

A U T U M N 2 0 1 7

The Much Woolton

Newsletter Number 1 of this school year



A very warm welcome back to all our families from what we hope has been and enjoyable and happy summer break. All our staff are raring to go and looking forward to another successful year at Much Woolton!

We especially welcome all our new children and our new staff in Miss Ralston who is teaching class 4 and Mr Doyle who is our new trainee teacher.

Below are a few reminders about basic procedures and policies for the year to come:

Attendance and Punctuality



Great attendance and being on time each day is a must for all children if they are to progress academically. To aid this we have made a few adjustments to our procedures which are outlined in at the end of this newsletter and come into force from this Monday, 11 September.

Uniform



The children looked very smart on their return today. Children should now have the correct PE kit in school each day but may wear their PE kit for the full day on their specified PE day. Children are expected to wear black shoes (not trainers) and can change into trainers for break and lunchtime.

All long hair must be tied back and only small bows in school colours are permitted. Short hair must be in a plain style. Staff will ask children to take out any bows that are too large.

No jewellery of any kind is permitted.

Please clearly label all your child's belongings.

Key dates :

- ✓ Thursday 7 September- welcome to our EYFS children beginning part time!
- ✓ Monday 11 September- Y5 Bikeability training begins
- ✓ Tuesday 12 September- Dementia friendly school cake sale
- ✓ Monday 16 October- school closed for staff training
- ✓ Thursday 19 October- Open day for children beginning in September 2018
- ✓ Friday 20 October- school closes for half term (3.30pm)
- ✓ Monday 30 October- school opens for Autumn 2
- ✓ Tuesday 7 November- Infants Parent's evening
- ✓ Wednesday 8 November- Junior Parent's evening
- ✓ Tuesday 19 December- Open afternoon 3.30-5pm for parents to see children's work
- ✓ Wednesday 20 December- school closes for Christmas (2pm)

Dates and times for class assemblies, PTA events and other school events will be published in due course.

Communication



Successful communication between home and school is an essential for all children. There are a number of ways in which we will try to communicate with families:

1. Parentmail- this will be used for the majority of communications, letters, newsletters etc, via email which needs to be checked at home regularly.
2. Hard copy letter- we are attempting to reduce this to stop waste and loss.
3. Text message (via Parentmail) in an emergency or short notice changes to activities.
4. App message (via School Spider website app) if Parentmail is not working.
5. Twitter- for general news about school life
6. School website for calendar, class pages, policies and other relevant school information.

We work hard to keep our website as up to date as possible and need up to date contact details for Parentmail. Please also download the School Spider app for both Apple and Android users.

You can also communicate with us via:

1. Face to face- school staff are available to the beginning and end of the school day or via appointment.
2. Letter- write to school staff outlining your issue.
3. Phone- school staff will attempt to call you back at the earliest convenient time.
4. Appointments to see any member of school staff can be made via the office.

Please note we currently do not have the capacity to respond to emails and do not respond to any comments on our Twitter feed.

We know that working together with families will ensure the best chance of success for children. Our staff are hear first and foremost to support our children in their learning and by working with families on any issue, no matter how large or small, we can secure that success.

Dementia Friendly School



On Sunday 3rd September Mrs Hines and her family took part in a Memory Walk at Croxteth Park in aid of the Alzheimer's Society. They raised lots in sponsorship but would like to raise more! On Tuesday 12th September we are going to have a cake sale at morning playtime. If children could bring cakes to sell and money to buy cakes with all proceeds going to the grand total from Mrs Hines' fundraising efforts.

We would also like to become a 'dementia friendly' Primary school. We are in the process of working with the Archdiocese and the Alzheimer's Society to provide child-friendly information around the topic of dementia and how our children can become 'dementia friends.'



- During the winter leave home with time to spare before school opens as it may take longer to get here and park carefully, if you drive.
- Teachers and school staff are available at the class doors each afternoon, or via the phone should you wish to discuss any issues.
- School is here to support our families. If you have any concerns about your child or family life please seek support from school and we will do our best to help.
- Please remember dogs are not allowed on our playground. Please do not carry or walk dogs onto the playground as some children are frightened of them. If needed leave dogs tied at the gate when you fetch your child. Please remove any mess your dog makes before going home.

Attendance and Punctuality changes

At the conclusion of the last school year, there were a few issues of apparent confusion around the subject of this very important matter. In order to try and improve greater clarity we have made some changes and would also like to reiterate some of our expectations.

- Class registers are taken at 9.00am and therefore the main school gate will be closed at **8.55am** from Monday 11th September. Any child not present to respond to their name being called will be marked as late.
- Children can go to class from 8.45am where they can read, respond to marking from their teacher or complete any unfinished work.
- The official school register closes at 9.30am, so any child who arrives **after** this time will be marked as absent for this morning session.
- If your child is unwell, please contact us as soon as possible on the first day of absence and provide a note upon their return. If this procedure is not followed, this period of absence will be 'unauthorised' and may lead to involvement from the Education Welfare Service.
- Should your child be absent for 5 or more consecutive school days, please could you provide medical evidence for your child's absence eg. prescription, appointment card, doctor's note etc.
- Where a child's absence is subsequently found to have been as a result of holiday, rather than illness, this absence will be recorded as unauthorised. Parents will be informed of this.

Please remember that we are here to support you; should you have any issues around your child's attendance/punctuality please do not hesitate to contact us.

Why is great attendance important?

Research shows that:

- Absence is damaging: it breaks the continuity of learning and as a consequence children miss important work and underachieve
- On returning to school, poor attenders suffer a loss of confidence due to the fact that they are unable to understand the work and that this loss of confidence can lead to attention seeking through disruptive behaviour and behavioural problems
- Poor attenders' friendship groups shrink and eventually close, leading to further isolation
- Regular attenders are affected when absentees return through the diversion of teacher time and class disruption
- Regular attenders feel irritated by the absences of poor attenders

Why is being punctual important?

Arriving 5 minutes late each day:

- 5 days a week = 25 minutes lost learning time a week
- 39 weeks a year = 16 hours and 15 minutes lost learning time a year
- 7 years in our school = 113 hours and 45 minutes learning time lost (nearly half a term)

Being on time:

- Gets your child's day off to a good start so he/she can settle straight into the school day
- Sets positive patterns for the future
- Leads to good attendance
- Leads to better achievement
- Leads to understanding that school is important and education is valuable

Being on time is a life skill that children should value from an early age