



St. John's CE Primary School

NEWSLETTER

February 2018



CHANGES TO PROCEDURES AT ST. JOHN'S

We have updated a number of our policies and procedures at St. John's C of E Primary School and want to keep all parents / carers up-to-date so that they are aware of how it will affect them.

Firstly, Oldham LEA have updated their advice on how absences should be reported and subsequent follow up, in light of recent events highlighted in the national news, where children have been at home with parents, who through medical reasons, cannot contact anyone.

The procedures for reporting an absence are as follows:

- If your child is absent, then you should contact the relevant school (Infants 0161-681-5270 / Juniors 0161-681-5713) before 9:00am on the first morning to explain the reason why they cannot attend school.
- If you cannot get through to school, then please continue to try.
- Before 10:00am, the school office will try to contact the parents / carers of any child not in school that they have not had contact from.
- If we cannot make contact with a parent / carer and we have the capacity to make a home visit, we will, in order to obtain an explanation of the child's absence.
- If at this point, we have not managed to contact any parent / carer of the child, we have to report it to Oldham Metropolitan Borough's Education Welfare Officer, as the child could be considered to be at risk of being 'missing in education'.
- Oldham MBC will then make their own attempts to establish the circumstances behind the absence.

POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR AND ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

We have also updated our 'Positive Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policy'. We are going to be discussing it with the children in assembly time next week and then begin to implement it once they have a full understanding of it. The policy is available on the 'Safeguarding' section of the school website or if you call into the school office, you can obtain a printed version.

HOLIDAYS DURING TERM TIME

The school has recently updated the attendance policy and it will be available by half-term, once it has been ratified by the governors. Once this has been done, a letter will be sent to parents informing them of this and highlighting the changes that have been made. For over two years now, the school has issued the same advice regarding term time holidays. Following instructions from the government, we are no longer able to authorise any requests for such absences. Therefore, for that reason, please could we make a special request that you don't arrange holidays during term time. Apart from the potential fine (Oldham MBC have, since September 11th, reintroduced fines for term time holidays of longer than 10 sessions (5 full days)), it is particularly disruptive, not only for the school, but also for your children. They will miss out on important lessons and this all needs catching up. It is also important to note, that you may be asked to account for unexplained absences, which means that going on holiday and not informing school is unacceptable. Therefore, please inform us if your child is going to be absent.

JEFF RICH (STATUS QUO) DRUMMING WORKSHOP

The children in Years 2-6 had a great time on Monday afternoon taking part in a drumming / percussion workshop that was run by Jeff Rich (former member of Status Quo). All of the children listened to some demonstration pieces that he played and then all got the opportunity to play alongside him in a variety of percussion-based pieces.

ATTENDANCE

Thank you for bringing your children to school every day and on time. We are still monitoring the attendance of children very closely and will send out invitations to Attendance Panel Meetings to all children whose attendance (less than 90%) or lateness is causing concern for a meeting on 28th February. Please inform the school office if your child is going to be absent for any reason. The current attendance figure for the whole school is 96.4%, which is quite positive.

SCHOOL WEBSITE

Information about the school, including important up-coming dates and events will be on the school's website, which can be found at www.stjohns.oldham.sch.uk. Copies of this letter and any other 'whole school' letters can be found on there. Copies of any class, or year group specific letters, can be obtained from the relevant school office, or the class teacher.

FRESH FRUIT IN KS2

Fresh fruit is sold on a daily basis in the KS2 playground at break time. This usually includes those fruits that need no preparation, such as apples, bananas and pears etc. The cost is 20p per piece and can be bought on a day-to-day basis. This initiative has now been taken over by the Y6 Enterprise Group who are finding new and interesting ways of raising money for the school. The other alternative is that the children bring their own fresh fruit, but **not** fruit winders or fruit flakes etc. Many thanks for your understanding in this matter.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

7th February: Freddie Fit in KS1
9th February: School closes for half-term
19th February: School reopens
27th February: Glodwick school visiting KS1
28th February: Attendance Panel Meetings
5th March: Assessment week
20th March: Parents' Evening – KS1 (afternoon)
21st March: Parents' Evening – KS1 (afternoon)
22nd March: Parents' Evening – KS2 (afternoon / evening)
29th March: Easter Service – KS1 & KS2
29th March: Final date for Robinwood payments
29th March: School closes for Easter
16th April: School reopens for Summer term

KS1 CELEBRATION ASSEMBLY

Key Stage 1 Celebration Assemblies have begun again. They take place every Friday morning, at 9:15, in the infant site hall. Parents, carers, friends and family are warmly invited. Please could we remind everyone that Celebration Assembly is one of our daily acts of worship and we ask that everyone is respectful during this time. This includes, remaining seated, joining in with prayers, listening and participating in the Celebration. Also, please remember the taking of photographs is not allowed on school premises. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter and your continued support.

HEAD LICE

It has been brought to our attention that a number of cases of head lice have been reported in local schools. Could you please check your child's hair, as we know you always do, on a regular basis and treat them appropriately if needed.

PARKING

Could we please remind all parents and carers to be vigilant when parking near school. If you park close to school, where the children are walking on the pavements, and possibly crossing roads, please be extra careful when reversing and manoeuvring your vehicle. We worry that it is only a matter of time before a careless driver injures a child.

Parents collecting children from KS1 are also asked not to park in the vet's carpark. There have been a number of occasions before Christmas when they phoned to complain about parents and carers parking on their grounds and blocking spaces for use by their customers. The vets have also warned that they intend starting clamping cars, that they know to be non-customers.

RETIREMENT

Mrs. Flanagan, a dinner lady for many years in KS2, is retiring today after over a decade of working at St. John's. We'd all like to take this opportunity to thank her for all the work she's done, and wish her a long and happy retirement.

ROBINWOOD TRIP

The final payment of £100 is due to be paid before we finish for Easter on 29th March. Individual letters have already been sent out to remind parents of the exact amount owed.

For further information contact the relevant sites: 0161-681-5270 (EYFS/KS1) or 0161-681-5713 (KS2). You can visit the school website at www.stjohns.oldham.sch.uk which contains the Infant site blogs. Thank you for your continued support Miss L. Bonter (Head of Nursery/Infant Site) and Mr. C. Gibson (Head of Junior Site)