



Forefield Community Infant and Nursery School

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Living the Olympic and Paralympic Values

6th September 2018

Newsletter No. 1

Dear Parents,

Welcome back everyone! I hope all of our families thoroughly enjoyed a lovely summer.

I would like to extend a special welcome to our new children and their families. I am confident that the children will flourish with the excellent partnerships between home and school and the care and commitment of our staff team. Should you have any worries or concerns, no matter how small, please do not hesitate to call into school to see your child's class teacher (after school is usually the best time), Mrs Boardman, our Pastoral & Education Support Co-ordinator, Mrs Gregory or Ms Edwards based in the School Office, or myself - there will always be someone who can help.

Staffing Changes

Some new staffing appointments were made during the Summer Term so you may well see a few new faces on the playground and around school. As Mrs Ainsworth retired at the end of the Summer Term and Mrs Gregory has been appointed as our Finance and Premises Manager. Ms Edwards has been appointed as school's Administrator based in the school office with Mrs Gregory and is very much looking forward to meeting all of our parents and children. Mr Whitford has been appointed as our Site Supervisor having covered the role so competently over the last few months and has been very busy over the summer holiday ensuring the school is ready for the Autumn Term. Mrs Ibbotson and Mrs Rodriguez are joining us as teaching assistants providing invaluable support to some of our children in school.

We also congratulate Ms Gleeson, a teaching assistant in KS1, who is now Mrs Armstrong following her wedding over the summer holiday.

We will be updating our website with photographs of all the new members of staff over the next week so that parents can put faces to names.

Meet the Teacher Meetings

Parents of our new **Reception** children are invited to attend 'Meet the Teacher' meetings on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday afternoons next week. We hope you found this a useful opportunity to discuss your child's first few days in school and to ask any questions that you may have. Please speak to your child's class teacher if you would like to make an appointment.

Meetings have also been arranged for parents of children in **Y1 & Y2** to meet their child's new class teacher; see the classroom; find out a little more about topics being covered; the curriculum and expectations; how English is to be taught through our selected Phonics and Reading schemes; Singapore Maths and routines in the new year group. It will also be an opportunity to ask any questions that you may have. We have tried to offer a choice of days and times that we hope will be convenient for most parents. Meetings are informal and should last about half an hour. We hope you can make one of the dates below:

- Mon 10th Sept 2.45pm - Y1 & Y2 Classes
- Tues 11th Sept 5pm Y1 & Y2 Classes
- Thurs 13th Sept 9am Y1 - Classes 4, 5 & 6
- Fri 14th Sept 9am Y2 - Classes 7, 8 & 9

Over the half-term, we will be offering opportunities for parents to find out more about specific teaching methods and approaches. Our Foundation Stage Team will be offering **Phonics Workshops** on Thursday 27th September. This will be an opportunity to find out how children are taught 'phonics' in school with tips to reinforce learning at home. If any Y1 & Y2 parents would also like to attend, please just come along either 9.15-10.15am; 2.15-3.15pm or 5.30-6.30pm. The workshops will be followed by an opportunity to come in to school to observe an actual lesson on Mon 15th, Wed 17th, Thurs 18th Oct all at 9am. A separate letter will be sent home a little nearer the time to book a place.

We will also be offering **Maths Workshops** to Y1 and Y2 parents. Y1 workshop is planned for Tues 2nd Oct and the Y2 workshop on Tues 9th Oct both at 5.30-6.30pm. Staff will explain about the Singapore Maths scheme and its methodologies. We hope you can make some of the workshops and very much look forward to seeing you.

School Meals

Next week, parents/carers of Reception children are invited into school to sample a school lunch: Class 1 on Mon 10th Sept, Class 2 on Tues 11th Sept and Class 3 on Wed 12th Sept all at 11.15am. Parents/carers should come to the school's main entrance to sign in and will then be directed to your child's class to accompany him/her to the dining room.

Just a reminder that school meals are provided free of charge to all Infant children and we hope that as many children as possible will take advantage of a tasty, healthy, school lunch. The Weekly Menu for this half term is attached to this newsletter for your reference.

If your child brings a packed lunch to school, please would you ensure that you put your child's name on the box or on a key ring that is easily identifiable as there can be a little confusion at lunchtime - you would be surprised how many similar lunchboxes there are in school! Many thanks.

Dietary Requirements - if your child has special dietary requirements for medical or religious reasons, please call at the School Office to collect a form for completion.

Punctuality & Attendance

To develop good habits early, please ensure that your child arrives on time. The school day starts at 8.50 a.m. and ends at 3.30p.m. It can be very distressing for young children to arrive in class late having missed that very important settling in period with their friends at the start of the day. I would ask that every effort is made to arrive at 8.50 a.m. To ensure the safety of the children, the entrance doors will be locked promptly, Reception at 8.55am and Y1 & Y2 at 9.00 a.m. (to enable those families who may have to drop-off on both playgrounds to make their way round school). After these times, access is only available through the main entrance door by the Office. If you are late dropping off your child, please ensure that you accompany him or her to the Office and sign your child into the Late Book provided in the foyer, as registers will already have been completed.

Once again this year, we will continue to concentrate our efforts on improving attendance. We are aiming for over 97% attendance for the whole school - we came very close last year which is fantastic! We ask parents to make every effort to encourage full attendance, so that children can take advantage of every opportunity at Forefield and do not experience gaps in their early learning which can cause significant

difficulties later. We know that at times, children may be too poorly to attend school, however, if at any time you are unsure as to whether your child is ill, please bring them in to school and know that we would always contact you should they need to be looked after at home.

Just to remind parents that Government legislation came into effect on 1st September 13 - **schools are not expected to authorise any term-time holidays**. The amendments make clear that leave of absence during term-time can only be granted in very exceptional circumstances for example, bereavement or Service families with a parent being deployed to a high risk area. The school's Attendance Policy reflects Government legislation and Sefton Local Authority's Attendance Strategy. The Governing Body hopes that parents will be supportive of this policy which is readily available on the school's website. School's holiday dates are attached to the newsletter for your reference.

Should you need to request leave of absence for your child, a request form can be obtained from the school's office.

Parking

At the start of the new academic year, could I respectfully ask parents when dropping off/collecting children to park safely and with courtesy for our neighbours and other road users. Local residents along with a number of parents, regularly express their concern over double parking, a hazard to other road users and also to pedestrians (especially little ones!); parking on both double yellow lines and zig-zags; obstruction of driveways and parking on pavements. A reminder too that the carpark for residents of Brownmoor Close is a private carpark and is not for the use of parents and carers when dropping off or collecting children. Many thanks for your co-operation and support in ensuring the safety of all our children and families and respect for our neighbours.

Uniform

It was lovely to see the children looking so smart for their first day at school this week. In order to avoid unnecessary upset, **please check that all clothing, including PE kits, pumps, shoes and coats, are clearly labelled**. Just a few reminders about the school's Uniform Policy which helps us to maintain our high standards: **sensible, black shoes**, not training shoes should be worn. Many thanks for your co-operation.

Sending Money in to School

Please could we request that any money is sent into school in a named envelope via your child/class teacher to save lengthy queues at the School Office first thing in the morning. Many thanks for your co-operation.

Water Bottles

Children are encouraged to bring a water bottle to school each day. Please ensure that your child's name is written on the bottle to avoid confusion. Also, please ensure that the water bottle contains water - not flavoured water, cordial or fruit juice. Research has shown that water provides the correct balance for the proper functioning of the brain and that dehydration leads to inattention, drowsiness and poor learning performance. Dehydration and some high sugar drinks adversely affect the fluid balance in the body, and it is recommended that the equivalent of 8-12 glasses of water

should be consumed daily. This all supports your child's general well-being as well as their learning. Many thanks.

Harvest Festival

School will be celebrating Harvest Festival on Friday 5th October. This year, we would, once again, like to support local families who may be in need through The Crosby Area Foodbank. We would ask our families if they could add an extra non-perishable item or two to their shopping list over the next few weeks which can then be brought into school on Thurs 4th or Fri 5th October. The Foodbank would especially appreciate donations of longlife milk, longlife fruit juice, cereals, sugar; soup, pasta sauces, rice pudding, sponge puddings, custard, tinned fruit, instant noodles, rice, instant mash, pasta, tinned tomatoes and biscuits. Other possible items could include: tinned meat - corned beef, ham, luncheon meat; tinned fish - tuna, sardines, salmon; tinned potatoes, tinned vegetables, tea bags, coffee, jam. Please check that items are 'in date' before sending into school. After our assembly, harvest donations will be sent to the Foodbank where they will be boxed by volunteers and given to local families in crisis providing three days of emergency food supplies. As always, your support is much appreciated.

Photographs

Once again this year, Tempest photographers will be coming into school to take individual photographs of the children on Friday 12th October. On this day, we will also be holding our evening session from 5p.m. - 6.30p.m. for family photographs in the school hall. This is a wonderful opportunity for you to have a professional photograph taken of all your family members, mum, dad, children, grandparents etc. these beautiful portraits would make a fantastic Christmas gift! Just bring the family along on the night.

Reception & Nursery Intake September 2019

We will be holding a number of school tours during the Autumn Term for any parent or carer interested in finding out more about Forefield (either Nursery and/or Reception) for their child. If you know of anyone who may be considering Forefield for their child, please do encourage them to contact the school office and book a visit to see school 'in action'. We have tried to offer a range of days and times to fit in with families' needs. Just a reminder — all applications for Reception places in September 2019 must be submitted on line to www.sefton.gov.uk/admissions by 15th January 2019 which is the final closing date.

Nursery intake - For admission to the Nursery in September 2019, applications must be submitted by noon on Friday 8th February 2019 and parents will be notified of places by Friday 22nd March 2019. If you require any additional information regarding admission to school, please do not hesitate to contact Ms Edwards or Mrs Gregory in the School Office.

Dates for your diary

September

Mon 10 th Sept	Y2 Dress as your Hero Day 9.15am Prospective Parent tour 11.15am Class 1 to sample lunch 2.45-3.15pm Y1 & Y2 classes Meet the Teacher meetings
Tues 11 th Sept	11.15am Class 2 to sample lunch 5-5.30pm Y1 & Y2 Meet the Teacher meetings
Wed 12 th Sept	11.15am Class 3 to sample lunch

Thurs 13 th Sept	Reception children to attend full-time 9-9.30am Y1 Meet the Teacher meetings
Fri 14 th Sept	9-9.30am Y2 Meet the Teacher meetings
Tues 18 th Sept	9.15am Prospective Parent tour
Wed 19 th Sept	All Nursery children to start
Tues 25 th Sept	9am School Council Presentation Assembly
Thurs 27 th Sept	9.15-10.15am; 2.15-3.15pm and 5.30-6.30pm Phonics Workshops for parents
Fri 28 th Sept	9.15am Prospective Parent tour

October

Mon 1 st Oct	1.30pm school tour for prospective parents
Tues 2 nd Oct	5.30-6.30 Y1 Singapore Maths Parent Workshop
Fri 5 th Oct	Harvest Festival - Foodbank donations welcomed
Tues 9 th Oct	5.30-6.30 Y2 Singapore Maths Parent Workshop
Fri 12 th Oct	Tempest School Photographer in school 5 - 6.30pm family photographs evening session
Mon 15 th Oct	9-9.45am Reception Stay & Learn Phonics Lesson
Wed 17 th Oct	9-9.45am Reception Stay & Learn Phonics Lesson
Thurs 18 th Oct	9-9.45am Reception Stay & Learn Phonics Lesson
Fri 19 th Oct	Reception Friendship Party Day 9.15am school tour for prospective parents

HALF TERM MONDAY 22nd OCTOBER - FRIDAY 26th OCTOBER

Our next newsletter will be circulated on Friday 21st September 2018.

Yours sincerely

Mrs E. Haney
Headteacher