People Directorate

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Friday 5th March 2021

Dear Parents / Carers,

We have had a great week of activities in the lead up to World Book Day and we are really enjoying seeing all of the photos on Facebook of your children reading for the, 'Show Your Shares' Photo Competition. Some of the entries for the Author competition have been brilliant as well and we will share these on the BLOG.

Talk for Writing - Parents Workshop

During this session all classes have been introducing, 'Talk for Writing approaches' to improve children's literacy skills in talking, listening, reading and writing. This approach is fun and extremely effective. During 'lockdown' the teachers were delivering 'Talk for Writing' lessons during live lessons and setting tasks for the children to complete at home, which has hopefully given you an insight into this. As a school we have invested a lot of time in training staff and the Literacy Development Group (Miss Grater, Mrs Thomson and Mrs Boyd) have been busy putting together information, photos, videos and activities to share with parents/carers to help you to understand what your children are talking about and how you can get involved.

"Talk for Writing is an engaging teaching framework developed by Pie Corbett, supported by Julia Strong. It is powerful because it is based on the principles of how children learn. It enables children to imitate the language they need for a particular topic orally, before reading and analysing it, and then writing their own version."

www.talk4writing.com

We would like to invite all parents/carers to join us on <u>Wednesday 10th March at 1.30pm</u> via zoom. We will send a text message for you to reply YES or NO if you wish to attend the training and thereafter we will send out the link for the meeting.

Arrangements for P4-7 returning to school

We have been very pleased to have our Early Years to P3 back for the last two weeks and we are now looking forward to welcoming back our P4-7 pupils after 8 weeks of Home Learning and school Hubs. The end is in sight for parents/carers \bigcirc !!!!

Uniform / PE

All children are once again encouraged to wear their school uniform and keep their casual clothes for when at home. Indoor P.E. activities are still not able to resume, other than with small groups or individuals. All children will be spending time engaging in outdoor sports and physical activities, so your child's teacher will communicate with you directly on any special requirements for clothing and footwear.





Entry /Exit

All classes will revert to the agreed arrangements prior to the 'lockdown', with different start and finish times to reduce any congestion and facilitate social distancing during these times. All children will enter and exit via the fire doors in their classroom. Please remember that only one parent or carer should drop off or collect your child, as we cannot have groups of parents/carers waiting in the playground for any length of time. Parents/Carers must wear a face covering when in the playground. It is important that children arrive at their allocated time as it is disruptive to the learning and compromises the safety of others, when children arrive persistently late.

Start and Finish Times:

Primary 1, 4, 7 8.50-2.50 Primary 2, 3, 5 and 6 9.00-3.00

Food and drink

Breakfast Club

Our Breakfast Club will resume on Monday 15th March and is open to all children from P1-7. Children entitled to a free school meal, are able to attend the Breakfast Club free of charge. All other children can attend for £1 each day. The breakfast club will be run each day by members of staff from **8.15-8.45am**.

Breakfast Choices
Toast / bread / pancakes (with butter and / or jam)
Rice Krispies, Cornflakes, Weetabix or porridge with milk
Fruit, yoghurt, raisins
Milk, Fruit Juice, water

Water

The children are encouraged to drink water throughout the day and the school has provided a water bottle for each child. They should bring two bottles of water each day, one for the morning and one for the afternoon, as the normal facility for pupils to re-fill from the water cooler is not available, as part of measures to prevent the potential spread of the virus. All children will be provided with water or milk at lunchtime as well.

Lunches

I have attached copies of the lunch menus for both the Early Years / P1 and the P2-7 menu which will be in place from 15th March to the 1st April. There will then be revised menus introduced after the Easter holidays. All children in the Early Years to P3 are entitled to a free school meal so please continue to encourage your child to take advantage of the meals being provided.

Parents are reminded that there is not a tuck-shop at this time so children should bring a healthy snack with them. If your child is bringing a packed lunch to school, it is important to provide them with healthy options such as a sandwich, fruit, yoghurt, cereal bar. Please avoid sugary snacks and chocolate spread. Please do not send any items containing nuts. All lunches should be in a disposable or recyclable bag which can be put in their pocket and taken home. Children can bring their lunch in a packed lunch bag or box but prior to going along to the dinner hall, they will remove the contents from their bag ready for lunch. Children do not need to take their water bottles along to the dinner hall as they will be provided with water during lunchtime.

Yours sincerely
Louise Morrison
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Head Teacher