

Autumn Term 2017/18

Safeguarding/Child Protection Officer—Mrs R Tyler

Dear Parents / Carers,

You'll be pleased to hear that our children are still working their socks off and are excited about all that's happening over the next few weeks. We must be having lots of fun because time is certainly flying by—October will soon be upon us!

Religious Education— This half term we continue to think about 'FAMILY' and we ask some big questions of ourselves. Is our family made up of only blood relatives or do we count friends as family? Why is family important to us and how do we show our family that we love and care for each other? What do we know about the family of God and how do we belong? Please take the time to talk to your child about what family means to you.



Parish News—Father David has asked me to thank those parents/carers who attended the meeting with him this week. Don't forget—the first meeting for you and your child is **Sunday 11th November at 11.15am** in the parish club. Father and I would love to see the children at 10am mass before the session begins as this would be a great way of helping your child to celebrate how they 'belong' to God's family.

Nursery— Our nursery children have settled in beautifully and have lots to look forward to over the next few weeks and months. The children have already been busy learning new letters and sounds and, earlier this week, they were thrilled to show me how fabulously they can sing the alphabet song—I was particularly impressed with the disco moves that accompany the singing! Mrs Richards has sent out a September newsletter for all of our nursery parents this week so please make sure that you get a copy of this if you have not already received it.

Rainbow Form returns—If you haven't already done so, can you please ensure that you have returned your white 'rainbow proforma' with consent for your child to take part in out of school activities etc. Can you also make sure that we have any updated mobile phone numbers as a matter of urgency so that we can contact you in the case of an emergency and so that you don't miss out on important information that we may text to you.

Pupil Leadership Team—Massive congratulations go to the following Y6 children who've been recently appointed to the Pupil Leadership Team:

Head Boy—Alfie Head Girl—Evie Deputy Head Boy—Logan Deputy Head Girl—Sydnee
Sports Captains—Thomas & Annie Deputy Sports Captains—Michael & Grace

This is not an easy job and they step into the shoes of a fabulous team; however, I am certain that they will rise to the challenge and be a fantastic asset to our school. They already have some exciting ideas for making our school an even better place to be and will soon be the authors of our monthly children's newsletter—watch this space! I will be meeting up with them for afternoon tea on Tuesday 9th October so that we can plan some exciting events for the year ahead.

School Council—Following a rigorous election campaign and class voting time, our new councillors have now been appointed. I am sure that they will live up to their classmates expectations and represent our children (and our school) beautifully.

Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
Peter & Ava	Shea & Neveah	Jamie & Olivia	Harvey & Ella	Jack & Millie	Alex & Faith

Attendance—This month, our attendance has been badly affected by a number of families taking holidays during term time. As you know, all absences are followed up by Mrs Fleming and Knowsley's School Attendance Service. All information relating to the way in which attendance is monitored and how penalty notices are given was sent out with your child's class report in July; however, this is also available to view on the school website and hard copies are available from the front desk.

3rd to 21st September

Rec	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	WHOLE SCHOOL
94.4%	96.5%	98.9%	91.7%	95.1%	98.6%	96.0%	95.8%

Punctuality—As you know, school starts when the bell rings at 5 to 9—when the doors to the school hall close. Please be aware that if your child is not in school at 5 to 9 they will be recorded as late. If they are late after 9.30am, they will be recorded as U and this will affect their overall attendance. Being on time for school ensures that children are well prepared and relaxed for the day ahead.





Book Fayre—The children always love the arrival of the Book Fayre and have had the opportunity to listen to a number of stories from a wide range of texts. My personal favourite this week is *The Ugly Five*—a new book from the author of *The Gruffalo* (Julia Donaldson). If you would like to have a browse or purchase something from the fayre, it will be open to parents/carers from 3.15pm to 3.45pm until Thursday 27th September.

Healthy Living in Knowsley—You may be aware that, as a borough, we have significant number of children and adults who are classed as over-weight or obese. We do a lot of work in school around healthy eating, exercise and making good choices (health wise). Please support us in helping our children to be as healthy as possible and give them the best life chances. Anyone bringing in packed lunches should make sure they are healthily balanced—please do not send in doughnuts and chocolate bars—these should be kept for a treat. For further information visit the NHS Healthy Lunchbox website.

WW1 Centenary (1918 to 2018)—This year is the 100th anniversary marking the end of the First World War. On Thursday 4th October, we will have the pleasure of watching a visiting theatre group performing a poignant play about the war from a child's perspective. Don't forget to ask your child all about it next week and share any stories that your family may have—never forget.



SNACK—As you know, we offer a range of snacks for pupils in school and these can be purchased direct from us (£1 for Rec to Y2 / £1.50 for Y3-6). We provide this service because our staff recognise how beneficial a healthy snack can be during the busy days that our children lead. Staff take time out of their weekend to ensure that snack is purchased for the week ahead because they care. School is not obliged to provide this service and so it is disappointing to learn of public Facebook posts which suggest that school or individual staff (including myself) make a huge profit on this service—we do not. Any money that is made from providing snack is used for the benefit of our children eg to provide resources or subsidise events. School accounts are externally audited on an annual basis and all monies taken are accounted for. Of course, you are under no obligation to purchase snack direct from the school and are welcome to provide a healthy snack for your child if you wish to do so.

Social Media Posts—A huge thank you to all of those parents/carers who persistently speak highly of our school and appreciate the work that we do—your support is truly valued. As you know, there may be occasions when you have a concern about your child or are disappointed regarding a particular aspect of the school's work. If this is the case, please (as the overwhelming majority of parents do) let us know. Unfortunately, I am aware of a very small number of parents/carers who post their grievances online rather than taking the appropriate action through official channels. Posts containing derogatory or defamatory references to any member of staff, child or parent are offensive and will be reported to Knowsley's Legal Team who will support the school as we consider any legal action that should be taken.

It's always a good idea to speak to someone who can help instead of posting online.

Safety on school grounds—Our children are encouraged to use their bikes and scooters to travel to and from school. We ask children (and adults) to walk them in and out of the school gates to avoid accidents which can and do happen when the premises are crowded. Please help us to keep our little ones safe by making sure that you remind your child to walk their bike/scooter in and out of school. Thank you.

Overview Errors!!!—Apologies but there are a couple of errors on the autumn overview that I sent out earlier this month. I am in the process of amending (and adding to) the overview and will reissue it next week for your reference. Thank you to those parents who quietly and kindly pointed these out—you know who you are and I really appreciate your support :-)

Entrance & Exit—Our new systems for entering and exiting the school are working really well and the children are benefitting from a nice, calm start to the day and a less congested end! Observing how sensible our children are as they come in to school is a pleasure and I am really enjoying getting some quality time with the children in Y1, 2 and 3 as we have story time in the hall on most mornings from 8.45am.

Maths Corner

Are you smarter than an 11 year old?

How much is 45% of 460?

What is $\frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{5} + \frac{1}{10}$?

What is $50 + (36 \div 6)$?

Write the year MMVI in figures.

With best wishes,

Mrs R Tyler (Headteacher)