



**St Edmund Campion Catholic Primary
A Voluntary Academy**

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Hand in hand with Jesus Christ, we live, love and learn together.

Newsletter – 3rd September 2021

Dear Parent and Carer

Welcome back! It has been absolutely wonderful to see you all and all the children. We are now back to 'normal'! This includes whole school assemblies and no bubbles. To be very honest with you, it has been a challenge remembering what we did before all the COVID restrictions were brought in but all seems to have gone smoothly – to date!

A very warm welcome to all our new children whether they are part of our Foundation classes or in one of the other classes. A big welcome to some new staff too – Miss Frampton a new teacher in Year 2 and Miss Jones who is the new teacher in Year 5. A HUGE welcome to you all!

I am so proud of the children who have settled into school life so well.

Year Group Meetings

You will have been made aware of that each year group will be holding a 'welcome' meeting – see dates below:

Year 1 – Monday 6th September

Year 2 – Friday 10th September

Year 3 - Tuesday 7th September

Year 4 -Thursday 9th September

Year 5 – Monday 13th September

All the meetings will take place in the hall and will start at 8.45am and finish by 9.15am. You can access the hall from the playground after you have dropped your children off in the playground at the start of the day. This is an opportunity for you to meet the new class teachers and for them to share with you various organisational aspects of the year. There will be a powerpoint that will be shared on SeeSaw and the website if you cannot make the meeting.

The Year 6 meeting is at 6.00pm on Thursday 9th September – in the school hall





Start and end of the day

Just a reminder, as per my newsletter of 27.7.21, sent via Parent Mail – the gates to the playground open at 8.30am. Staff are on the playground to keep the children safe. Mrs Pezzolo, Mr Bartle and I are there and other staff are on duty too. The children walk into the playground and can meet up with their friends. The teacher on duty then blows the whistle at 8.45am and the children walk into their classrooms – where the teacher is waiting for them. Lessons officially start at 8.55am when we expect all children to be in and ready to learn.

We appreciate that this week has been a new 'normal' particularly for Year 1 children and parents. To reassure you all, on the first day, **all** staff were on the playground to support children and help them with these systems, which are very new for them. Year 1 staff have remained on the playground to direct the children to the classrooms, throughout the week.

End of the day: after the first day we have reviewed the systems. Teaching Assistants from the previous year are supporting staff when handing over children to parents. This helps with transition – for you to know who the teachers are and for the teachers to get to know you too. From Monday, 6th September, in order to ease congestion, we have decided to initiate a staggered end to the school day. **Therefore Year 1 and Year 2 children should be collected from the playground at 3.10 p.m.**

If a child is not collected within 30 minutes of the end of the school day and school are unable to make contact with any of the emergency named persons that parents have provided for their child, the school will contact Social Care, in line with safeguarding procedures.

I hope that this clarifies our procedures. I am very aware that it has been almost two years since we operated in this way and as much I am delighted to be in a more normal manner I realise that this will come with some anxiety on all parts!

Lockdown Puppy/Dog Population!!

A polite request to all of our families who bring their dogs at collection time. The alleyway is very narrow and congested at the end of the day. We seem to have a large number of dogs. Wherever possible, could we ask that avoid bringing your dogs to school at the end of the day.

COVID Update

Pupils **should not** come to school if they are displaying any of the following COVID symptoms:

- High temperature
- New continuous cough
- Loss of taste or smell

If a child displays COVID symptoms at school, however mild, the school will notify parents who will be required to collect the child immediately. The pupil should self-isolate and arrangements made for a PCR test to be taken. Any siblings who do not display symptoms, can remain in school.



A gentle reminder!

It is lovely to see the children in their uniforms looking so smart. This a reminder to all parents and children that long hair must be tied back during school time and that any hair bobbles or head bands should be in school colours- red, white or black. Remember – no Jo-Jo bows or elaborate headbands or braids from holidays! Also there should be no lines cut into hair and if clippers are used to cut hair then the lowest grade is a number 2. If hair is shaved then it must be graded in so there is no obvious distinction between the shaved and longer hair. Hair gel is not appropriate unless we are having a non-uniform day. Summer dresses and shorts can be worn until October half term 15th October and then again from after the Easter break, April 19th 2022. The PowerPoint that was shared with the children has been sent via Seesaw and is available on the school website as a visual reminder.

Parking

Please be considerate to our neighbours when you are parking in the roads close to our school. Please do not block driveways. When parking and driving, please take extra care to be vigilant and mindful that there are children from two schools in the area. As a school community we actively encourage you to walk, cycle or scoot into school. If you have to drive please consider parking a little further away and then walking in – socially distanced of course.

European Day of Language – Thursday, 23rd September 2021

- 1) We would like children to dress up in (inter)national outfits for the day - international sports kits included or dress in the colours of a country's flag
- 2) We are having an international breakfast and we would appreciate it if children made a small (voluntary) contribution of international breakfast items e.g. croissants, pain au chocolat, traditional cakes etc., which should be brought into school on the morning of the 23rd September to be shared with their class. These donations should be sealed and shop bought. This year we are requesting that we have no homemade breakfasts as a precaution, post COVID.
- 3) Children will be involved in the learning of various languages and international fact finding tasks during the day
- 4) The day will end with a celebration assembly

Please do not include any nut products as some of our children have very severe allergies.

Don't feel that you have to purchase a special outfit!

Disability Equality

If you have any special requirements regarding disability access at any of our school events *e.g. Parents Evening, Sports Day*, please let us know.

Charitable Giving

During the year we support a number of charities. The children are always keen and very generous with their time and talents. Last year we raised money for Emmanuel House, The Friary, Cafod, Father Vincent's orphan fund, NSPCC, Children In Need and others. Thank you very much for your support.





School Absence

If your child is unable to attend school due to illness or family reasons, please contact the school office before **9.30am**. Messages can be left on the school answer phone, 0115 914 7889 Option 1.

Any pupil absence from school, other than sickness or urgent family reasons, is to be discouraged. Please try to avoid taking holidays during term time. Where this is unavoidable, a leave of absence form should be collected from the office. Any request for leave of absence will be passed to the Education Welfare Officer who reviews each case in accordance with academy policy.

I would also like to request that you are honest about any leave of absence – it can put your child in a very compromising situation, if you tell them to lie about where they have been!

Change of Details

Please inform school of change of address/telephone number. It is important that we have up to date numbers and contact details in case of emergency.

Appointments

If your child has a medical appointment during school time, they should be collected via the school office. In the interest of your child's safety no child will be allowed off the school premises unless accompanied by an adult.

Safety in School

The safety of our children is paramount. Teachers are in their classes 10 minutes before the start of the school day. At the end of the school day teachers will hand over your children to you, the parents, or to a person nominated by you. Please inform your child's class teacher or the office if there is any change to the usual end of day going home arrangements. In the event of any delays please telephone the school office. Please also inform your class teacher if your child is taking part in any after school activity and which days these are on. In the interest of safety please keep pre-school children close by you at the start and end of the day.

We encourage the children to be as independent as possible and this includes being responsible for all their belongings. However we understand that there may be odd occasions that you may need to deliver items to the office. These can be left at the school office and we will arrange for your child to collect the items.

If you have any concerns regarding behaviour or school issues please talk to your child's class teacher or me.

Communication with Teachers.

Teaching staff are always willing to communicate with parents but it is not always convenient for them to do so at the start or the end of the day. If you wish to communicate with a teacher for any reason, please send a message via SeeSaw, write a note to the teacher or make an arrangement through the school office.



Administration of Medicine in School

Professional advice to teachers is that they should not administer medication. However we are flexible with this, but it is entirely down to the teacher's discretion.

Parents are responsible for the administration of medicines to their children. If your child requires medicine in the middle of the day please come to school to administer it. When a pupil becomes unwell in school they should be collected as soon as possible.

If a child becomes seriously unwell or is injured, an ambulance will be called and parents or relatives informed. *Self-Medication* - Where a child suffers from a condition such as asthma or diabetes, arrangements can be agreed for the child to self-administer medicines. Please ensure that up to date inhalers are available in school.

School Meals

Meals are provided in school through our catering company Aspens.

The cost of a school meal is currently £2.30 per day (£11.50 per week) payable half termly.

Parent Pay is the preferred way to pay for school meals – to access Parent Pay please follow this link www.parentpay.com

Should you wish to pay by either cash or cheque, this can be done via the school office. Cheques are made payable to 'St Edmund Campion School'. All cash / cheque payments for meals should be sealed in an envelope with the child's/children's name on the outside, including their class and labelled 'school meals payment'.

Please refrain from including nuts in packed lunches as a number of children have **severe** allergies to these. Sandwich boxes should be as compact as possible and clearly marked with your child's name. Please ensure lunch boxes contain a healthy, nutritional balanced lunch. All our children are encouraged to drink water at lunch time.

Food Allergies – If your child has a food allergy please confirm, in writing to the school office which foods affect your child.

Drinking Water

Research shows that children benefit from drinking water. This can help with concentration. At St Edmund Campion, children have access to drinking water throughout the day and are encouraged to bring in a named water bottle.

Head Lice

This is always a problem in every school. The only way to control head lice is **for all parents to check their child's hair thoroughly at least once a week**. Please encourage your child to brush their hair regularly and vigorously every night.



The eggs are easier to spot than the lice. **If seen, action must be taken immediately.** Treatment is available from the chemist or on prescription from your doctor and the direction should be followed carefully. Only treat infected heads, DO NOT use preparations “just in case”. The most important advice is to

remove the NITS (eggs attached to the hair) either by a fine toothed comb or by hand using your thumbnail against your forefinger. As head lice are becoming more resistant to the preparations and parents are increasingly anxious about using insecticides the following advice can be tried BUT it must be done thoroughly.

1. Wash and rinse hair thoroughly.
2. Apply conditioner to make combing easier.
3. Comb through with fine toothed comb.
4. Rinse conditioner off.
5. Repeat the process three times a week for TWO WEEKS.
6. Treat all the family and try to ensure all nits are removed as above.

A natural alternative to the conventional chemicals is tea tree (*Melaleuca alternifolia*) oil. Put 20 to 30 drops of tea tree oil in a pint of warm water and use this as a final rinse for the hair after wet-combing and after regular washing each day.

Social Networking

We are aware that many of you use social networks such Facebook or Instagram to communicate with friends and family. I take this opportunity to remind you that should it come to our notice that any derogatory remarks about the school or staff have been posted on a social network, legal advice will be taken on behalf of the school.

Lost Property

Lost property is situated in a large tub by the hall. If your child has mislaid any uniform please collect it from there. At the end of each half term it will be checked and any un-named items will be sent to a local charity shop.

Educational Visits, External Providers and Out of School Activities

We are committed to providing first hand experiences to children and use visits and outside providers to enhance the curriculum.

Visits may incur travelling costs, entry fees and providers charging for their services. The cost of any visit is kept to a minimum and we try to provide as much notice as possible. Should there be any difficulty financially with any of the educational visits provided, please come and see me or phone. Children who are eligible or have previously been eligible for Free School Meals are entitled to support in meeting the costs of such visits.



P.E. & Games

Please ensure that your child has the correct P.E. uniform in school from Mon- Fri. **PLEASE ENSURE ALL PE KIT IS NAMED INCLUDING PLIMSOLLS/TRAINERS.**

Helpers in School

We always appreciate the help of parents/grandparents/guardians/friends of our school. If you are able to help in school please contact the office. Any volunteers must complete a DBS clearance – information about this process can be provided by the office staff.

I am also attaching the dates for the year, which you can keep handy to refer to. I am optimistic that all can go ahead! Needless to say if there are any changes or additions, I will let you know.

Many thanks for your ongoing support

Mrs Blake
Head Teacher