



St. John's CE Primary School

NEWSLETTER

September 2017



WELCOME BACK

May we take this opportunity, on behalf of all the governors and staff, to welcome yourselves and your children back to St. John's for the start of a new school year. This applies to everyone, but especially the new Nursery and Reception children who are joining us for the first time.

Again, we hope that we can do everything possible to make sure that your children enjoy the forthcoming months. We will endeavour to ensure that they are happy and that they make good progress.

However, these things do not happen by magic, and it is very much dependent on hard work from everyone involved. It is also important to remember that this is very much a partnership between home and school. Therefore, in order for continued success, **we need your support.**

It would be a great help if you could ensure that your child(ren):

- Were heard read regularly.
- Completed their homework on time.
- Arrived at school on time (9:05 in EYFS/KS1, 8:55 in KS2).
- Are collected on time at the end of the day (3:15 in EYFS/KS1, 3:30 KS2 (4:15 if in a club)).
- Didn't take holidays during term time (**see below**).
- Wore the correct uniform (**labelled with their name**) and proper, sensible shoes.
- Left school at the end of the day in a safe and orderly manner, that does not upset any of our neighbours.
- Displayed the good manners and sense of respect that would make you proud of them.
- Had their PE kits in school every week.

These simple little things really do help the school to run smoothly. Thank you.

NURSERY AND RECEPTION APPLICATIONS

Application forms for places in both the Nursery and Reception classes starting in September 2018 are now available from Mrs. Parkin in the infant site office. Once completed, either application must be returned to the school. However, applications for a place in the Reception class **must also be made online to Oldham Council**. For further information on this process, please contact the school (0161-681-5270) or the council's Admissions Team (0161 770 4213).

CHILDREN STARTING SECONDARY SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER 2018

For those children currently in Year 6, a letter has been sent home (before we finished for summer) about applying for secondary school places for September 2018, when your child is due to start secondary school. You will need to complete an application using the online application system available on the Oldham Council website. This is the **ONLY** way that parents can make an application for a secondary school place. The online system opened on the **1st August 2017** and closes at **5:00pm on 31st October 2017**.

If you don't have access to the Internet, there are computers in all Oldham libraries. You will need an email address, but these are very easy to set up and staff in the library will be happy to help.

Children who are intending to attend a voluntary aided school may also be required to fill in a supplementary form or provide documentation in addition to the online application. These supplementary forms, for schools such as Blue Coat, are available from, and should be returned to, the respective school. However, please be aware of the admission criteria regarding such admissions, particularly in respect of church attendance, and make sure that you meet them.

KEY STAGE 2 SCHOOL MILK AND FRESH FRUIT

A letter, sent home earlier in the week, explained how we will continue to provide milk each morning to those who order it on a termly basis (£10.30). No other drinks are permitted in school apart from water (or fruit drinks which children may bring **only** as part of a packed lunch).

In addition to the sale of milk, fresh fruit is also sold on a daily basis. This usually includes those fruits that need no preparation, such as apples, bananas and pears etc. The cost will be 20p and can be bought on the day. 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.

HOLIDAYS DURING TERM TIME

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, 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.

100% ATTENDANCE

Continuing on the subject of attendance, and in an effort to maintain good attendance, we will be awarding certificates and badges to those children who manage 100% attendance during this coming academic year. That means, they will be in school for both morning and afternoon registration, and will not have missed the close of the registers, which means they have not been late. As well as that, they have not been on holiday during term time.

This year, we also intend to make these awards on a termly basis, with a star badge being awarded each term for full attendance.

1 ★ for 100% attendance during the Autumn term (September to Christmas)

2 ★★ for 100% attendance during the Spring term (January to Easter)

3 ★★★ for 100% attendance during the Summer term (After Easter to Summer)

Any child who gains all 3 star badges will also achieve the 100% badge, which will be a great accomplishment.

CLASS SWIMMING LESSONS

Children in classes 2 and 3 will start their swimming lessons next week (Monday for class 2, Friday for class 3). Information and permission slips should have come home with the children yesterday, but if you have any questions, please contact school.

ASTHMA/ALLERGY/CONTACT DETAILS

To help us to make sure that your child is as safe as possible at school, we will be sending home forms for up-to-date contact details, allergy and other medical information over the next few days. Could you please ensure that these are filled in / amended and return to school so that we can update our records.

HOME/SCHOOL AGREEMENT

Next week, we will also be sending out a new home school agreement, along with letters allowing your children to go off-site and visit local sites that are within walking distance (e.g. the church, the high school etc.). These documents are vital for your children to achieve their best at school, and we ask that you take your time in reading them, and then return them to school.

CLASS INFORMATION

All children will be bringing home a class newsletter next week that will give information about what subjects are being taught in that class, and any other pertinent information for those children.

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.

UPCOMING EVENT:

11th September: Swimming commences – Class 2
15th September: Swimming commences – Class 3
W/B 18th September: KS2 clubs commence – letter out next week
20th September: Governor/Staff Meet and Greet @7:00pm in the KS1 hall
29th September: Harvest Services (KS1 @ 9:15am, KS2 @ 2:00pm)
29th September: KS2 Football Tournament @ Chapel Road
18th October: Police Talk (KS1 am, KS2 pm)
24th October: Nasal Flu Spray – Reception – 4
24th October: KS1 Parents' Evening (3:30pm – 5:15pm)
25th October: KS1 Parents' Evening (3:30pm – 5:15pm)
26th October: KS2 Parents' Evening (3:40pm – 7:30pm)
27th October: School closes for half term

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Starting from today (with the September 'edition') we will be changing the newsletter to being a monthly publication: sent home on the first Friday of the month. Any important information will either be found on the school website or sent home in a separate letter.

NASAL FLU SPRAYS

Could the children in Reception to year 4, who received letters about nasal flu spray vaccinations, please return the permissions slips next week.

KS1 CELEBRATION ASSEMBLY

The Key Stage 1 celebration assemblies will start up again shortly. More information about these will be sent out once they begin.

KS2 PANTOMIME

Many thanks to those of you who have sent in £10 to cover the cost of the children attending the Christmas pantomime at the Oldham Coliseum on 14th December. We appreciate that school trips are not cheap, but the school cannot afford to lose money on such ventures. The pantomime costs £6 and the coach £4 for each child. We do not make any money and are just trying to break even. Therefore, please send in the money as soon as possible otherwise we will not be able to afford to go. We have to pay the theatre by 22nd September. However, anyone who has problems with this, please contact school and hopefully some arrangements can be made. Many thanks.

KS2 SCHOOL CLUBS

After school clubs will begin the week after next (w/b 18th September). A letter will be sent home on Monday detailing what clubs are on offer. They will be allocated on a first-come first-served basis, but with an allowance for children who aren't in any clubs to be given priority over children who have already been allocated a club, in the case of a club being oversubscribed.

KS2 WOODWIND LESSONS

Woodwind lessons (for those children in Key Stage 2 who have them) will start this **Monday (11th September)**. Could those children who have their own instruments make sure that they have them in school every Monday.

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 EYFS/KS1) and Mr. C. Gibson (Head of KS2)