



Forefield Community Infant and Nursery School

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Headteacher: Mrs E. Haney



5th February 2021

NEWSLETTER 10

Dear Parents,

I hope all our families are keeping safe and well.

Looking after our **mental health and well-being** has never been more important but in the current circumstances can be more challenging given that there are so many things that we just can't do at the moment. That said, there are lots of things that we can do! E.L.S.A Support, an organisation that our pastoral team work closely with, have developed a resource to mark Children's Mental Health Week this week <https://www.elsa-support.co.uk/express-yourself-february-calendar/>. An 'Express Yourself' calendar for February can be downloaded from the site. There is a different drawing or talking activity for each day, encouraging the children to express their thoughts, feelings, strong emotions, dreams and aspirations. The ideas can be readily adapted for all ages - even grown-ups! The children may enjoy doing an activity a day in a special note-book or on paper which they can make into an 'Express Myself' book.

Alternatively, we have posted a 'Well-being' Book on the Remote Learning page of our website. This is full of lovely ideas for children (and grown-ups!) which T.T.S have kindly made freely available to download. Do have a look.

E-Safety

Technology - love it or loathe it, has been invaluable over the last twelve months both to communicate quickly with friends and family and for us with yourselves as parents and carers and as a vital tool to enable us to work and learn remotely in the challenging circumstances that we're all living through. Given that so many children are accessing learning using technology, ensuring that we can keep our children safe when doing so is more important than ever. We talk about e-safety all the time in school and it is a regular focus in our lessons. In February every year, we raise the profile even higher and have a special focus on Safer Internet Day which is on the 9th February. In place of our E-Safety Parent Workshop that we usually hold at this time each year, Mrs Roberts has kindly recorded a video which will be posted on the school's website. Through the video, she will provide parents and carers with important information and top tips for keeping your child safe when using technology and accessing the internet. The link below will also provide parents with very useful information for all age groups - the more informed we are, the safer our children will be.

<https://www.childnet.com/resources/safer-internet-day>

Next Tuesday, class storytime sessions will all focus on important e-safety messages for the children, please do ensure that your child participates if they possibly can.

World Book Day

We will be celebrating World Book Day and the enjoyment of reading on Thursday 4th March. Given that the Government has told us that they will be reviewing the situation regarding schools from the 8th March, it is highly likely that World Book Day may be celebrated both in school and at home this year. Teachers are planning some exciting activities and will share these via weekly, year group newsletters - please keep a look out.



Drop-off & Collection

Just a few reminders at drop-off and collection...

Please follow our one-way system at drop-off and collection times, especially those classes that arrive/leave at the last drop-off and collection time. Also, in support of social distancing, please ensure that anyone collecting or dropping-off children stands on the marked spots on the playground and that all children, including younger siblings, remain with their grown-up at all times.

Could I ask parents and carers to ensure children travelling to school on bikes and scooters (which is great to see!) dismount before entering the school playgrounds and don't use their bikes/scooters whilst on the playground for everyone's safety.

If grandparents or other carers drop/collect children on the playground, please could the safety messages be conveyed to them too. Many thanks for your support.

School Contact Over the Half-term holiday

School has been asked to support contact tracing over the start of the half-term holiday. If a child currently attending school tests positive for Covid 19, **having developed symptoms within 48 hours of being in school**, you should email school on admin@forefieldinfant.sefton.school. This email will be checked once a day. Should any children be identified as needing to self-isolate, you will receive **a message from school via the app with the self-isolation dates**.

Where a pupil tests positive for Covid 19, **having developed symptoms more than 48 hours** after being in school, parents and carers should follow contact tracing instruction provided by NHS Test and Trace. **Please advise school via email (address above) before 9am on Monday 22nd February if your child is due to attend school but is required to self-isolate or is or has been unwell.**

Hopefully none of these procedures will need to be used ... but just in case!

Free School Meals

Just a reminder that although all children in the Infants are entitled to a free school meal (Universal Infant Free School Meals), 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 (under 'normal circumstances') is used to fund extra-curricular activities for your child, trips and visits, snack and Toast Club and additional support and resources. Under current circumstances, families are also receiving shopping vouchers which I'm sure is an extra help during these tricky times.

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>

Your child may be able to get free school meals if you are in receipt of any of the following:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

Children who get paid these benefits directly, instead of through a parent or guardian, can also get free school meals.

Your child may also get free school meals if you get any of these benefits and your child is both:

- younger than the [compulsory age for starting school](#)
- in full-time education

If your child is eligible for free school meals, they'll remain eligible until they finish the phase of schooling (primary or secondary) they're in on 31 March 2022.

Family Help

We all know that any one of us could go through a tricky time at one time or another and it is our family and friends that can usually offer us some help and support. At the current time, we know that isn't always possible eg if you or they are having to self-isolate and you just can't get to the shops or may be families live out of the local area and can't travel. We have some shopping supplies in school that we would be more than happy to deliver to anyone who may need a few groceries to tide them over or you may know of someone who would appreciate a bag of shopping for whatever reason. If your family or you know of someone who could make use of a bag of shopping, please do send an email to the school admin email address or give Miss Edwards or Mrs Gregory a call, and we would be more than happy to help in whatever way we can.

Admissions

The closing date for applications for admission to Reception in September 2021 was the 15th January. If your child is due to start Reception next academic year and you have not submitted an application form, please contact Miss Edwards in the school's office or Sefton's Admissions Section on 0151 934 3590 who will be able to help you. Just a reminder that the closing date for Nursery applications for children to start in September 2021, is today, Friday 5th February with allocation of places being made on Friday 19th March 2021. If you would like an application form or to arrange a virtual tour of Nursery/school, once again, please contact Miss Edwards.

Dates for your Diary

February 2021

Fri 5th Feb	Closing Date for Nursery applications for Sept 2021
Tues 9 th Feb	Safer Internet Day
Fri 12 th Feb	Finish for half-term break
15th to 19th Feb	Half-term break
Thurs 25 th Feb	6pm Virtual Parent tour

March 2021

Thurs 4 th Mar	World Book Day
Fri 19 th Mar	Notification of Nursery places for Sept 2021
Wed 23 rd Mar	6pm Virtual Parent tour
Thurs 25 th Mar	end of term for Nursery children
Fri 26 th Mar	end of Spring Term

29th Mar to 9th April **Easter holiday**

April 2021

Mon 12th April	INSET Day - school closed to pupils
Tues 13th April	Children return to school
Wed 21 st April	6pm Virtual Parent tour

Our next newsletter will be circulated after the half-term break on Friday 26th February.
Do take care and stay safe.

Yours sincerely

Elaine Haney

Mrs Elaine Haney
Headteacher