



NEWSLETTER



4/10/18

Soft Start

For the last two weeks of term we are going to trial a new system at the start of the school day. It will be similar to what happens when we have a rainy morning. Children and parents will no longer have to wait in the playground until 8.50. As the children arrive in school from 8.40 onwards a member of staff will welcome them at the door to the cloakroom between classes 1 & 2. They will go from there straight to their classes and parents can leave straight away. Foundation Stage parents can bring their child through the fenced off outside play area and leave them with a member of staff at the classroom door. The first bell will still sound at 8.50 and we expect all children to be in school by then. If you have any messages to pass onto teachers you can either tell the member of staff welcoming the children or go around to the office and ask for the message to be passed on from there. We know that this system is working successfully in a number of other schools. They report that it allows the learning in class to start earlier and in a calmer fashion than before. We will let you know before the end of this half term (Thursday 17th October) if we will be using the new 'soft start' system permanently or not.

Car Parking

New parents may not be aware, and other parents may have forgotten, that out of courtesy to our neighbours we ask parents not to park in the residents' parking bays on Raglan Rd. For the first time ever we now have 30 children in each year group which means that more children, and cars, are in the area immediately outside school before and after the school day. Please be aware of that when you are driving, and parking, near school. Last year we had cars stopping on the zigzag lines outside the school gate and reports of cars driving at excessive speed around the blind bend on Raglan Rd. We will remind the children about crossing roads safely, please reinforce that message at home. This week we have also had congestion outside school caused by cars parking in the lane leading up to the police station. This is a thoroughfare and should not be blocked by cars parking in it. One mum was faced with having to reverse out onto Chapel St, which is not the safest of manoeuvres with two young children in the back. Where possible we encourage everybody to walk, scoot or cycle to school. Very few of our families live more than half a mile away from school. If you need to drive you could park in the Brickfields car park and walk for two minutes to get to school that way.

Parents' Evenings

In the first week back after half term (w/b 29th October) we will be having our Parents' Evenings. This is an opportunity for you to meet with your child's teacher, have a look at their books and find out what they have been doing well and what they need to do to get even better. Appointments last for ten minutes and can be booked between 4.00pm and 6.50pm on Tuesday 30th October and Thursday 1st November. A separate booking form will be sent out soon.

Attendance

Congratulations to the Foundation Stage Class who are the top attenders so far this term. Their attendance rate is 98%. The lowest class currently stands at 93% with the whole school figure being 95.67% which is below our target of 96%. Unfortunately this week a lot of children have suffered from vomiting. When a child has been vomiting we ask parents to keep their child out of school for 48 hours. This seems to contradict our wish for high attendance but it is to prevent other children suffering from the same illness. We are reminding the children the importance of good personal hygiene especially before eating and after using the toilet.

Children's University

Congratulations to our Children's University Graduates. Eight children attended their graduation ceremony at Plymouth University. To graduate children need to attend 100 hours of out of school learning experiences. If you would like your child to take part in this scheme please call in and speak with Ms Taylor who will issue a passport to record all of the activities your child attends.

Meal-Time Assistants

We have appointed Mrs Witecka to join our group of Meal-Time Assistants. We still have one vacancy on that team so if you know somebody who is interested in that role please ask them to call in for an application form.