



## **October Newsletter**

Thanks for a great turn out to Parent's Evening just before half term.

We were really pleased to hear from so many parents during their meetings that you are happy with the new system and format for homework. This was changed in response to parental feedback from the old system. Just a reminder: Homework is to consolidate and practise work that has gone on in the week. If it is taking hours or your child is struggling please speak to the class teacher. If your child has been poorly or you have had a particularly busy week – there is no pressure. Please just either put a note in the book or let the class teacher know. The class topic letters will also give you information about the topic and extra things you can do at home.

We had a small number of comments regarding conflict on the 'All Weather' pitch which were mainly around some of the older children not using 'fair play' principles during playtime matches and games. This was followed up with an assembly to discuss the matter with the older children in school and the introduction of a strike system. We have had lots of success competitively with school teams but the point of playtime and lunchtime game time is to promote good relationships whatever the skill level of the player, have some exercise in the fresh air and enjoy a good game. If children using the 'All Weather' cannot support these measures then they will lose the opportunity to play on it until we know they will support school values.

## **Future work on the school.**

Many of you will be aware that there is a high demand for pupil places in Orrell. As the two other schools in the area are already two form entry, we were approached by the local authority regarding expansion a few years ago and the finances have finally been released to make this a reality. Initially our intake would rise to 45 and would mean that at some points in school in the future we may need to move to mixed age group classes where necessary.

We met with planning officials and an architect over half term to look at how this could work in terms of the building. The rough plans are as follows:

- A new Reception classroom to be built onto the back car park and that area would be remodelled.
- KS1 would be remodelled internally so that entrance into Reception and Year 2 would not be through the Year 1 classroom.
- New toilets for children.
- A new studio added which would be used for P.E/Drama/After School Care and Music.
- Four new classrooms would be added to the front of school.
- The school offices and entrance would be remodelled and moved.
- The 'All Weather Pitch' would be moved as the current space would be used for classrooms.
- Remodelling of the playground. (We would be able to keep most of the field.)

Because a lot of the building work can be done without moving or disrupting existing classes, Property Services are hopeful that the new Reception Classroom and Studio could be in place for September 2019 and that the rest of the building work will take place during 2019/2020.

There will be some inconvenience and as always safety and learning will be our first priority.

After our meeting during half term, detailed plans and possible timescales are being drawn up so we will soon be in a position to consult with you in detail. We will send more details when we have them.

In the meantime, please feel free to talk to Mrs Worrall, Mrs Baxter or James Nicholls who is a parent of pupils at the school, a Governing Body member and an architect.

### **School Lunch Sampling – Vegetarian Options**

Our Cook Julie is holding a sampling session on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> November after school in the hall to give parents and children the opportunity to sample some of the new/proposed vegetarian options.

If you would like to attend please ring/speak to Miss Dobson in the school office so that Julie has an idea of numbers. Collect your child as usual and then enter school with them through the main entrance.

### **Pupil led Raffle**

*Dear Parents and Carers,*

*We are three pupils in Y6 who have all seen someone we love suffer through cancer. We will be holding a raffle in school over the next few weeks because we want to raise money to donate to the MacMillan charity. Raffle tickets will cost 25p each or a strip of 5 for £1.*

*Teachers at school have donated prizes and they are: a Smiggles voucher; a Smiggles glow-Lamp; a Smiggles wristlet; an inflatable frisbee and some chocolates.*

*Help us to help others: Together we can make a difference!*

### **Remembrance Service**

There is a remembrance Service outside school at the war memorial on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2018 at 10.45. Our pupils lay a wreath at the memorial alongside other members of the community. Afterwards Year 6 will be providing refreshments to members of our community and taking the opportunity to speak and spend time with them. There will be no Celebration Assembly on the 9.11.18.

### **Playground Etiquette on a morning**

Polite Reminder: please could parents/carers leave the playground on a morning by walking behind the lines of children rather than through them when they are trying to go into school.

### **High School Applications**

The closing date for Secondary School Applications is Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2018.

### **Applications to Primary School**

The online application service for Reception places 2019 open on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2018

Mrs Worrall is showing prospective parents around school on Tuesdays. Please make an appointment if you would like a tour with or without your child.

If you need any help with applications please speak to Mrs Yates or Miss Dobson in the school office.