October 2020 Newsletter



Welcome to our second newsletter of the school term. We have busy times ahead so please keep this newsletter handy.

**Pupil Ambassadors**

Congratulations to Eve Armstrong and Sean Fitzpatrick who have been elected as Pupil Ambassadors for Session 2020 – 2021.

**Pope Francis Enrolment Mass**

Our P6 children will soon begin working towards the Pope Francis Faith Award which they will complete over the next two years. All Primary 6 pupils will participate in a live streaming of mass on Wednesday 30th September at 9.30am during which, they will enrol for this very special award.

**First Holy Communion**

Congratulations to our first group of Primary 5 pupils who received the Sacrament of First Holy Communion on 12th September after a long wait.

We look forward to celebrating the Sacrament with the remainder of our pupils on Saturday 2nd October at 9.30am. This mass will be streamed live via St. Edward’s Facebook page.

**Football Festival**

Due to Covid-19, current Local Authority guidelines prohibit schools from coming together to compete in sporting events. Despite this, our Active Schools team are committed to ensure that all children receive the opportunity to take part in a range of sports and physical activities. As such, all pupils from Primary 1 – 7 will participate in a virtual football event during the month of October. This will be completed during their outdoor P.E. sessions.

**Breakfast Club**

A reminder that we run a breakfast service in school every day from 8.15am. This service is free to those in receipt of free school meals and to **all** pupils in Primary 1 – 3. For all other pupils the cost is £1 per day with a sliding scale for families of 2 at £1.50 per day and families of 3 at £1.80 per day.

**Reading books**

A great deal of money was spent purchasing new reading books for pupils of all stages last term. A significant number of these books have been taken home and not returned since lockdown. This makes it impossible for new groups of pupils to access these reading resources. Please, search your homes for any reading books and return them to school as a matter of urgency.

We encourage pupils to take good care of school resources, including reading books. These are very expensive and we cannot continue to replace lost or damaged books at the rate we have done. Going forward, parents of pupils who have lost or damaged books, may be asked to pay for a replacement.

Can I also, please emphasise the importance of pupils bringing reading books to school **every day.** More and more pupils are coming to school without their books, which are necessary for the learning which takes place within the class.

**Snacks**

As a Health Promoting School, we encourage pupils to bring healthy snacks and drinks to school. Fizzy juice and energy drinks are **not** permitted. Sharing bags of sweets and crisps are also becoming increasingly evident in classes across the school. Pupils have a short 15 minute break and therefore require only a small snack. Can I also draw your attention to the fact that snacks with a high sugar content can significantly impact a child’s concentration in class which can have a negative impact on learning. Please consider this when choosing snacks for your child.

**Parents Portal**

Another reminder to encourage ALL parents / carers to sign up for our Parents Portal if you have not already done so. It is important that annual data checks are now completed through the portal. It is essential that this information is up to date. If you require any assistance with this please get in touch.

More information can be found at the website below:

<https://sway.office.com/pru2wH2rKtqHE59V?ref=Link&loc=play>

**School Uniform**

Many thanks to our parents who ensure that pupils attend school in full uniform every day. A reminder that blue school shirt **and tie** should be worn. Blue polo shirts are not part of our school uniform.

**Parent’s Evening**

Due to current restrictions, appointments for Parent’s Evening will be held over the phone this term. Appointments are now available to book by telephoning the school office.

Dates and times for appointments are as follows:

Primary 1: Tuesday 3.30pm – 6pm

Primary 2: Wednesday 3.30pm – 6pm

Primary 3/2: Tuesday 3.30pm – 6pm

Primary 3: Tuesday 3.30pm – 6pm

Primary 4: Wednesday 3.30pm – 6pm

Primary 5: Thursday 3.30pm – 6pm

Primary 6: Tuesday 3.30pm – 6pm

Primary 7: Wednesday 3.30pm – 6pm

If English is not your first language and you require a translation service. Please let us know when you contact the school office.

**October Week**

School will be closed for the October Week holiday from Monday 12th until Friday 16th October. School reopens on Monday 19th October.

**Head Lice**

Head lice are a common problem in school aged children. They can’t be prevented, but regular checking can ensure early detection and treatment if necessary. Can we please encourage you to remain vigilant by checking your child’s hair on a regular basis.

**Item drop off**

If you require to drop something off for your child during the course of the school day eg. packed lunch, a trolley will be placed inside the school entrance for this purpose. Please ensure that all items are labelled with your child’s name and class. This prevents the need for parents to enter the school building.

**Parental Visits**

A reminder that, due to current restrictions, parents are not permitted to enter the school building unless by prior appointment. Should you wish to speak to a member of school staff, please telephone the school on 794818 to arrange a suitable time.

If a parent has a pre-arranged appointment we ask that you arrive wearing a mask and complete the relevant track and trace paperwork at the office.

**Contact Information**

Please notify us immediately of any changes to telephone numbers to ensure we have the correct information in case of emergency. This information can be easily updated on our Parents Portal.

If you require further information on anything contained within this newsletter, or any other matter, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Sweeney.