

Milton St. John's CE Primary School

Newsletter

Monday 10 September

Remember to subscribe to the newsletter on our website to receive an electronic copy.

Welcome back to the new school year and a big warm welcome to all the new children, staff and parents who have recently joined us.

As always, the start of the new school year is quite an exciting time for everyone. Let us hope once again, that this year proves to be just as rewarding and enjoyable to everyone as the previous one. The school has many interesting and exciting things planned for this year and we will always try our best to ensure that you are given as much notice as possible about these events. Please understand however, that things do not always go according to plan and information for events etc. can come through the school mail system at the last minute. Communication between home and school, as always, is very important to us. Evidence shows that if there is good home/school communication, then the whole school community is able to work more effectively and efficiently. Please remember - if we are not aware of an issue then we cannot attempt to address it!

Class teachers are available in the playground after school every night and parents are also able to arrange alternative times to meet before and after school if more privacy is required. I will also be out and about after school whenever possible, so please feel free to approach me or just say hello! Mrs Titterington will also be available where possible in the playground each morning should you need her. To enable me to get to know the EYFS families, I will be around the EYFS unit every Thursday morning as much as possible.

Managing Nut and Other Allergy Policy

Please may we bring to your attention our Managing Nut and Other Allergy Policy which can be viewed on our website. As you may be aware, **ANAPHYLAXIS** is a severe allergic reaction at the extreme end of the allergic spectrum, affecting the entire body and can occur within minutes of exposure. The main causes are attributed to nuts, seeds and seafood.

One approach could be to ban nuts from Milton St John's; however, the **Anaphylaxis Campaign** highlights a number of problems with this approach as follows:

- It would be impossible to provide an absolute guarantee that the School is nut free, given that pupils regularly bring in food from home and food items bought on the way to School
- There would be a risk that children with allergies might be led into a false sense of security
- The nut ban would be seen as a precedent for demands to ban other potentially 'risky' foods.

However, whilst we are not proposing that we are a 'Nut Free School' the Governors have made the decision to not allow nuts into school to help minimise airborne allergic reactions to nuts. Therefore, nuts such as peanuts, cashew nuts, monkey nuts, almonds, pistachio etc (nuts in their natural form) are not allowed in school and will be sensitively taken off children if they are seen and handed back to the parents at the end of the school day. Nuts that are contained within products are still permitted eg cereal bars etc.

Policy on Food

Please could we remind parents about our Policy on Food. Children from Year 1 - 6 are allowed to bring a snack for mid-morning break should they wish. However, we encourage that snacks are healthy (no chocolate or sugary foods). Children in Key Stage 1 also have daily access to the fruit trolley. Children are encouraged to bring their own water bottle to school so that they are able to keep hydrated throughout the day. Children in Reception and Nursery have access to fruit and water throughout the day. Please see the following extract taken from the Policy on Food.

We **S**how respect. We are **H**onest. We **I**nclude others. We **N**ever give up. We seek **E**xcellence in all we do.

'We will ensure that our school environment promotes healthy eating. We do not encourage sweets or chocolate to be used as rewards or treats. Pupils and parents are also encouraged not to send sweets or chocolate into school for snacks. Special celebrations (birthdays, Easter, etc.) and events during the school year will be celebrated with either non-edible alternatives or given to the children at the end of the day and encouraged to be eaten after their evening meal.'

We will encourage children to drink plenty of water by encouraging them to bring their own water bottle to school which can be kept in the classroom and filled up with water from the drinking taps. If a water bottle is not available for the child we will provide them with a cup and regular opportunities to drink water throughout the day.

Children will be encouraged to bring healthier foods such as fruit or foods that are sugar free and lower in fat and salt to eat at break times if they wish to have a snack.'

'SHINE' – Week beginning Monday 17 September

Next week we are holding our first SHINE week where we will be reflecting on our mission and ethos statement 'Show Respect, Honest, Include others, Never give up and Excellence'. The children will focus on one value per day during SHINE week e.g. Monday = Show respect, Tuesday = Honest etc. It will be a very busy week for the children as they complete a series of personal, class and mixed class challenges. They will be completing outdoor activities (weather permitting!), producing individual and group artwork and reading and retelling stories with morals. They will be asked to consider how they can 'SHINE' during their everyday lives both at home and at school.

We always greatly value the support of parents and carers. To make our first SHINE week a success we need your help in two ways:

- We will send home a 'Personal Achievement Record' for your child to complete. Achievements could be learning to ride a bike with/without stabilisers, earning a badge/ certificate, continuing to try at something they find challenging or overcoming a problem they have faced. For the part on the record that says... 'This was achieved by' the child can write down what they did to achieve their goal.
- We need parent volunteers who are able to come into school during the week to share their own personal achievements with classes or small groups of children. It could be any achievement big or small (and the more varied the better) or an experience that you have had that has personally challenged you. We would really appreciate your help in making our SHINE week more interesting for the children. If you are able to help either contact your class teacher on class dojo or contact the school office.

Message from the PTA

Join the PTA! We are a small and friendly group of parents and teachers working to raise funds for the school and organise fun activities for the children. New members and ideas are always welcome! Our first meeting this year will be held at 7pm on Thursday 13 September in Aurora - please join us!

Reminder Achievement Assembly – Mondays 9.10am

To show how proud we are of our children, we will continue to hold an Achievement Assembly for them each week where possible. To make the assembly even more special, we invite the parents of any child receiving a certificate to the event. We are aware that sometimes a parent cannot attend; in this case any family member would be welcomed. In order to inform you that you are invited we will send a text out on a Thursday for the Achievement Assembly on the following Monday. We understand that this is short notice but unfortunately we are unable to do this any other way. The Midday Assistants will also be awarding the children a 'Playground Hero' throughout the week and the children will receive a certificate during the Achievement Assembly. Once again a text will be sent out to inform you if you are invited to the assembly.

Macmillan Coffee Morning – Friday 28 September 9.05am

We would like to invite all parents/carers and family members to our Macmillan Coffee Morning. It will be held on Friday 28 September from 9.05am. Cancer is the toughest fight most of us will ever face, and, as treatments improve; more and more people are living with cancer in their daily lives. The money we raise at our coffee morning will help make sure no one has to face cancer alone, from the moment they are diagnosed, through treatment and beyond. Any donations of cakes, biscuits etc. for the event would be greatly appreciated and we hope that you can all join us on the morning and enjoy the refreshments, have a chat and catch up with others and donate something towards the cause.

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Governor Vacancy

We sent information home on Friday 7 September about our Parent Governor Vacancy. The closing date for nominees to send information in by is Friday 21 September. If there is more than one nomination a ballot will proceed. Please could parents note that it states in the information given that *'if you decide to put yourself forward for the Parent Governor vacancy you will need to find two other parents/carers willing to propose and second your nomination'*, Tameside no longer require this, therefore all you have to do is send your completed nomination sheet by the required date, no further signatures are needed.

Data Collection Forms/Local Trips/E-Safety/Home School Agreement

For classes 1-6 Data Collection sheets were sent home last week. Please return these to the school office by Friday 14 September indicating any amendments or stating 'no change'. For Nursery and Reception, Data Collection sheets have already been sent to parents, if you have not already done so please return to school. All forms need returning by the date indicated.

As stated on the forms we are only requesting permissions once during your child's school career, unless there is a major policy change, therefore if you wish to remove your consent for local trip, internet use or photography please inform the school office in writing.

School Meals

Please be advised that if you wish to change your child's school meal preference, we require one week's notice to make the necessary amendments and to inform our catering team.

Homework/PE Kits

Children receive homework and spellings weekly. We also encourage parents to read with their child every night. The children have PE twice a week and will therefore need their kits on the days indicated. Please see the table below for the correct information for your child's class.

| Class | Homework | Spellings | PE Days |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 | Reading everyday | Given out Friday - test following Friday | Tuesday and Thursday |
| 2a (Miss Rodgers/Mrs Fernley) | Reading everyday + All classes set their homework on a Friday and must be completed and handed in by Wednesday the following week. Unfortunately, homework handed in after that will not be marked. | Given out Friday - test following Friday | Monday and Tuesday |
| 2b (Miss Collins) | | Given out Friday - test following Friday | Tuesday and Friday |
| 3 | | Given out Friday - test following Friday | Tuesday and Friday |
| 4 | | Given out Friday - test following Friday | Thursday and Friday |
| 5 | | Given out Friday - test following Friday | Monday and Friday |
| 6 | | Given out Friday - test following Friday | Monday and Friday |

School Uniform

It has been lovely to see how smart the children look this week and how proudly they wear their uniform. There are, however, a few children that have arrived at school in trainers (that are very expensive) or wearing other items that are not school uniform. The Department for Education states that it...

'strongly encourages schools to have a uniform as it can instil pride; support positive behaviour and discipline; encourage identity with, and support for, school ethos; ensure pupils of all races and backgrounds feel welcome; protect children from social pressures to dress in a particular way; and nurture cohesion and promote good relations between different groups of pupils'

From 17 September we will be contacting parents if children continue to wear incorrect uniform. The school uniform is as follows and is based on the colour royal blue and red:

| | | |
|------------------------------------------|------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Red polo top | PE: | White t-shirt (plain or with School logo) |
| Royal blue cardigan or jumper | | Black/blue shorts |
| Royal blue reversible fleece | | Black/blue jog bottoms and top |
| Charcoal grey skirt/pinafore or trousers | EYFS/KS1: | plimsolls or velcroed trainers |
| White or grey socks or grey tights | KS2: | plimsolls or trainers |
| Black shoes | | |

For Summer the children can wear red gingham dresses or charcoal grey shorts.

Lost Property

Unfortunately due to the amount of lost property that accumulates at school, our policy is to retain all items until the end of every half term, at that point any items that are still unclaimed will be sent for recycling.

Dangerous Parking

Please can we remind you all to be mindful of where you are parking in the mornings and also in the afternoons when you are dropping off or picking up your children from School. We are constantly receiving calls/emails from local residents due to the thoughtless parking of some of our Parents we are sad to say. Please respect our neighbours and be courteous when parking. If you know you are going to be on the School grounds for a long period of time, please be mindful that our local residents are also trying to get home and park outside their homes later on in the day. Also delivery drivers struggle to reach our neighbours homes due to thoughtless parking by others.

Apart from the fact that thoughtless parking is upsetting our neighbours, it also makes it extremely dangerous for our children coming in to and out of school. Cars are often trying to manoeuvre in tight spaces and around other parked cars; they cannot always see the children/parents trying to cross.

- For illegal parking/causing an obstruction, i.e. On the pavement, contact the Police on 101
- For parking in restricted areas/on double yellow lines etc. contact TMBC Traffic Unit on 0161 342 8355

Class Assemblies

Please note the following dates for your child's class assembly. You are welcome to attend your child's assembly; they start at 9.05am in the school hall for 20-25mins approx. Year 1 and 2 assemblies will be after Christmas.

| | |
|---------|------------------------|
| Class 3 | Wednesday 24 October |
| Class 4 | Wednesday 10 October |
| Class 5 | Wednesday 3 October |
| Class 6 | Wednesday 26 September |

Dates for your Diary

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| 17 September | SHINE week |
| 24 September | Spanish morning visit to Mossley Hollins for Year 3 |
| 28 September | Macmillan Coffee Morning |
| 4 October | Class 6 Safe Squad trip (am) |
| 15 October | Finance and Maths Week |
| 15 October | Class 6 Air Raid Shelters trip |
| 17 October | Individual School Photographs |
| 25 October | Harvest Service at St John's (Yr 1-6) |
| 5 November | Remembrance Week |



Our theme this month is new beginnings.
May we work hard to do our best and start
each day with a grateful heart.