Milton St. John's CE Primary School Newsletter

Monday 15 January

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



MCSP Christmas Musical Evening

A big thank you and well done to all of the children in Class 3 that took part in the Musical Evening just before Christmas. The evening was held at the George Lawton Hall and was a huge success, thank you to the MCSP for organising the event.





Junior Inspection

On Friday 12 January our Key Stage 2 School Council representatives turned into Junior Inspectors for the day with the help of our School Improvement Partner Mrs Thomas. After being trained by Mrs Thomas last week the children spent the day on Friday going into all of the classes and observing collective worship, lessons, dinnertime and playtime. They were focusing on teaching and learning and personal development, behaviour and welfare. The children did a fantastic job, identifying strengths and an area for development and will be feeding back to the school and Governors in the near future.

SIAMS Inspection - Wednesday 17 January

On Wednesday we welcome Mr Haigh who will be conducting our SIAMS inspection. All church schools are inspected through SIAMS inspections and the purpose of SIAMS is to evaluate the distinctiveness and effectiveness of a school as a church school. In order to evaluate this, all schools are inspected on the following core questions:

- How does the school, through its distinctive Christian character, meet the needs of all learners?
- What is the impact of collective worship on the school community?
- How effective is the leadership and management of the school as a church school?

Mr Haigh will be observing lessons and daily life at Milton St John's and as well as speaking to the children he will also be speaking to some of our parents, governors, staff and our vicar, Father David. All the information he gains on the day will allow him to comment and make decisions about the core questions above.

PTA News

The PTA are holding their next meeting on Thursday 8 February from 7pm at the Royal George in Mossley, all are welcome to attend.

PTA Fashion Show

Do you fancy a child free night of fashion, wine and meeting other mums? The PTA are hosting a fashion show at the Royal George on Friday 9 March, from 7pm. There will be a fantastic range of discounted high street clothes for sale. This will follow previous fashion shows that have been a great success, with a relaxed atmosphere, whilst helping to raise much needed funds for the school. Tickets are now available from the School Office, Skools Out or the PTA.

Reception and Class 1 – 'Little Bikers'

At Milton St John's we are funding 'Little Bikers' sessions through the PE Premium funding that is provided by the Government. The Little Bikers scheme is aimed to help children from EYFS and key stage 1. These sessions involve balance bikes where the children are aiming to improve balance and spatial awareness and also aim to help them ride a bike easier as they grow older, without stabilizers. The success rate of children being able to fully use the balance bike after 6 weeks of the scheme is very high. Children in Reception and Class 1 have already commenced sessions, which are held every Wednesday for the next few weeks.

Mindfulness Workshops
The children in Class 4, 5 and 6 will be taking part in Mindfulness Workshops over the next few weeks. This will encourage the children to become more mindful, by teaching strategies of relaxation and how to handle stress and anxiety. Understanding how stress can manifest itself in our bodies and techniques to release this.

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.

Class 1 Sea Turtles	**9 February**
Class 1 Dolphins	**16 February**
Class 2	**2 February**

Managing Nut and Other Allergy Policy
Please may we bring to your attention to our Managing Nut and Other Allergy Policy. This is attached to this newsletter and can be found on the website also. 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, can we strongly urge parents to be careful with what food is brought to school by their child. Although we accept that it isn't sensible to ban nuts completely, we would hope that parents support us by not sending in items such as bags of peanuts etc. We do have children in school that have nut and other allergies that could result in anaphylaxis.

Penalty Notices for Non- school attendance – Information for Parents/Carers
Section 444(A) of the Education Act 1996 empowers the local authority to issue Penalty Notices in cases of unauthorised absence from school. This means that when a pupil has unauthorised absence of 10 sessions (5 days) or more, in a 12 week period (where no acceptable reason has been given for the absence) or if their child persistently arrives late for school after the close of registration, their parents may receive a Penalty Notice of £120, which is reduced to £60 if paid within 21 days. The Penalty Notice will need to be paid in full before 28 days of the notice being served. Failure to pay a penalty notice may result in prosecution (a separate penalty notice may be issued to each parent for each child).

In law, an offence is committed if a parent fails to secure a child's regular attendance at school. Tameside Education Welfare Service, in conjunction with schools and Greater Manchester Police, will use these powers as an early deterrent to prevent patterns of unauthorised absence developing.

Parents may also receive a Penalty Notice without a warning letter for the offence of failing to secure regular school attendance under the following circumstances:

- Their child is stopped on a truancy sweep
- Where the unauthorized absence of a minimum of 10 sessions occurs on consecutive days

The Education and Inspections Act 2006 also makes it an offence if a parent fails to ensure that their child is not in a public place during the first 5 days of a fixed term or permanent exclusion. Penalty Notices may be issued for such an offence.

The Local Authority and schools are committed to providing the best possible future for your child. If you have concerns about your child's attendance at school or if you are experiencing any difficulties, please contact your school and ask for help.

Snow Closure
We will always try and keep the school open! However under certain circumstances and for various reasons this is not always the case.

1. We do check with local weather stations and liaise with the Local Authority to try and gauge whether there is a likelihood of heavy snowfall. Unfortunately the forecasts are not always accurate and there is heavier snowfall than predicted.
2. The school has a number of staff who live outside the Mossley area. If there are not enough qualified staff available to come into school to open up and manage it safely then it cannot open due to Health & Safety reasons.
3. If the roads are dangerous then the school may not receive food deliveries and may be unable to provide a hot meal or food for the children at lunch time.
4. If the school boilers fail to operate we would need to call out an engineer to repair the fault. The School would have to close if we are not able to heat the school. If the heating fails during the day we would make a decision about school closure and contacting parents.

If there is heavy snowfall and also taking into account the above points, this is what will happen.

1. If necessary a decision to close will be made by 8.15am (or earlier if possible). However if the weather deteriorates throughout the day, we may also need to close school. A text will be sent to all Parents advising them that school is closed or closing.
2. The website will be updated throughout the day, providing that it can be accessed.
3. We will pass school closure information to TMBC and they will update their website.
4. If school remains open, Classes may need to be split and shared amongst others if we do not have enough members of staff to cover all classes.
5. If snow is set to continue over a number of days and we are aware of disruption to traffic, we may look at opening at 10am so that school can remain open.

Sending text messages is the most effective way that we can communicate with our parents.
Could you please ensure that the school has an up-to-date contact number, if you have recently renewed your mobile phone this is particularly important!

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.

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

Head Lice
Please can we encourage all Parents to check their child's hair for head lice and treat if appropriate. It is important that once treated you continue to check to make sure the treatment has worked effectively and that your child has not become re-infected. This is particularly a problem in Class 1 and Class 2 at the moment.

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.

COMMUNITY NEWS

One of our Parents is collecting plastic bottle tops to raise funds for charity. If you would like to bring any in to School that we can pass on to her, it would be much appreciated.

The Incredible Plastic Street Band are currently recruiting new players! We have places available in the 4-6yrs group (pBuzz mini-trombones) and the 6-12yrs group (pTrumpet and pBone, full size plastic trumpets and trombones). We perform all our own music and the children rehearse once a week at the Vale community arts centre in Mossley. (Thursdays, 4pm pBuzz, 4.45pm-6pm pTrumpet/pBone). To sign up go to www.vale-music.co.uk or call Beren on 07941 157178.

Dates for your Diary

2 Feb	Class 2 Assembly
9 Feb	Class 1 Sea Turtles Assembly
16 Feb	Class 1 Dolphins Assembly
19-23 Feb	Half Term Break – School Closed
30 March-13 April	Easter Holidays – School Closed
16 April	Inset Day – School Closed
1 May	Class Photographs
7 May	Bank Holiday – School Closed
14-17 May	Class 6 SATs Week
28 May-8 June	Half Term Break – School Closed
15-18 June	Class 6 Kingswood Trip
25 July	Class 6 Presentation Evening – 6pm
26 July	Class 6 Leavers' Assembly – 9am
26 July	Class 6 Parents v's Leavers – 2.15pm
27 July	School Closes at 3.15pm for Summer Break

We have encouraged all of the children to think of a goal in which it positively affects their life.
"Every end is a new beginning."