



Autumn Newsletter 2016

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome Back! I hope you all enjoyed your summer. This term we have some new children and staff starting in school and I would like to extend a very warm welcome to them.

Photographs

The school photographer is going to be in school on the morning of Thursday 15th September. If you want your child to be photographed with brothers and sisters, whether they attend school or not, please make sure that you are here for 8.30am, as the family group pictures will be taken first.

Uniform

It is great to see so many children looking so smart in their school uniforms and new school shoes; however I have already noticed a few pupils arriving to school in trainers. Trainers can be brought to school to be changed into at break times, but sensible black shoes are to be worn at all other times; there is an expectation that this is adhered to. Our uniform consists of a polo shirt or white shirt, navy blue sweatshirt or cardigan, dark grey or black trousers or summer dress and a pair of sensible black shoes (trainers or pumps for outdoor use only). Please make sure that each item of uniform is marked with your child's name to avoid any confusion and it makes it easier to be reunited with its owner.

PE Kit

As part of our uniform, a P.E. kit is to be worn which consists of a white T-shirt, black shorts and black pumps for indoors or trainers for outdoors. Please ensure your child has this for their lessons. It would be helpful if children could bring their kit into school on a Monday and leave it here until Friday each week. The Year 5 and Year 6 class will be starting their swimming lessons at Copley on Tuesday 15th September and must wear swimsuits or trunks. Swimming shorts or bikinis are not allowed during lessons in Tameside's swimming pools.

Dinner Money

Dinner money has increased this year to £2.13 per day, £10.65 per week. All dinners must be paid for in advance, preferably on a Monday.

If your child has moved into Year 3, they will no longer be eligible for the Universal Free School Meal Scheme and their school meals will now need to be paid for.

If you think you may be eligible for means tested free school meals, please refer to the Tameside.gov website. Free School Meals can be claimed by parents or carers of pupils who are on a low income.

Punctuality

It is essential that all children, including Nursery children, arrive promptly at **8.55 am**.

Please find detailed below the morning registration procedure:

- 8.55am - School starts.
- 9.00am - Classroom doors are closed and pupils will need to be signed in at the office.
- 9.00am-9.05am - Pupils will be marked as late.
- 9.06am onwards – Pupils will be marked as 'Late after registers closed' which will be classed as an unauthorised absence for the morning and will affect your child's attendance percentage.

Attendance

Attendance and punctuality are very high on every school and government's agenda. As a school we monitor this closely, as do Tameside's Education Welfare Officers (EWO). In an effort to keep you, the parent/carer, informed of your child's attendance throughout the year, we aim to inform you by letter every half term if your child's attendance percentage falls below 95%. We realise that in many instances attendance can be affected by childhood illness. When we are informed of the reasons for absence, we record them and refer to them when we discuss attendance with the Education Welfare Officer. Letters will be sent by Mrs Thompson, one of our Learning Mentors. If you would like to discuss this, with her, please make an appointment.

Child Absence

If your child, including Nursery children, is absent for any reason you will need to contact the school office on the first day of the absence by 9.00am. Also if your child has any medical appointments that will take them out of school, please inform the school office. The school telephone number is 0161 303 7404 which also has an answer machine facility.

Attendance

100% attendance will be recognised on a termly basis, so your child will have three opportunities to be successful. Each term will be a fresh start with special recognition for any child who achieves 100% over the whole year.

Ambassadors

Each week, one child from each class will be specially chosen to be a Class Ambassador. The children are all looking forward to being selected to wear a **purple** school sweatshirt, wearing it with pride in school. The Ambassadors will be given important roles, responsibilities and privileges for the week. These will vary depending on the age of the child and each class has made a list of how they will choose, use and celebrate their Class Ambassador each week.

Breakfast Club

The charge for Breakfast Club is £1.50 per child per day. The children will get cereal, toast, and juice, and also have time to play games. There is no need to book, just come to the hall between 8.00am and 8.30am. Toast is available for everyone to buy at the hall doors from 8.50am every morning. Toast is priced at 10p per slice.

Healthy Snack

Fruit will be available to buy at break times every day for 10p per item.

Healthy Eating

As our school operates a healthy eating policy, I would like to remind those of you whose children bring a packed lunch to school, that fizzy drinks and chocolate bars are not appropriate at mealtimes. I would also encourage you to include healthy items in your child's lunch box, such as fruit and yoghurt as well as a healthy sandwich, salad or pasta.

Jewellery

Our policy is that **no** jewellery is to be worn in school, **especially earrings**. The exception to this is a wrist watch, which will help when children are learning about the time. However, if any jewellery is worn to school by mistake it should be removed and kept safely in my office until the end of the day. If earrings cannot be removed, we ask that they are covered by plasters before the start of the school day. Please ensure nail polish is removed during school times..

Walking Bus

The walking bus will be operating again this year. The route taken begins at 8.30am at the black path on Illingworth Avenue to Stayley Drive and then on to Demesne Drive back round to school.

Extra Curricular Clubs

We will be running a number of clubs during lunchtimes and after school this term. Individual letters will be sent home, for each club, in the next week.

Contact numbers

If you have changed your home phone or mobile phone numbers or wish to put other numbers down for emergency contacts, please notify the office staff as soon as possible.

Dates for your diary

Tuesday 13 th September	Swimming for Year 5 and Year 6
Thursday 15 th September at 8.30am	School Photographs
Friday 16 th September	Roald Dahl Day – Dress up as a Roald Dahl character or wear his favourite colour yellow.
Wednesday 12 th October at 9.30am	Harvest Festival
Week beginning 10 th October	Parents meetings – details to follow
Friday 21 st October at 3.15pm	Break up for half term

If you have any matters you wish to discuss with me, I am usually available before and after school for a chat.

With regards,

Mr S R Lees
Head Teacher