



# Model School Newsletter

## September 2023

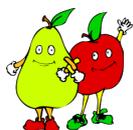
A very warm welcome back to all our pupils, parents and staff. I hope that everyone had a great summer.

We are once again ready to face new challenges, new opportunities and new experiences for everyone in the school community.

We are confident that with the fantastic support we have always received from parents that this year will be an even greater success for everyone. We are constantly striving to ensure that our children are availing of the best opportunities possible within a "caring, holistic, nurturing and inclusive" environment.

**As we welcome your child to the school for the first time or we welcome them back to a new Primary class we would like to remind everyone of the important points which will help to make the transition a smooth and happy experience:**

- School begins at **9:00 am**. **Children can be dropped off in the playground from 8:45 to 9:00am**. Please ensure that your child arrives on time for school as valuable interaction time with their peers and teachers at the start of the day can be missed as classes begin. Due to the success of children spending time outside in the mornings playing and interacting with their peers we are continuing with this. Staff will supervise this alongside Mrs Ramsey & Mr Bradley.
- **Parents are not allowed access to playground before 2.55. This is a child protection issue.**
- P1 & P2 will be collected at 2:15. P3 to P7 will be collected at 2:55 Monday to Friday.
- Our school uniform gives pupils a sense of common identity. Please ensure that the wearing of the uniform is consistent throughout the school year. **Please note that the uniform includes BLACK SHOES or TRAINERS**. We cannot stress enough the importance of getting names on uniforms. We have a lot of nearly new uniforms. If during the course of the year your child outgrows their uniform, please let us know and we will try to replace items from our stock.
- As part of our Safeguarding policy the gate at the Academy Road entrance will be closed each morning at **09:15**. If you should arrive after this time, please use the main entrance where a supervised buzzer system ensures only authorised persons may enter the school building.
- The Breakfast Club will thankfully continue this year in the school canteen. Pupils can enjoy a breakfast of drink/cereal/ toast for **70p (increased by 20p by EA)**. This club is part of our Extended Schools programme and the school subsidises the cost. The Breakfast club opens at 8:00am.
- The school will be providing fruit again this year, through Extended Schools Programme. Please do not put unhealthy items in your child's bag such as; fizzy drinks, crisps, chocolate biscuits. **Please be aware that some pupils in the school suffer from food allergies therefore it is imperative that parents do not send anything containing nuts or kiwis in lunchboxes as these can be life threatening for certain pupils.** We encourage pupils to drink plenty of water and they are permitted to bring in a **water bottle** every day to sip through class.



- **Please inform us of any dietary requirements/food allergies so that we can inform our school canteen.**
- If you need to talk to a teacher, please put a note in your child's homework diary or email the teacher directly.
- At home time all pupils should be collected at the Academy Road entrance. **For safety reasons the front door will be closed, and pupils will not be permitted to leave by this exit.**
- **Please make sure your child is collected on time. It is not our responsibility to supervise children in the office in the afternoons after 3pm.**
- We kindly ask parents to ONLY use the school grounds for dropping off and collecting children. **Parents are NOT allowed to use the school grounds for parking for their own personal use.**
- If your child is sick or misses a day at school, then it is necessary to send a note to the school on his/her return. This is important even if you have contacted the school by phone to explain the absence. A written explanation may be required when the school meets with the Educational Welfare Officer on a monthly basis to discuss absences. A written explanation may also be written in the child's Homework Diary. **When phoning to report an absence please use the answer machine service.**
- School attendance is not just essential, it's also beneficial and that in missing school you are also missing out on a range of other positive life experiences.
- PLEASE take 5 minutes at this stage of the school year to ensure that all your child's clothing and property is marked with his/her name and class. Every year there is an **obscene** amount of clothing which remains unclaimed. These clothes cost money and a few minutes of your time will ensure we can return any lost items.
- A change of underwear and socks is also required for P1, P2, P3 and P4. P.E. bags are available in the office at a cost of £3.00. P.E. uniform 2 days per week. **Your child's teacher will inform you of the days.**
- Currently school dinners cost £2.50 per day for Nursery children and £2.60 per day for children from P1-P7 or £13 per week. This may change. Please put money in an envelope and clearly mark the envelope with your child's name, class and amount. If you are paying for the week this can be left in the canteen from 08:15 on Mondays.
- **Please note that a cashless payment system is not in operation.**
- If your child is receiving music tuition from the Education Authority's music tutors, then a separate letter will be sent to you from Miss Clifford our Music Coordinator. Please note all music fees must be paid for this is not our responsibility. However, if you are in receipt of Free School Meals, you do not need to pay the music fees or for the hire of the instrument. **P5 pupils who have been selected for instrument tuition would have received a letter before breaking up for summer. The form and money for this must be sent to the music service NOT the school. You will receive a separate letter from the school about your child's music fees.**
- A reminder that our school website is currently active, and you will find a modelps.co.uk. Please ensure that you have downloaded our school app. This App is available in the play store and the apple store **ourschoolsapp**. You must enter the school postcode to link the app to the school. Postcode is **BT48 7HJ**. All information from the school is sent via the APP.
- **We understand the importance of communication in the smooth running of our school but stress the importance of reading the information that we send out.**



- Please ensure that your child is aware of who is collecting them daily before they come to school. There have been too many phone calls regarding changes to collection arrangements during the school day which is becoming increasingly hard to manage. A valid reason for collecting your child early must be provided.
- Please ensure that the school is aware of any change to contact details which may have occurred. If you have changed address or telephone number please inform Aine. On many occasions the school has tried to contact parents and the number has become discontinued. This also applies if you have relatives who are on our list of contacts in case of an emergency. Please check this as it is very important especially if we have to contact you in the case of a medical emergency.
- For Child Protection reasons children are **NOT** permitted to bring mobile phones to school. If you need to contact your child or vice versa the phone in the office is readily available.
- Our school clubs from P1 – P7 will resume on Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> September. We were delighted with the excellent response to these last year. **The club's letter will be issued on Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> September ready to begin the following week. Please read and sign the Clubs Code of Conduct. Please note that a cashless payment system is not in operation. If your child is attending clubs please be prepared to pay the correct amount weekly by cash. Children must be collected promptly after clubs.**
- The Rainbow Club will continue to run from Monday to Friday for those pupils in P1 & P2 at a cost of £2:00 per day from 2:15 – 2:55. It will commence on Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> September.
- We cannot underestimate the importance that working in partnership with parents has on the educational outcomes of children. We strongly value the cooperation which exists between school and home. Consequently, this year we resume our **Curriculum Meetings** for parents. These will begin on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September (dates will be provided). This will be an opportunity for you to become more directly involved in the education of your child. Teachers will provide an overview of the curriculum and requirements regarding homework, routines etc. This is also an opportunity for you to meet your child's teacher and to share any concerns which you may have. Further information will be sent out during the week.
- Please ensure all medications for your child are in date and that you inform your child's teacher if they have an inhaler and any other medications we should be aware of.
- Antibiotics should be administered at home if possible. If not, you will be required to fill out a request for a school to administer medication form which is available in the office.



We hope that we will build an even stronger link with you as parents during the coming year. Our PTFA is well established we really appreciate their time and efforts. We invite parents to come on board as we feel the PTFA strengthens our school community. Any small amount of fundraising can also make a huge difference to our school.

We appreciate that there is a lot of information in this newsletter. Some of which you may already be aware. Thank you for taking the time to read it. Should you have any questions or require clarification please do not hesitate to contact Áine in the office or Mrs Ramsey.