



Calton Playgroup and Primary School Newsletter

17th September 2021

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Co Head Teacher News



Welcome back to a brand new (and relatively back to normal academic year). A big hello to all of the new families we have both at Playgroup and School, we hope you have settled into our community well. On page 2 is our new and slightly amended Vision and Values statement which has been introduced to the children and that you will get to know over the next year. For those of you who know Calton already you will note that we still pride ourselves on being **STARS** although the wording has changed.



It has been a joy to see the children accessing all that we have on offer here and that will only increase over the next few weeks with events starting to happen again (many of these can already be found in our Diary Dates section on this newsletter). We make no apology for this first newsletter being quite long – we have lots to share with you – so please take the time to read the information we have to share. You will also be receiving soon an Expectations Document via eSchools which will ensure you know everything about the Year Groups which your child/ren is / are in.

This is going to be an exciting year and we are pleased we can all enjoy it together!



Sarah Bunce & Jane Barker-Doe, Co Head Teachers



Calton Playgroup News

A big warm welcome back to our pre-schoolers and new children joining us not forgetting all our parents/carers. The children have enjoyed re-connecting with friends and teachers and establishing new relationships after the summer holiday. They have settled in with ease and happily wave 'bye' at the gate. The outdoor environment provided wonderful spaces and opportunities to develop social skills that we need to share our ideas with others. We have been good thinkers and communicators as we have played in the home corner making dinner and playing shops. We have played with the playdough creating 'cookies', 'cake', 'worms' and 'stars'. We have also listened to stories snuggled up in the new book corner.

Reminder

Please ensure all clothing/back-packs and lunchboxes are named clearly. Water bottles should contain water for drinking throughout the day.

We will be taking part in Bike to School Week this is a week-long event starting w/c 27th September 2021. Please see separate letter.

Forest school sessions

We have been asked to inform you of some forest school sessions that are taking place at University of Gloucestershire's Oxstalls campus. These sessions have been organised by Thriving Language and Earth Stars. The sessions are for families and are a block of six at £10 per family per session for 2 hours.

For more information please contact bpjearlyyears@talktalk.net or Rebecca@thrivinglanguage.co.uk

Each newsletter we will be sharing a new nursery rhyme or poem which you can learn with your child.

Nursery rhymes are like rocket fuel for a child's development. *language and communication

*creative expression *physical development *numeracy skills *confidence and independence

*knowledge and understanding.

The rhyme is: **Dinosaur, dinosaur, Turn around, Dinosaur, dinosaur Stomp the ground,**

Dinosaur, dinosaur, Show your claws. Dinosaur, dinosaur Snap your jaws, Dinosaur,

dinosaur, Turn around, Dinosaur, dinosaur, Sit back down!

Have a lovely weekend 😊 **Jackie Swankie, Playgroup Manager**



Key dates for your diaries



21st September 2021	Y5 Viking visit in school
27th Sept - 1st Oct	Y6 Residential to Condover Hall
27th Sept - 1st Oct	Bike to School Week
14th October	Y3 Ruby Class visit St Mary de Crypt Church
15th October	Y6 Mercury Class assembly, 9.30am
18th October	Y4 visit Cadbury World
19th October	Parent Consultations, 3.30 - 5.30pm
20th October	Parent Consultations, 3.30 - 6.30pm
21st October	Y3 Sapphire & Emerald Classes visit St Mary de Crypt Church
22nd October	Y6 Platinum Class assembly, 9.30am
22nd October	End of term 1
1st November	Start of term 2
2nd November	Y2 Magenta Class visit Skill Zone
3rd November	Y2 Indigo Class visit Skill Zone
4th November	Y2 Turquoise Class visit Skill Zone
5th November	Y6 Titanium Class assembly, 9.30am
10th November	Individual Pupil & Playgroup Photographs
12th November	Y2 Magenta Class assembly, 9.30am
17th, 18th, 19th November	Flu vaccination at school for all pupils (school nurses)
19th November	Y2 Turquoise Class assembly, 9.30am
26th November	Y2 Indigo Class assembly, 9.30am
17th December	End of term 2
4th January 2022	INSET DAY, school closed to pupils
5th January	Start of term 3
14th January	Y5 Zinc Class assembly, 9.30am
21st January	Y5 Copper Class assembly, 9.30am
28th January	Y5 Iron Class assembly, 9.30am
4th February	Y3 Sapphire Class assembly, 9.30am
11th February	Y3 Ruby Class assembly, 9.30am
18th February	Y3 Emerald Class assembly, 9.30am
18th February	End of term 3
28th February	Start of term 4
11th March	Y4 Amethyst Class assembly, 9.30am
18th March	Y4 Topaz Class assembly, 9.30am
25th March	Y4 Diamond Class assembly, 9.30am
8th April	End of term 4
25th April	Start of term 5
20th May	YR Yellow Class assembly, 9.30am
27th May	YR Blue Class assembly, 9.30am
27th May	End of term 5
6th June	INSET DAY, school closed to pupils
7th June	Start of term 6
17th June	Y1 Purple Class assembly, 9.30am
24th June	Y1 Green Class assembly, 9.30am
1st July	Y1 Orange Class assembly, 9.30am
20th July	End of term (21st July is in lieu of Bank Holiday - Queen's Jubilee)

Reporting Pupil Absences

If your child will be absent from school due to illness, please telephone the school office, before 9am, stating child's name, class and the nature of the illness.

01452 527689

Medical Appointments

We understand that hospital appointments need to be attended at times offered, however, **we ask that routine Doctor and Dental appointments are made out of school hours.**

A nurturing, inclusive learning community that enables everyone to be their best

Skills Togetherness Aspiration Resilience Success



Bike To School Week Monday 27th September Friday 1st October 2021



We are excited to announce that we will be taking part in Bike to School Week.

All children who ride or scoot to school will receive 5 Space Team Points for each day they do!

Please ensure your child rides their bike or scooter safely to school and that a helmet is worn at all times

Drum lessons

We are proud to congratulate Sebastian in Year 5 for achieving a Distinction at 98% in his Grade 4 drumming exam this summer. **Well done Sebastian!**

Drum lessons will resume at Calton, during the school day, in October. There are limited places available. For further information please contact Mr Guest at midlandsdrumlessons@gmail.com

Healthy Snacks at School

Please can we remind you that children should bring fruit or vegetables for a mid-morning snack. If they bring grapes, or similar fruit/vegetables, we expect these are cut in half lengthways to avoid choking.

Due to some children in school having severe nut allergies **no nuts or nut products are allowed in school**. This includes Nutella chocolate spread.

We will be carrying out some work on what further healthy snack options there may be for children - watch this space!



Dogs in the Playground

Whilst we appreciate that many people love dogs, we have a number of children in school who are either frightened and/or allergic to them. We therefore ask that dogs are not brought onto the school playground.



Thank you for your support and understanding.

School Lunches

The cost of a school lunch is £2.34. We prefer you to pay using ParentPay if possible. Please contact the school office if you need log in details.

Children in Reception, Year 1 & 2 are entitled to universal free school meals & do not need to pay.

Years 3, 4, 5 & 6 need to pay for school meals unless entitled to Free School Meals.

Please note Free School Meal entitlement has to be applied for and is not offered to everyone. To find out which benefits qualify, please visit <http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk> and search "Free School Meals".



Here is the [link](#) to the current issue of [Families Gloucestershire Magazine Sep/Oct 2021](#) for parents and carers.

Local family events and activities are finally back! Our **What's On Guide** and **Activities and Days Out** have loads of options for families wanting to get out and about in September and October. For those staying close to home we have activities including **Autumn Crafts, Growing oak trees from acorns, DIY Halloween costumes, Halloween decorations** and **Black History Month 'Who's Who' Quiz**.

The magazine is also full of great advice and tips for parents including **Tips for a positive parents' evening, Dealing with back to school anxiety, Ride to school safely** and **Teacher Talk**.



Weekly coffee mornings at Calton - every Tuesday morning

Starting Tuesday 28th September in Onyx.

9am - 10.30am, drop children off and then go straight to Onyx.

All parents / carers welcome. Toddlers and Babies welcome

A chance to meet other parents, enjoy coffee and biscuits, enjoy each other's company. Lead by Mrs Stella Smithson.



Children dropped off / collected late

As you know we take the safety and care of our pupils very seriously. Thank you to those of you who let us know if you are running a little late - for the vast majority of people this is a very rare occurrence. When they are late we expect children to be signed in /out and a reason given for the lateness.

Any Parent or carer who becomes more frequently late in dropping off / picking up their child will receive a letter inviting them to a meeting to explain the reason for such events.

Where being late collecting children becomes even more frequent our Attendance Policy states that where "Parents or Carers are not consistently fetching their children on time or do not keep us fully informed as to why they are late then we may charge a fee for after school care".

This would be an extreme measure but ensures that staff are not put in situations where they become "child carers" beyond their paid roles. If you have any queries about this information please contact Mr Matt Holton - Inclusion Leader.

The Family Information Service is a great website to check out to help you with ideas to entertain your children over the holidays. It Provides:

*Free impartial, confidential information, advice and signposting for families with children aged 0-19

*Activities for children, young people and families in Gloucestershire including things to do during school holidays and seasonal events

*Specific activities and information on support for children with additional needs to access them
<https://www.glosfamiliesdirectory.org.uk/kb5/gloucs/glosfamilies/home.page>

We are recruiting!

We currently have the following vacancies:

School Crossing Patrol

Cleaner

Lunchtime Supervisor

Please visit www.caltonprimary.co.uk to download the job information and an application form.

Morning Routines

It is so lovely to see everyone back on site and the way in which you are all coming in. However, please be aware that school and playgroup are being very prompt with shutting doors as it is important to begin the day calmly.

Therefore we remind you that school doors shut at 8.55am and playgroup at 9am.

So we can keep the school site safe we will begin shutting the gates which are nearest to Year 5 and 6 (Tuffley Avenue and of Calton Road), including the Ribston gates, at 8.56am and so to avoid being unable to leave the site if you are running a little late it will be better to leave at the gate via the Reception Classes.

This gate will also be locked at as near to 9.01am as possible.

The best option for you all is to aim to be here well before the time we lock up!

Remote Learning and Covid 19

Here at Calton Primary School we take our legal obligations very seriously and this is no more so when it comes to children being given every opportunity to learn and grow. As the rules have changed for isolation we are hoping we will not have many children off school. However, should a child test positive for Covid 19 following a PCR test, we will contact you. On offer will be remote learning via eSchools, touching base from a member of staff (usually the Class Teacher) and access to a laptop if necessary. If your child also qualifies for free school meals there will also be the option of a packed lunch to fetch. However, we equally recognise that if a child has Covid 19 they may of course be unwell in which case we would not expect them to be carrying out work—they need to get better!

Virtual Parents Consultations

**Tuesday 19th October 2021
3.30-5.30pm**

**Wednesday 20th October 2021
3.30-6.30pm**

www.caltonprimary.co.uk

Booking opens 9am, Mon 27th Sept and closes at 3pm on Tues 19th Oct

You will need to book your Parents Evening slot on eSchools. Log in to eSchools from the home page of the school website **www.caltonprimary.co.uk**

The consultations in October will be held virtually via Teams

We hope to return to face to face consultations in spring 2022

Medical Information

Please ensure that you have informed the school of any medical condition or allergies your child may have (admin@caltonprimary.co.uk)

Asthma inhalers should be taken home at the end of each term to be sterilised.

No tablets/ointments/medicines can be administered in school without all of the details having been emailed in to the school office (admin@caltonprimary.co.uk).

Any medication should be handed to the Class teacher at drop off time & the email sent to the office with details of the name of the medication, dosage & time to be administered.

If a child is poorly and needing medication, we take the view that they are probably too unwell to be in school. For advice, contact us.

Calton Governing Board

Emma Richardson Chair of Governors
Sarah Bennett / Daniel Hughes Co Vice-Chairs

Governors

Sarah Bunce Co Head Teacher
Sarah Bennett (Chair of Teaching, Learning and Achievement Committee)
Emma Richardson (Chair of Behaviour, Safety and Wellbeing Committee)
Daniel Hughes (Chair of Leadership, Management & Premises Committee)
Phil Jones
Stella Smithson
Julie Cresswell
Kate Simpson
Camella Cephas
Tracy Millard
Sue Shaw
Lyn Ackroyd

Associate Members

Jane Barker-Doe
Kirstie Norris
Andrea Preedy



Parking Rules

Calton Road, parking rules, oh parents dear,
Please keep zig zag lines completely clear,
Simply pulling over on these yellow lines,
Could cause you to be issued with many fines.

Children walking, trying to cross to school,
Find it harder to see when you break this rule,
Wake up early and maybe cycle or walk
Or perhaps the police will need to talk.

So please don't act like a selfish person
Otherwise this Calton Road problem will worsen
Park in a place that you know is smart,
And show Calton Children you have a heart.

Class Assemblies

We are pleased to let parents know that Class assemblies are back!
Please see the dates within the "Diary Dates" on page 2 of this newsletter.
These will happen in Garnet Hall on a Friday at 9.30am.

A crèche will be available for pre-schoolers and toddlers so grown ups can enjoy the performances.
We do welcome pre-schoolers who will be able to sit quietly & not disturb the children.
Please see the Class Teacher to book a place at the crèche.

School uniform and belongings

Please may we ask that all items of school uniform and belongings that are brought into school are clearly labelled with your child's name.
We already have a number of items in lost property that are un-named and un-claimed!