copy of this year's holiday dates is attached. Please put it into your diary or in a safe place for reference purposes. Please note the dates of the Easter holidays. It is not the same as the list on Tameside's web site. We are having the Easter holiday at Easter!

Extra Curricular

The school offers a range of extra curricular clubs but these are for KS2 children (Y3/4/5/6) only. Letters will be sent home in the next couple of weeks for clubs and each will specify the date and time of the club. Children cannot attend any club without signed permission slips and fully agreed going home procedures. For some clubs places are limited so prompt return of any letter is essential.

School Milk

Tameside have made arrangements via a new supplier (Cool Milk) for the provision of school milk. Any parent who wishes for their child (above the age of 5) to have a small carton of milk per day has to register online and pay independently for the milk. Forms have been sent home to parents about this and school will receive the milk and a list of those who are eligible each week. However school plays no part in this service and cannot process forms or payments.

Children in Nursery and Reception class are eligible for free school milk until they reach their fifth birthday. This means some Reception children are no longer eligible already. If a parent wishes for their child to still receive milk they will have to register online as above.

MacMillan Coffee Morning

We are hoping to hold a coffee morning on Friday 25th September for this charity at 9.05am. Parents have responded spectacularly in the past in terms of attending, baking cakes, offering tombola gifts etc. If you can help in any way it would be truly appreciated. Each class has been asked to perform a couple of songs or poems on the day for entertainment but it also gives parents the chance to sit and chat together. Please help us raise money for this charity that sadly so many need to use.

MIDDAY ASSISTANT REQUIRED

PLEASE APPLY AT SCHOOL OFFICE

Working Hours, 12-1pm Daily - 5 hours per week, term time only.

Comments

It has been wonderful to hear the comments from children this week about how delighted they are to be back in school with their friends. "I love school!" has been said lots of times. Let's hope all the children continue to feel like that and everyone enjoys the half term fully.
Best wishes, Mrs Partington