



Edgewood Primary School

Building skills and values for life

Monday, 14 September 2015

Dear Parents/Carers,

Hello everyone and welcome back to the first newsletter of our new academic year. The school year has started fantastically well and already we seem to have a so much more settled and organised atmosphere around school. A big thank you to all the staff for the hard work they have put in over the summer and in the first days at school that have been such a big part of this great start to the year.

House Captains

You may remember from the end of term the announcement of our house captains. They now have their new black jumpers and fleeces so they are visible and have made a great start to their duties as stand-out examples to all our pupils.

New times for KS2 lunch

Those of you with older children may already be aware that KS2 (Years 3 to 6) lunchtime is now half an hour later. It runs from 12:30 to 1:30pm. So far this change has been very smooth thanks to the great teamwork of the midday supervisors and kitchen staff with lots of support from other staff and the Year 5/6 lunchtime helpers.

Water bottles

Please remember that all children should have water bottles in school. Drinking regularly is important for general health and effective brain function.

Water bottles should be filled with water, **not** squash or juice. If there is any problem with this please see your child's class teacher for advice.

School Milk

If your child is over five, they are still able to have school milk although it is now chargeable. The cost of this is usually around £15 a term. Once payment has been made to Cool Milk, it can take up to 2 weeks for your child's name to appear on our milk list. To register your child, please visit www.coolmilk.com/register

Attendance

The threshold for persistent absence has risen this year to 90%. While this may seem a low figure to many of you it equates to only 19 days absence over the entire year. Over this term that is only 7 days. This is now the threshold for referrals to Targeted Support.

School will be sending letters out again when a child's absence drops below 95% as this is the threshold where we want to make you aware that attendance is lower than it should be. For this term that is only 3.5 days. While we know there may be very valid reasons for the absence we need, as a school, to be prompt in improving attendance where we can.

The local authority has also issued new guidance around this issue which I will be reviewing with the governing body shortly. After that I will be able to give you more information.

After school clubs

Multi-skills club has already started on Wednesday nights for some of KS1 and Mr Williamson is currently setting up a timetable for other clubs. More information will follow soon.

Parent group

Parent group is now Wednesday afternoons. It is starting on Wednesday 23rd September from 1:30 to 3:30pm. It is in the Multi-use room in school and a free crèche is available. This term they will be studying Maths and participants can get a recognised accreditation on completion if they wish! See Mrs Holmes if you are interested. All are welcome, however confident you feel with Maths!

Reading morning and Parents Coffee morning

Starting this Thursday (though I know some came last week – thank you!) you can come into school and read with your child every Thursday morning from 8:50 to 9am. If you have two children please read with each on alternate weeks so neither misses out.

After reading with your child every week coffee, tea and biscuits are available in the leisure centre reception until 9:30am. This is an excellent way to sit down and meet other parents as well as school staff including myself when I am available.

Uniform

Thank you all for sending your children to school in such smart uniform for the start of the year. The children look fantastic. Please remember we will be rigorously enforcing uniform this year, including PE kit, and parents will be getting letters and asked in for meetings should this be a recurring issue.

Mrs Rees

Our best wishes to Mrs Rees who is off school currently recovering from an operation. She hopes to return to school after half term.

Parking around school

Our school is situated in the centre of houses and not close to any roads making parking very close to school extremely difficult. However we do have a number of entrances you can use to bring your children into and out of school each day. Please remember that while doors open at 8:50am in the morning, the school day actually starts at 9am so you do not have to be here too early if you wish to avoid the crowds.

We have already been contacted by a number of residents regarding the parking situation. As you would expect people to do around your houses, please ensure you park considerately and sensibly when dropping off and collecting children. Please do not block driveways or access, or residents will be well within their rights to call the police.

Behaviour of children and adults around school

Tied to the issue above we have also had a number of instances of people being rude and offensive during discussions with residents. Unfortunately this has been both from residents and from parents of children at our school. I'd like to stress as strongly as possible that there is absolutely no excuse for this and, as it does constitute anti-social behaviour, I have informed anyone being the victim of such behaviour to call the police as well as informing us in school. If it happens on school premises it will be dealt with in line with our acceptable behaviour of adults policy and we will take prompt action.

Please remember that while your children are your responsibility outside of school hours the school also has an obligation to act, especially if they are acting inappropriately whilst wearing school uniform.

Please remind your children that footballs should not be kicked around on the playground or around school before and after school, and bikes, scooters etc. must not be ridden in the playground. Before they enter the gates, children should dismount and walk them to the bike racks.

Smoking

Please remember that smoking is banned on all school grounds. For our school this therefore includes the areas not only within our fence-line but also all the paths, entrances and exits and grassy areas that surround school. Please refrain from smoking in all these areas.

Dogs

While dogs are not banned from school grounds they are only allowed if they are well-behaved (not barking loudly, jumping up and scaring children or other adults), kept on a **short** lead at all times and that they do not urinate or defecate on school grounds anywhere at any time. If anyone brings a dog onto school grounds that breaks any of these conditions please let school know and we will ban that dog from the premises and possibly have to look at not allowing any dogs onto the site.

Residents' gardens

We unfortunately have regular incidents of parents and children sitting on residents' walls, walking through people's front gardens and leaving litter in them. These areas are private property and not to be used by parents or children at any time. Please remember that you are responsible for your child's behaviour whenever they are in your care.

Many thanks, Ed Seeley