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Newsletter 15.07.24

Dear Parent/ Carer,

September changes

We have rearranged our timetables from September, to ensure that our children are achieving the best they can in English. Therefore, from September children can be in school from 8.40am. This will be a 'soft start' with the start time still being 8.45, but it gives everyone time to come in and settle before assembly starts at 8.50am.

Therefore, the doors will be open from 8.40 with teachers present, so children can come straight in and there will be no waiting on the yard. Parents and carer are still not allowed in the building at this time, and if they need to speak to a teacher will need to make an appointment at the office, or come a little earlier and speak to the person on duty from 8.30am.

In the Juniors, we will no longer have an afternoon play. We introduced this after Covid when we felt children needed more time to play, but now we need to pinch that time back for lessons.

Uniform

From September, we will expect children to be in their normal school uniform every day. Many children are not coming in the correct kit for PE, which means they are not fitting in with our high standards. Children are often coming in their PE kits on days when it is not PE days, so it is easier all round if they just bring their PE bags to school and they get changed in school, like we did pre-Covid.

PE kits are still black shorts, black tracksuit bottoms or leggings for outdoor PE, white t-shirts. Earrings must be taken out on PE days, so if your child cannot do that for their lesson it may be wise to take them out yourself for the whole day and keep them at home.

A reminder that children should be in black school shoes.

Attendance

We have very poor attendance at Griffin Park and this will be our main focus for next year. There are new changes coming in September, which means parents can be fined up to £1000 for non-attendance at school. Mrs Otter and Mrs Cameron-Clarke will be making home visits daily, to children who are Persistent Absentees or at risk of being a Persistent Absentee. This is anyone who is below 90% attendance. Mrs Aspinall will be leading on making sure we improve attendance, as every day at school matters.

Children who are frequently late are missing out on so much of their education, as crucial lessons happen at the start of the school day; phonics, mathematics and reading.

Breakfast Club

Breakfast club is open to children from Reception to Year 6 every morning from 8am. You must book on if you want your child to attend before next Friday and pay for the first week. There are to be no changes until October half term. You will be charged for the days you book. Due to staff/pupil ratios there will be no flexibility in this.

Pupil Premium

Some of our children in school are identified as Pupil Premium children. Mr Johnson is responsible for the academic achievement of these children, and has sent a letter out to some parents if we think you may qualify for this. In KS1 all children are provided with a free school meal, but some children are entitled to Free School Meals

due to their parents being on benefits or lower wages. When Year 2 hit Year 3 in September, if you have not claimed for FSM then you will be charged for their lunch.

If a child is identified as PP (which can mean they have had FSM at some point in the past 6 years), school is given money which funds much of our staffing and high quality work in school.

In KS2 PP children are invited free of charge to Summer School. So it is worth checking if you are entitled to claim it, for you but also to help us!

Please ask at the office if you have not had a letter from Mr Johnson and you think you may be entitled.

Griffin's Got Talent

Our annual and popular Griffin's Got Talent was Friday afternoon. There was a mixture of acts, and the winners were our Year 6 Brass Band. All of the talent was amazing this year. We had a really good afternoon.

Year 6 Leavers' Prom

Next Wednesday is our Y6 party. This is for the parents as well as the children as we bid a very fond farewell to their children. There is a disco for the children and we provide food. There will be a bar on the night available for drinks to buy and snacks for the children, so please bring some money! All children must be there with an adult. We do not let younger children attend, as that will spoil it for them, when it is their turn. So please find a babysitter!

Reports

You should receive your child's report today. This will include the details of their SATs results for Year 6 and their tests for all other year groups. If you wish to discuss this report please feel free to pop in after school tomorrow to speak to your child's teacher.

Summer Raffle

Tickets are still on sale and the raffle will be drawn next Friday during our Awards Assembly. £1 for a strip of 5 tickets.

Debts

Some parents still owe us money for lunches, nursery fees and so on. You will be getting a letter from the office this week detailing what you owe. The office will be happy to arrange a payment plan with you if you need support in this.

Preloved Uniform

We have preloved uniform for sale, if you require anything. Please ask Mrs Cameron-Clarke at the office if you wish to look at what we have got. If you have any old uniform you no longer require please hand in to the office.

SCHOOL CLOSSES AT 2PM ON FRIDAY 19TH JULY

Calendar

July

15th Reports to parents go out

16th Y4 trip to Blackpool

17th Year 5 Assembly

Year 6 Leaver's Prom

18th Nursery Graduation

18th Y6 trip to Outdoor Elements

19th 9.15 Leaver's Assembly

19th 1.15 Awards Assembly SCHOOL CLOSSES AT 2PM

Yours sincerely,

Catherine Clayton-Young
Headteacher