

Friday 29th June 2017

Pathways Parents Newsletter

Dear Parents / Carers,

What can I say! I've had a fantastic first couple of weeks getting to know the children, staff and parents. A lot has happened since my last newsletter including my appointment as permanent headteacher. Rest assured I'm here for the long haul and won't be disappearing (unless Pathways is within the Bermuda Triangle!).

I'd like to thank all those parents who gave up their time to join me for tea, coffee and biscuits (chocolate hobnobs!) last week. The meetings were really interesting and there were full and frank discussions on a number of issues including staffing, behaviour, communication, after school clubs, uniform and trips.

After speaking to parents it has become clear that there is some confusion around what you can expect from us at Pathways and what the school's views on issues are (the most burning question that I'm asked, by the children anyway, is are you bringing Fidget Spinners back? The answer is NO!) I am currently putting the finishing touches to a new school prospectus which will hopefully answer all of your questions about life at Pathways. Once I have finished this "tome of wisdom" I will ensure that each family receives a copy and it is also published on our website. However, no booklet will answer every question so if you are unsure about something, please don't hesitate to contact school.

End of Term Activities and Events

As we approach July it's "The Final Countdown" towards the end of term (give yourself a pat on the back and go and get your mullet cut if you can name the group that had a hit with that song in the mid-eighties). So here is a list of activities that are due to take place between now and the end of term.

Monday	3rd July	Hallam FM in school working with Yr.5's
Tuesday	4th July	Yr.2 visit to Cleethorpes (all day)
Wednesday	5th July	FS Sports Day (9.15am)
Thursday	6th July	KS1 Sports Day (9.15am)
Friday	7th July	Reports to Parent KS2 Sports Day at Parkwood Academy Yrs.3 & 4 (9.30 to 11.30) Yrs.5 & 6 (11.30 to 1.00)
Monday 10th to Friday	14th July	Yr.6 Residential to Thornbridge
Tuesday	11th July	Whole School Transition Day (am) Parents Evening (after school)
Wednesday	12th July	100% Attenders trip to Cinema (am)
Thursday	13th July	FS2 visit to the Yorkshire Wildlife Park (all day)
Friday	14th July	Yr.4 visit to the National Coalmining Museum (all day)
Monday	17th July	Yr.5 Fabulous Finish (10.00am) FS Fabulous Finish (pm) Yr.6 Fabulous Finish - Annie (2.00pm)
Tuesday	18th July	Yr.3 visit to the Blue John Cavern (all day) Yr.1 Fabulous Finish (10.00am) Yr.2 Fabulous Finish (2.00pm) Pathways Yr.6 Awards Night (5.30pm to 8.30pm)
Wednesday	19th July	Yr.3 Fabulous Finish (10.00am) Nursery Fabulous Finish (am & pm) Yr.4 Fabulous Finish (2.00pm)
Thursday	20th July	Attendance Assembly (9.00am) Yr.6 Parents Evening (after school)

Friday

20th July

School breaks up for the summer holidays

Non-uniform day

Yr.6 leavers Assembly (9.15am)

The Return of Miss Rafferty

I am sure that you will be pleased to learn that from Monday Miss Rafferty will be returning from maternity leave. She will be working in Year 2 from now until the end of the school year. We look forward to welcoming her back and I know she is looking forward to working with the children in Year 2.

A Global Community

In order to prepare our pupils for a world that is getting smaller all the time due to advances in technology and the rise of the global economic market our job in school is to tackle ignorance, embrace diversity and prepare the children of today to be the global citizens of tomorrow.

At Pathways are proud to embrace different cultures, religions and beliefs and provide pupils with opportunities to develop tolerance and understanding within our school and community including organising visits to different places of worship. I was also really touched this week when representatives from the local mosque brought gifts into school as part of their Eid celebration. I'm sure that all parents will want to support school in making sure that we live in a harmonious and tolerant society. Thanks.

School Start Time

I have noticed that there are a number of parents and pupils who regularly arrive late to school. Being late doesn't only affect your child, it disrupts other children in the class as well as the teachers trying to teach a lesson. Lost minutes mean lost learning. There is a clear link between attendance and attainment. The more time a pupil spends in school the more likely they are to improve their opportunity to fulfil their full potential.

Did you know that being late 15 minutes every day is the same as missing two whole weeks of school over a full academic year? A few minutes here and there shouldn't matter but every minute counts and that lost time all adds up. At Pathways we open the school doors at 8.45am and school official starts at 8.55am. If parents could please ensure children are in school by this time I would really appreciate it. In the immortal words of my wife

"Be on time at 5 to 9"

She is a head teacher as well. I'm sure you can imagine the wonderfully interesting and exciting conversations we have at tea time.

Playground Safety

I'm sure many of you will have seen me in the playground at the start and end of the school day asking children not to ride their bikes and scooters in the playground. This isn't because I want to spoil the children's fun (mwah ha ha!) It is to avoid accidents in the playground at the start and end of the school day. Can I ask parents not to let their children ride bikes or scooters in the playground. Thanks for your support.

If you have any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



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