

8th September 2011 Newsletter



Welcome back to an exciting new school year! It is lovely to see everyone again and to see the children's enthusiasm and readiness for their school life this year. In addition to the new reception children, we are welcoming a number of new children and the way that the other children take care of them is a really lovely aspect of this school. The new reception children are a delightful and promising group and they have all now spent one day in school together – one even asked if he could have some homework! New parents joining our school family are warmly invited to participate in all school events and to become involved in the Parent Teacher Association, this involvement can be to help with one event or to join one of the event teams and is an excellent way to meet other parents. The first meeting is being held at school on Wednesday 21st September 7.30pm and the PTA would love to see some new faces – there is wine!

The staff have been working hard over the summer to prepare the curriculum and classrooms for the year ahead. On 1st September we held a Vision Day, where the staff and governors decided on the key areas for school development for the next year. They also considered the direction and development of the school over the next three years, focussing on providing the best education for all children in our school community. We would like to present these ideas to parents on Thursday 28th September at 7pm and to invite parental involvement in this vision making process.

Church School Service



The service to bless our school takes place this Sunday at St. Mary's Church beginning at 10.45am. We would like as many school families as possible to attend for this family service. The children should wear school uniform and it will be a great celebration for the school. The choir will be singing and the school has chosen the hymns. It will be a lovely service which has been especially devised for the school and to celebrate the church's patronal festival. Afterwards there will be drinks and biscuits at the Parish Centre.

Choir children should arrive at 10.30am for a short practice. They can sit with you for the service and just come out for the anthem.

Apology from Uniform Suppliers

We have an apology to communicate from our uniform suppliers because they have failed to meet the start of term deadline. This is most inconvenient for many and especially to the new starters but we are expecting it to be resolved shortly.

Parking

Our neighbours must have sighed when we came back this week because they are already telephoning with problems and we have also noticed a few. Just to clarify for everyone and to explain to new parents; parking is an ongoing problem because schools like this were built at the end of cul de sacs to ensure safety, since the children all walked to school. Our lifestyles are now very different and we are aware that many parents/carers drop children off on their way to work. However, there need to be some guidelines to make the system easier for everyone.



- Parking in the school car park is for staff and official visitors only

- Children may be dropped off in the turning circle, alongside the white line. For this they should be able to make their way in on their own, the accompanying adult should not need to get out of the car and the stopping time should be a matter of seconds
- If you need to get out of the car and take items out of the boot for your child, or see them across to the playground gate, please pull up in the drop off zone for no more than two minutes. Cars must not be left there while you wait for the bell to ring, the playground is supervised from 8.40am and it is not necessary to wait with your child
- If you need to park and bring your child into school there are very few solutions. The best option is to park near the co-op and walk down York Road. Please avoid parking the whole length of Grange Road, it makes it very difficult to pass and causes congestion. York Drive is a private road and should not be used for parking. Please do not park in the silly gap in the white line outside school, this has been left for Trafford to place a crossing point here but they still have not got round to it. If you are a member of the hockey club, you can park there and walk through the playground gate.

Our neighbours are very patient, please park with consideration and do not block their drives.



Morning routine

As usual at the start of the year various operational matters have to be discussed to ensure that we comply with current legislation. With regard to safeguarding, we can not allow parents into the school building in the morning unless they sign in as a visitor at the office. Most teaching staff will be in the playground at 8.45am (unless they have a meeting) and if you need to mention anything, please see them then. If your child's teacher is not available, please speak to another member of staff or make an appointment to see them after school in the week. All teachers have email addresses which consist of their initial and surname followed by .bcs@traffordlearning.org e.g. smartin.bcs@traffordlearning.org

Part of our job is to help the children to operate independently. Establishing a good routine where they take responsibility for their own PE kit, lunchbox, letter, musical instrument etc. is an important development for them. The office staff are dealing with large numbers of children wanting to telephone for missing items and parents/carers bringing them in. It should not be necessary for parents/carers to come into school several times a week and this is impacting on the work that the office staff are able to complete. Please encourage your child (however young) to take responsibility for themselves and their own equipment.

To encourage this independence and to assist with discipline in the morning, please do not line up with your child. When the bell rings the children will line up and we need to ensure both their safety and order. We would therefore be grateful if you could leave the playground before or as soon as the bell rings. From Monday the external gates will be locked at 9am and the only access and exit from school will be through the front and the car park.

International School

We are proud to announce that this school has been awarded International School status. This has come as a pat on the back for the staff's strenuous efforts to increase our links with schools in other areas and countries, to increase our modern language teaching and curriculum studies of other parts of the world, to become involved in overseas charity work and to hold International Day style events. Thank you to Mrs Cochrane and the International Team who have



worked so hard to complete the extensive paperwork and evidence files for this award, which confirms the school's excellence in this area. More exciting events are planned for this year.



Pre-School Playgroup

The first session of the year was held this morning. Parents and carers of all pre-school children in our school and local community are invited to attend on Thursday mornings 9 – 10.30am in the Community Classroom (brown mobile by the gate.) Do come along for a coffee, chat and play.

Data Collection Sheets

At the start of the year plenty of paper work has to be completed and the first of these to go out is the data collection sheet, which will come home today. Please check your child's information and return it to their class teacher as soon as possible.

Food Hygiene Success

We are delighted to report that the kitchen have received an award for receiving the highest food hygiene rating possible. Congratulations to Mrs Wood and the kitchen staff for maintaining the very high standards of food preparation and winning this award.



Dates

A full list of dates for the year will be sent out soon. In the meantime the dates that we have for this term so far are:

Sunday 11 th Sept.	10.45am	Church School Service
Friday 16 th Sept.		Y3R Swimming begins
Saturday 17 th Sept.		AGGs & ABGS Entrance exams
	3.00pm	PTA Autumn Walk/Treasure Hunt
Weds. 21 st Sept.	7.30pm	PTA Meeting (AGM)
Thursday 22 nd Sept.	7.00pm	Reception parents welcome meeting
Sat. 24 th Sept.		St. Ambrose entrance exam
Thursday 29 th Sept.	7.00pm	School Vision Meeting
Saturday 1 st Oct.		Sale Grammar entrance exam
Tuesday 4 th Oct.	7.00pm	Y5 Kingswood and secondary transition/selection meeting
Thursday 6 th Oct.	7.00pm	Governors' Meeting
Friday 7 th Oct.	9.15am	Harvest Festival Rec. and Y1 at school
	2.00pm	Harvest Festival Y2-6 at St. Mary's
Monday 10 th Oct.	After school	Junior Parents' Meetings
Weds 12 th Oct.	After school	Infant/Reception Parents' Meetings
Thursday 13 th Oct.	After school	Junior Parents' Evening
Tuesday 18 th Oct.	After school	Infant Parents' Meetings
Weds 19 th Oct.		Y5 to Kingswood
Friday 21 st Oct.	3 and 3.15pm	School Closes (Own Clothes Day)
		Y5 return from Kingswood
Monday 31 st Oct.	8.50am	Return to School