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Headteacher: Mrs E. Haney 'Learning & Growing Together'



23rd October 2020

Dear Parents,

## Newsletter No. 4

Just a reminder that school finishes today for the half-term break and the children return to school on Monday 2nd November. We do hope that all children and families enjoy the break and remain safe and well. Should your family situation change, if any of the children do display symptoms or become poorly, please do book a test. Although the school will be closed over the half-term, we will still be accessing the admin email address at the top of the letter for you to keep in touch. This is especially important at the start of the holiday when a positive result may have implications for self-isolation for other children and staff in order to contain any transmission. Please do email at your earliest opportunity so that we can take any necessary follow-up action. Many thanks for your support in this.

## Parent Workshops

Thank you to all those Reception parents and carers who were able to attend one of the **Phonic Workshops** held over the last two weeks. We hope the sessions helped you to see how we use this approach in school to teach the children to read and to write and how you can utilise this approach when reading and writing with your child at home.

We will be offering further workshops in the Spring Term to provide more information as children progress through the phonic phases.

## Harvest Festival

Thank you all so much for your very generous harvest donations which have now been taken to the Waterloo and Crosby Area Foodbank where they were gratefully received. A number of local families experiencing difficulties will receive emergency food supplies which I am sure will be very much appreciated at what is such a tricky time for so many.

## **Photographs**

We hope that you are pleased with your child's lovely photograph. Just a reminder, should you wish to make a purchase, ideally, please place you order via the Tempest website. Details can be found on the order form. You can choose to have the photographs delivered to home or to school whichever is most convenient. The offer of free delivery to school finishes on the 29<sup>th</sup> October and paper orders via the school office have to be received by Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November to be processed.

## Parents' Consultation Meetings

Parents' Consultation Meetings will take place on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November (4pm - 7pm), Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November (Nursery only) and Thursday 12th November (4 - 7pm). Owing to the current situation, we are planning to hold these meetings virtually via Microsoft Teams. Parents will be able to book a 10 minute appointment with their child's class teacher via the school's app. The booking system will be live commencing the morning of the 2<sup>nd</sup> November - please book a convenient slot. Meetings will be an opportunity for you to meet your child's class teacher,

discuss how your son or daughter has settled into his or her new class, the progress that is being made and targets that your child will be working to achieve over the academic year.

## British Legion Poppy Appeal

Each year at school, we support the British Legion Poppy Appeal raising money for service personnel past, present and future. This is also a great opportunity to raise the awareness of our young children as to the significance of Remembrance Day. Like everything else this year, the appeal organisers have had to adapt to the current context. We will be selling poppies in school for a suggested donation of £1. With every purchase of a poppy, the children will also be given a poppy colouring sheet which we would like them to colour and then display in a window/door for passersby to see. Poppies will be on sale on our return after half-term.

## NSPCC's Speak out. Stay safe. online programme

I am pleased to tell you that after half-term we will be participating in the NSPCC's Speak out. Stay safe. online programme. This consists of an online assembly and supporting classroom based activities. Speak out. Stay safe. is a safeguarding programme available to all primary schools in the UK and Channel Islands. It aims to help children understand abuse in all its forms and to recognise the signs of abuse in a child friendly, interactive way. Children are taught to speak out if they are worried, either to a trusted adult or Childline.

The NSPCC have developed an online version of their Speak out. Stay safe. programme to help overcome some of the challenges that the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has presented in relation to having external speakers in school. In the online assembly, the Speak out. Stay safe. messages continue to be delivered in a fun and interactive way with the help of their mascot Buddy as well as special guest appearances from Ant and Dec.

We have studied the content of the materials and are extremely confident that they are appropriate for infant-school-aged children. By the end of the programme, we're convinced children will feel empowered – knowing how they can speak out and stay safe. If you would like to know more about the *Speak out*. Stay safe. programme you can find more information on the NSPCC website <a href="https://www.nspcc.org.uk/speakout">www.nspcc.org.uk/speakout</a> or I would be happy to discuss any questions that you may have.

## Talking PANTS with your children

The NSPCC's work in schools will help encourage conversations about staying safe and they have a number of child-friendly materials to help you carry on the conversation afterwards. That includes 'Talk PANTS', a simple way for parents to help keep children safe from sexual abuse - without using scary words.

The guide uses the rules of PANTS to teach children that their body belongs to them and them alone.

You can find out more and download the free resources at <a href="www.nspcc.org.uk/pants.com/www.nspcc.org.uk/pants.com/">www.nspcc.org.uk/pants.com/</a>. Childline Under 12's Website

Childline also have a website with age appropriate advice for primary school children on topics such as bullying. It also has games and other interactive tools. Your child can visit at <a href="https://www.childline.org.uk/kids.">www.childline.org.uk/kids.</a>

If you'd like to know more about the NSPCC's work, or take a look at the wide range of information and advice which is available for parents and carers, please visit their website www.nspcc.org.uk/parents.

## **Parking**

Once again, could I respectfully ask parents when dropping off/collecting children to park safely and with courtesy for our neighbours and other road users. A reminder 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. I do appreciate that it is the blatant disregard of a small minority of parents. I have advised local residents who have expressed their frustration at not being able to access their own carparking spaces to contact the police with registration numbers should problems continue. Many thanks to the vast majority of our parents and carers your co-operation and support in ensuring the safety of all our children and families and respect for our neighbours.

## 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 if national guidelines and local restrictions allow. 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. After half-term, we will be posting a virtual tour of the school on the website and will be happy to answer any follow-up queries that parents and carers may have.

Just a reminder — all applications for Reception places in September 2021 must be submitted on line to  $\underline{www.sefton.gov.uk/admissions}$  by 15<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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

## HALF TERM MONDAY 26th OCTOBER - FRIDAY 30th OCTOBER

## November

Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov Return to school

Mon 9th Nov Virtual Parents' Consultation Meetings 4-7pm

Tues 10<sup>th</sup> Nov Nursery Virtual Parent Meetings

KS1 NSPCC Assembly - Speak Out. Stay Safe.

Thurs 12th Nov Virtual Parents' Consultation Meetings 4-7pm

December

Fri 4<sup>th</sup> Dec Santa Day

Thurs 17<sup>th</sup> Dec End of Term for Nursery (normal finish time)

Fri 18<sup>th</sup> Dec 1.50pm End of Term

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY MONDAY 21st DECEMBER - FRIDAY 1st JANUARY 2021

## January

Mon 4th Jan INSET Day - school closed for pupils

Tues 5<sup>th</sup> Jan Return to school

Our next newsletter will be circulated on Friday 13th November 2020.

Thank you everyone for your continued support during these tricky times. We really do appreciate it.

Please take care and stay safe next week and we look forward to welcoming the children back on Monday  $2^{nd}$  November.

Yours sincerely

E. Haney

Mrs E. Haney Headteacher