

Tonacliffe Road
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Headteacher: Mrs Joanne B Heap
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Where only our best is enough

1st November 2024

Autumn Term Update Letter

Dear parent/ guardian

As we start the second half of the autumn term, here are a few updates for you.

Lower Key Stage Two Yellow, Orange and Lime Classes

I know some parents are quite rightly concerned about the dismissal of children in yellow, orange and lime classes at the end of the school day and in order to make this safer, children in yellow class will be dismissed from the infant entrance (next to green class) starting from Monday 4th November 2024. This will hopefully help to alleviate the congestion at the lower key stage two entrance.

Also, in trying to make dismissal safer, please make yourself known to the class teachers and/ or teaching assistants on the doors when asking for your child. This will help the staff enormously. If you could also remind your child not to leave school until told to do so by a member of staff, again this will support all children leaving school safely. If arrangements for collection of your child change, please ensure you contact the school office in good time, ideally by 2.45pm.

Attendance Matters

It has already been noticeable how many children have been absent from school for various reasons since the start of the academic year. Regular attendance at school will:

- give your child the best possible start in life
- enable your child to reach their full potential

Many people feel primary education is not as important as secondary school education (which is most certainly not the case) but time missed in primary school sets up bad habits for the future. Good attendance now will help your child to understand what it means to be reliable and this will assist them as they progress through the education system in to the world of work.

Regular attendance means that your child must:

- attend school every day unless there are justified reasons
- arrive at school on time

You should start the habits of regular school attendance at an early age. If your child is reluctant to come to school, contact your child's class teacher and/ or me; we can work together to put things right. It is important that your child understands that you do not approve of them being absent.

Your child must not be kept away from school for reasons such as:

- visiting relatives
- taking long weekends
- shopping trips
- birthday treats



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- days out if your holidays do not match with school holidays

If your child is saying they feel unwell, before you keep them off school, consider whether they have a high temperature (above 38C) or not and whether they have a condition, such as chicken pox, which could be passed on to others. Professor Chris Whitty (Chief Medical Officer for England) has said it is appropriate to send children to school with mild respiratory illnesses, including cold symptoms such as a minor cough, runny nose or sore throat.

If your child is unable to attend school, you must contact school as early as you can; ideally before 9.15am on their first day of absence. When children are missing from school and no reasons have been provided, a home visit may be undertaken as part of our safeguarding procedures. A home visit may also be undertaken if there are concerns with your child's overall attendance, even if reasons have been provided.

When your child returns to school, you may be required to provide whatever medical evidence you have to show your child's absence was due to ill health. It is really unfair to cite ill health as a reason for absence, when a holiday has been taken. This places enormous stress on children. Please follow the correct procedures for requesting leave in term time – even if this means you incur a fixed penalty notice. Leave in term time request forms are available by the school office.

Please make routine dental and medical appointments out of school hours so your child's school day is not disrupted.

Dogs

Dogs are not allowed on school grounds – no matter their size or cuteness! Also, please consider that many children may be wary of dogs too; therefore, keep your dogs on a lead, under control and where possible, away from areas around the school grounds where there are higher numbers of children entering or leaving school at the start or end of the school day.

Vaping

Vaping, just like smoking, is not allowed on school premises or school grounds.

Parking

Please park legally and responsibly around school. If possible, park away from the immediate school vicinity and walk; this eases congestion, makes crossing the road by school safer and helps contribute to your child's 60 minutes of activity a day.

If you have a parking concern outside of school, report it online at <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/roads-parking-and-travel/parking/report-a-parking-problem/> or log with the police. Please bear in mind, school staff have no jurisdiction over parking.

Parents' Evenings

Parents' evening bookings have been available on the school spider app for Monday 4th November and Thursday 7th November. On your appointment date, please just come in to school – there is no need to sign in.

In order to help you find your way and to find your child's books, all classes will have a sign on their door. The



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following information should help too:

Nursery: go through the main entrance to school, then through the infant activity area and wait by the nursery door for Miss Gould to collect you.

Green, pink, white and red classes: children's books will be outside your child's class door in the infant activity area. Mrs Clutterbuck, Mrs Beninson, Mrs Cass and Miss Riley will collect you from the activity area when ready.

All the key stage two classes are positioned around the quad in the old side of the building.

Turquoise class: Children's books will be in turquoise class, please wait there for Miss Aherne to collect you.

Purple class: Children's books will be in turquoise class, please wait there for Miss Noble to collect you.

Gold class: Children's books will be outside the classroom door, please wait there for Miss Griffiths or Mrs Devine to collect you.

Lime class: Children's books will be in lime class, please wait there for Mrs Higgins to collect you.

Orange class: Children's books will be in orange class, please wait there for Mrs Sutcliffe to collect you.

Yellow class: Children's books will be in outside the classroom door, please wait there for Miss Whitworth to collect you.

Please try to keep to your appointment times. Appointments are timetabled to last for ten minutes; if you need longer, please make a separate meeting for another day.

Pumpkin Carving Competition

Thank you for supporting the school council's pumpkin carving competition – the children had a great assembly looking at all of the wonderful creations. Why not take a look at our weekly newsletter for pictures; this is available on the school's website.

With best wishes,

J. B. Heap

Mrs Joanne B. Heap
Headteacher



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