

# Newsletter

Monday 13 January 2020

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

## **NEW NEWSLETTER ITEMS**

### **Christmas Show DVD**

The Christmas Show DVD is available to purchase if you would like one by logging in to Schoolmoney. The deadline for ordering a DVD is Friday 24 January 2020, unfortunately we won't be able to take any orders after this date.

### **Cashless School System – 'Schoolmoney'**

The new cashless system is now live and everybody will have been sent a password from Schoolmoney so you can register. You can go ahead and do this even if you don't have anything to pay for at the moment. If you experience any problems registering or need any support, please contact the school office.

Thank you for your patience with the implementation of the new system.

### **Clubs – Important information**

We are very fortunate at Milton to be able to offer the number of clubs that we do for our children. This is mainly down to the teachers and teaching assistants wanting the best for our children and allowing us to have so many clubs without any charges having to be incurred by parents. We are however, noticing an increasing number of parents that are picking their children up late from clubs. We are going to proceed with staff run clubs after school but we have therefore made the decision that if children are picked up late on two occasions over the year this will result in the child losing their place in a club. Thank you for your co-operation with this.

### **School Trips – Lunch Arrangements**

If your child usually has a school meal they will be automatically provided with a school packed lunch for any trips, unless you tell the office otherwise. Likewise, if your child usually brings a packed lunch from home, they will need to bring one on a trip day, unless you specifically ask at the office for a school packed lunch. You will be charged the normal price of £2.22 if your child normally has a school meal unless you have cancelled it with us.

### **Mellors' January Factsheet**

Please click on the Catering crayon down the left hand side of the website home page to see this month's factsheet. We will continue to update the Catering section of our website each month as we receive them.

### **Nursery September 2020**

We have places available in our Nursery. Please fill in an application form, available from the school office as soon as possible. The closing date is 10 February 2020. We will look at applications after this date if we still have places available.

### **Managing Nut and Other Allergy Policy**

Please may we remind you about our Managing Nut and Other Allergy Policy which can be viewed on our website. We do have children in our school with severe nut allergies, therefore, it is really important that parents are familiar with our policy. 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.

The Anaphylaxis Campaign highlights a number of problems with saying that we are a 'Nut Free School' 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**

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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 e.g. cereal bars etc. We do have a new child in school that does have a severe peanut allergy and we would appreciate your support with this matter when you are preparing packed lunches and snacks 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 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.'*

*We have also introduced milk at dinnertime for any children wishing to have a drink of milk each day. This is regardless of whether they are on a school dinner or not.*

### Penalty Notices for Non- school attendance –

Section 444(1) 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 absence is recorded as an unauthorised leave of absence for a minimum of 10 sessions in a 12 week period

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 issuing of a penalty notice is an alternative to issuing proceedings at court. As a proportionate response, the local authority is likely to give parents the opportunity to discharge their liability to criminal proceedings by way of a penalty notice on the first occasion.

Once a parent has discharged liability by paying a penalty notice on at least one occasion and where there is further unauthorised absence, they may not be given the option of paying a further penalty notice, but may instead be summoned to appear before Tameside Magistrate's Court to answer an offence under Section 444 of the education act 1996: failure to ensure regular attendance. If found guilty at court, a criminal conviction will be recorded against the parent which carries a fine of up to £2,500 and/or up to 3 months imprisonment.

Parents and carers of pupils registered at this school are reminded that they hold legal responsibility for ensuring that their child attends school regularly and punctually.

Milton St John's School shares the Government's determination to raise levels of pupil attendance and achievement in order to ensure the best possible start in life for our children.

Support and guidance on attendance is always available from our school and if you have any specific queries in relation to this letter, please contact me on our school number.

### **Mellors Alarm Clock Mondays**



In February, Mellors will be having a fun event where children can win a prize if they are in the queue when the alarm clock sounds.

If you would like your child to change to school meals please let the office know with a weeks notice.

### **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 2	Friday 24 January
Class 1	Thursday 30 January – Please note this assembly is on a Thursday
Class 5	Friday 14 February
Class 4	Friday 6 March

### **PTA Fashion Show Tickets**

The next Fashion Show is Friday 6 March 2020 at the Royal George, Greenfield 7pm. Tickets are now on sale from home time today from the school office @ £6 each. **Please only hand the correct money in to the office in an envelope with your child's name on it and how many tickets it is for. No change can be given.** If anyone would like to donate cake or chocolate on the night towards the refreshments it will be greatly appreciated.

Next PTA Meeting is Tuesday 4 February 7pm, Rising Sun pub. All welcome.

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## UPDATED PREVIOUS NEWSLETTER ITEMS

### Reception 2020

Online applications for those children that are to start in Reception in September 2020 are now open and close on 15 January 2020. Can parents please note that if your child attends our nursery your child does not automatically have a place in Reception. Online applications, by the deadline, must be completed please.

### 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, 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!**

### Diary Dates

Thursday 6 Feb

Class 5 Jodrell Bank trip `

Friday 26 June – 29 June

Kingswood residential trip



A New Year.....time to pause and reflect on what to do with the time that is given to you. Always be your best and remember we rise by lifting others.

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