



Tanners Wood JMI School

ESTABLISHED 1952

Head Teacher: Mrs P Qureshi

9th September 2016

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to a new academic year! I hope that everyone has had a well earned and restful summer holiday and taken advantage of the glorious weather we have had. A warm welcome to our new teachers; Mrs Pond, Mrs Wellock, Mrs Goodfellow, Mrs Waddell, Mrs Jenkins, Mrs Vassiliou, Miss Mathews and Teaching Assistants; Mrs Krasniqi and Mrs Beels to the school. We also welcome new children and families right across the school as well.

Start of academic year – Parent Teacher Meetings

Parents in Years 1-6 are invited to attend a meeting for their child. The meetings will run as follows:

12 th September	5.30pm Year 1 6.15pm Year 2
13 th September	5.30pm Year 3 6.15pm Year 4
14 th September	5.30pm Year 5 6.15pm Year 6

Meetings will be held in the classroom and will provide information about topics to be covered this term, general class-organisation arrangements and other relevant information for individual classes. This information has already been shared with Reception and Nursery parents.

It is important that all parents attend if possible so that they can find out about the year ahead. We politely request that you make arrangements for younger children as this meeting will be for parents only.

Key dates for the term

A list of key dates went out on the last school newsletter in July and we will send these out again next week. ***It is vital that all parents read our weekly newsletters so that you are aware of events and any changes that may take place.***

Attendance

The Department for Education has made amendments to school attendance regulations. The amendments make it clear that **'Head Teachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances'**. Head Teachers will no longer have the discretion to allow up to 10 days in a school year for a family holiday or to agree extended leave for parents to visit their country of origin.

You will no doubt understand that as the Head Teacher I have a duty, along with the school Governors, to promote the highest attendance levels possible. The school is set very high attendance targets by the Government; and our attendance data is regularly scrutinised by the Local Authority and Ofsted and is one of the factors by which they measure the success of the school. The academic progress of a child, whatever his/her level of academic ability, will be adversely affected if they miss school. If a child is unwell

then they should not come to school, but if, in addition, they have other time off school, then this will definitely have a detrimental effect on their progress.

Please take this into consideration when planning trips in the future.

If you believe your circumstances may be exceptional, then please discuss your request with me before making final plans. I will review each request for absence carefully, consulting with the Local Authority's Attendance Improvement Officer where and if necessary, and give you an answer as soon as possible. If you need to make a request for leave, then please ask the school office for a form. We ask that all requests are put in writing using this form at least two weeks prior to any leave.

The overall attendance record of the vast majority of our pupils is good and I very much appreciate your support in respecting and supporting the school's policy on attendance.

I have included a reminder of school dates for the coming year; please keep these dates in mind when making any arrangements for holidays. Term dates for 2017-18 will be shared in January 2017.

Autumn Term 2016

Inset day: Friday 21st October
Half term: Monday 24th October – Friday 28th October
Occasional Day: Monday 21st November
Term Ends: Wednesday 21st December

Spring Term 2017

Children begin: Thursday 5th January
Half term: Monday 13th – Friday 17th February
Inset day: Monday 20th February
Term Ends: Friday 31st March

Summer Term 2017

Children begin: Tuesday 18th April
May Bank Holiday Monday 1st May
Half term: Monday 29th May – Friday 2nd June
Term Ends: Wednesday 21st July
Inset day: Monday 24th July

Year 6 SATS- week beginning 8th May 2017

Year 1 Phonics testing- week beginning 12th June 2017

Absence and illness

If your child has been physically sick or has diarrhoea, he/she should be kept at home for a period of **48 hours**, to prevent the spreading of infections.

If your child is absent for any reason then please leave a message on the school's absence line before 9.15am (option 1 on the main school number).

Parent / Teacher Consultations

Parent/teacher consultation sessions will be held in the week before the October and February half-term holidays. This term the consultation sessions will be on Monday 17th October 3.30-6pm and Wednesday 19th October 5-8pm (**please note slight change of time from previous newsletter**) Dates for spring term 2017 consultations will be sent out at a later date. Parents will have a third opportunity to meet with teachers, if they wish, at the end of the academic year, to discuss the annual written report.

Parents of children who have a Special Educational Needs Support Plan will in addition, be invited to meet with teachers on a termly basis, to review the progress that their child is making and to set new targets. The SEND review consultation meeting this term is on **Wednesday 14th September from 3.30-4.30pm**. A letter has already been sent out.

We encourage an open door policy at the school, so if you have any queries or concerns, do speak to class teachers or myself. It is always preferable to meet with teachers after school, rather than before school. Alternatively, you can call the school office to make an appointment.

General reminders

Punctuality

It is important that all children attend school regularly and on time each day. Please allow sufficient time for your journey to school to ensure that your child is in the playground **before** the whistle is blown at 8.50am so that a prompt start can be made. The playground is not supervised before 8.40am, I would ask that children do not arrive at school before this time as the gates will not be open. If your child arrives after 9am they **must** report to the school office. Any children who arrive after 9am are recorded as late and after 9.15am as an unauthorised late in the register. Reception, Year 1 and 2 finish at 3.15pm each day and Years 3-6 finish at 3.20pm. It is helpful if you are here to collect your child promptly. All teachers will ensure that children are sent out on time.

End of the day arrangements

Children in Year R, Year 1 to 4 must be collected by an adult (over 18 years old) from their classrooms. Children in Years 5 and 6 are allowed to walk home on their own provided the class teacher has been informed.

Coming into and leaving school

Children who ride scooters and bikes must dismount by the school gate and walk their bikes and scooters into the school. ***It is also important that pre-school children do not use scooters or bikes in the playground. Scooters and bikes cannot be left on school premises unless they are locked away in the bike shelter which is located at the top of the junior field. The school does not accept any responsibility for them and they are left entirely at parent's risk. The play equipment must not be used by children outside school times. It is the responsibility of parents to ensure they enforce this with their children.***

Uniform

It is essential that all children wear the correct school uniform every day. **A reminder that black shoes are an essential part of our uniform and children must not wear trainers.** We will contact parents of children who are not wearing the correct uniform in person or a slip will be sent home. A few other reminders;

- Hair fashion accessories should not be worn. Small hairband and clips are acceptable. (black, red, white, grey only)
- White socks or grey tights for girls. Black or grey socks for boys (patterned socks/tights are not allowed)
- Long hair must be tied back.
- Nail varnish should not be worn to school.
- Hooped earrings must not be worn for health and safety reasons. Jewellery is not allowed including wearing of wristbands. Small watches are permitted.

Snacks

A reminder that if the Junior children bring in a mid-morning snack it must be a healthy one and consist of a **piece of fruit**. Crisps, chocolate biscuits and sweets are not acceptable and children will not be allowed to have these. The infant children continue to receive a 'free' piece of fruit or vegetable at break time each morning. As there are some children across the school with nut allergies we ask all parents not to send in nut based products. Please note many chocolate spreads contain nuts.

Photographs and filming

Please remember that any photographs taken of children in school productions, assemblies, sports days and other events are solely for your own personal use. As a school community, we must always put the safety of all children first. With this in mind I would like to clarify;

- Any filming/photographs that parents take will be for personal use only.
- Images must not be uploaded onto any public Internet sites, such as Facebook, You Tube etc.

Payment of any money

Any money, cheques, etc for any school events or trips **must** be put into an envelope with your child's name and class clearly marked on it. The envelope should be handed to the class teacher or Teaching Assistant. We will be using an online system in the very near future so that parents can pay electronically.

Gates

A polite reminder to all parents. Please do not open the main vehicular (red) school gates to enter the school at any time. This gate and entrance is for **staff only** at all times. If you need to come into school at any times, other than during the morning drop off or afternoon pick up, then please use the pedestrian gate and report to the main office. This is to ensure the safety of all our pupils so that we know who is on the school site.

The year ahead ...

Last year was a positive one at Tanners Wood and all staff and Governors fully intend to build on these successes so that we continue to improve our school. We hope that your child makes good progress in their work, develop their social skills and, most importantly, enjoys learning and school life. We look forward to working in partnership with you over the coming year.

Finally...

This is certainly a lengthy newsletter but I hope that it provides reminders for our existing families and useful information to our new ones.

I am quite often available at the beginning or end of the day at the entrance to the infant playground should you need to talk to me.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Qureshi
Head Teacher