



Forefield Community Infant and Nursery School

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Headteacher: Mrs E. Haney

'Learning & Growing Together'



11th September 2020

Dear Parents,

Newsletter No. 1



Welcome back everyone! I hope all of our families thoroughly enjoyed a lovely summer albeit one that has been very different! As I said in my letter last week, the children continue to amaze us with how well they are settling into their new classes, year groups and new routines.



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 contact school to arrange to speak your child's class teacher, 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. At the current time, we are doing as much as we can via telephone calls or email just to keep everyone as safe as we can.



Staffing Updates

There have been a few staffing changes over the summer. Mrs Gilroy is currently working from home as she awaits the arrival of her second baby in October. Mrs Roberts and Mrs Byrne will, therefore, be teaching Class 6. As Mrs Roberts has moved to teach Class 6 a little sooner than originally expected, so Mrs Wolfarth will be teaching Class 2 full-time. Mr Houghton, a familiar face to the children, is teaching Class 7 covering Mr Hall's absence during the Autumn Term. Two of our teaching assistants, Mrs Hechle and Mrs Jones are now training as teachers and we wish them every success. We extend our congratulations to Mrs Ibbotson who has been appointed as a teaching assistant in Reception. In support of the changes to arrangements that we have had to implement to fully re-open, we have appointed new lunchtime supervisors: Mrs King and Mrs McQueen who are also members of our new cleaning team.



Welcome Meetings

Meetings have been arranged for parents of children in Y1 & Y2 to meet their child's new class teacher and the rest of the year group teaching team. As I'm sure you appreciate, we are unable to hold these in school as we normally would but will be offering virtual sessions for parents/carers to sign up to via the school app. This does have advantages - no babysitter needed!



At the meeting, teachers will tell you more about topics being covered; the curriculum and expectations; how English is taught through our selected Phonics and Reading schemes; our new Big Maths scheme and general routines in the new year group. We have tried to offer a choice of days and times that we hope will be convenient for all parents. Meetings are informal and should last about half an hour. We hope you can make one of the dates below:



Wed 16th Sept 5.30-6.15pm Y1 classes (classes 4,5 & 6)

Thurs 17th Sept 5.30-6.16pm Y2 classes (classes 7,8 & 9)

Mon 21st Sept 5.30-6.15pm Y1 classes

Tues 22nd Sept 5.30-6.15pm Y2 classes



Living the Olympic and Paralympic Values

Owing to the numbers participating in the sessions, please note down any questions during the presentation and then email your child's class teacher who will respond either by email or via a telephone call. Please see class email addresses below:

Class 4 - Mr Sayer - class4homelearningselfie@forefieldinfant.sefton.school

Class 5 - Mrs Buckley - class5homelearningselfie@forefieldinfant.sefton.school

Class 6 - Mrs Byrne/Mrs Roberts class6homelearningselfie@forefieldinfant.sefton.school

Class 7 - Mr Houghton - class7homelearningselfie@forefieldinfant.sefton.school

Class 8 - Mr Robinson - class8homelearningselfie@forefieldinfant.sefton.school

Class 9 - Miss Oldham - class9homelearningselfie@forefieldinfant.sefton.school

Parent Workshops

During the Autumn Term, we will be offering opportunities for parents to find out more about specific teaching methods and approaches. Our **Reception** Team will be offering on-line **Phonics Workshops** on Tuesday 13th October and the session will be repeated on Thursday 22nd October. This will be an opportunity to find out how children are taught 'phonics' in school with tips to reinforce learning at home. A Phonics Workshop will also be offered to **Y1 & Y2** parents after the half-term break. A Language & Communication Workshop led by Mrs Evans and Speech & Language Therapist, Tara Kenyon is planned for **Nursery** parents. Further details and invitations to join workshops will be sent via the school app.

Free School Meals

Just a reminder that although all children in the Infants are entitled to a free school meal, parents can still apply for 'free school meals' which children will then be entitled to receive until they leave the Junior School at the end of Y6. This is different to and should not be confused with, the daily free meal that all infant children are entitled to. Applying is really straightforward and Miss Edwards in the school office is more than happy to provide more information or a form to complete if you think that you might be eligible. A successful application means that school secures additional funding which is used to fund extra-curricular activities for your child, trips and visits, snack and Toast Club and additional support and resources.

You can check eligibility by following the following link or please do contact Miss Edwards on 0151 924 6235.

<https://www.sefton.gov.uk/schools-learning/grants-and-funding/free-school-meals.aspx>

Drop-off & Collection

A really big thank you to you all for all your support in ensuring our staggered arrangements at drop-off and collection times are operating smoothly. I know that for a small number of families arrangements aren't ideal and your understanding is much appreciated.

Should there be a change in collection arrangements for your child, please do contact the school office either by phone or email to inform us.

Face Coverings

Given the current increase in the infection rate, parents and carers are encouraged to wear face coverings at drop-off and collection times to afford themselves and other parents and carers additional protection from transmission of the virus.

Extra-curricular activities

Extra-curricular activities will commence next week. All parents should have received details and a form via the school app. All clubs will operate for one year group only so as to maintain the year group bubbles that children are operating within during the school day.

Spaces are limited in all clubs in support of social distancing measures. If you would like your child to attend one of the activities, please return the form received via the app and send the relevant payment into school in a named envelope via your child's book bag. **Places will be confirmed once payment has been received.**

Collection arrangements from after-school activities are as follows:

Monday

Y2 Spanish & Y2 Dance Club - parents and carers to wait near to the **Y2 entrance to the playground on Trevor Drive**. Children will be brought to this gate to be handed over.

Y1 Kwik Cricket - parents and carers to wait outside the **main entrance** and children will be handed over at the door.

Wednesday

Y1 Dance Club - parents and carers to wait outside the **main entrance** and children will be handed over at the door.

Thursday

Y1 Multi-skills Club - parents and carers to wait outside the **main entrance** and children will be handed over at the door.

Friday

Y2 Basketball Club - parents and carers to wait outside the **main entrance** and children will be handed over at the door.

For sports and games clubs, PE kit will not be required. Children can change into their pumps which are kept in school.

Children attending Active Soccer on a Tuesday, may wear their PE kit to attend school (no football kits, please) and may bring training shoes or football boots to change into prior to the session.

P.E

Thank you so much in supporting the arrangements to send children in to school in PE kit/jogging bottoms on days when they will be doing PE. This has ensured that the children can maximise the time they spend doing PE and games and has worked really well this week.

Sending Money in to School

Please could we request that any money is sent into school in a named envelope via your child's book bag to save lengthy queues at the School Office first thing in the morning - something we want to avoid at all costs at the present time.

We know that some local schools have on-line payment facilities which we recognise would be convenient for parents and for school, however, there are charges to the school, per transaction which as we don't take as many payments as many schools (as we don't have dinner money payments for example), it is just not currently cost-effective for us to do this. We do continue to keep this under review in case the situation regarding transaction charges changes.

Term-time Holidays

Like many of us in school, I think many families have missed out on a holiday this year and the on-going current situation continues to make planning a holiday difficult. Just to remind parents that Government legislation came into effect on 1st September 13 - **schools are not expected to authorise any term-time holidays - this is still the case in the current context, especially when there is already so much "catch-up" needed for the children.** The amendments make clear that leave of absence during term-time can only be granted in very exceptional circumstances for example, Service families with a parent being deployed overseas. The school's Attendance Policy reflects this 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 along with terms and holiday dates.

Should you need to request leave of absence for your child, request forms 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.

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 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.

Reception & Nursery Intake September 2021

During the Autumn Term we would normally be holding regular tours of school for any parent or carer interested in finding out more about Forefield (either Nursery and/or Reception) for their child. At the current time, unfortunately we are unable to offer this. We will keep this under review and hope that we may possibly be able to offer some tours after school hours later in the term. In the meantime, if you do know of anyone considering Forefield for their child, please do encourage them to take a look at our website, the curriculum and year group pages to get a feel for what school has to offer. Just a reminder — all applications for Reception places in September 2021 must be submitted on line to www.sefton.gov.uk/admissions by 15th January 2021 which is the final closing date.

Nursery intake - For admission to the Nursery in September 2021, applications must be submitted by noon on Friday 5th February 2021 and parents will be notified of places by Friday

19th March 2021. 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

Wed 16th Sept	All Nursery children to start their sessions Welcome to Y1 Virtual Meeting 5.30-6.15pm
Thurs 17 th Sept	Welcome to Y2 Virtual Meeting 5.30-6.15pm
Mon 21 st Sept	Welcome to Y1 Virtual Meeting 5.30-6.15pm
Tues 22nd Sept	Welcome to Y2 Virtual Meeting 5.30-6.15pm

October

Mon 12 th Oct	School Photographs
Tues 13 th Oct	Reception Parents' Virtual Phonics Workshop
Fri 16 th Oct	Harvest Festival - Foodbank donations welcomed
Thurs 22 nd Oct	Reception Parents' Virtual Phonics Workshop

HALF TERM MONDAY 26th OCTOBER - FRIDAY 30th OCTOBER

Our next newsletter will be circulated on Friday 25th September 2020.

Yours sincerely

Mrs E. Haney
Headteacher