

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2017

## Pathways Parents Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to Pathways Primary Academy. I can't believe that the summer has been and gone and we are now back at school bright eyed, bushy tailed and ready for a new academic year. It only seems like yesterday that we were bidding a sad farewell to our Yr. 6 pupils as they moved onto the next stage in their educational adventure.

So where shall I start? Thinks for a nano-second (honestly I do spend longer than that when making important decisions; I sometimes spend whole seconds weighing up the pros and cons of a particular course of action!).

### New Start Time and Routine

Parents will have noticed today that we have changed our start time and routine for the beginning of the day.

#### Nursery

In order to make organisation of the school day simpler we are now only having one nursery start time. This is 8.45am. All children, whether they are full-time or part-time should arrive at school at 8.45am each morning.

#### Main School

For all children from Reception through to Year 6 school now begins at 8.55am so children need to "Be on time at 5 to 9". Children in Years 1 to 6 should arrive for 8.55am where they will be met by their class teacher every day on the playground and be escorted into school. Reception children should be taken to their classes by parents

The school doors will be manned until 9.05am to allow any stragglers into school. Children who arrive after 9.05am will need to go to the main office to get their mark.

### Summer Building Work & Changes

#### Nursery and Reception

During the summer break the school has undergone some dramatic internal reorganisation. Reception is now based in main school and Nursery has moved to the cabins in the KS1 playground. The outdoor provision in Nursery has also been improved in order to provide better facilities for our youngest pupils.

#### Classrooms

Classrooms across school have been reorganised to make better use of space and Upper Key Stage 2 classes have had new anti-glare touch screen displays fitted in their rooms. We are hoping to roll these out across school in the near future.

#### Bike Shed

School has had a new bike shed fitted in the Key Stage 2 playground. This will be opened from tomorrow and will be locked during the day. The bike shed will be opened at the start and the end of the day and will be unsupervised so children should bring something to lock their bike with. Please note, school will not accept any responsibility for lost or damaged bikes or scooters.

#### Change of Teacher

Ms. Patterson, who was going to be one of our year 3 teachers this year, has decided not to return to Pathways for personal reasons. Unfortunately Ms. Patterson didn't inform school of her intention to leave until Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> August and so we were unable to inform parents prior to the start of term. However we have found an excellent replacement in Mrs. Shah who has worked at Pathways previously.

## Breakfast Club

Just a reminder to old and new parents alike. Our breakfast club runs each day from 8.00am until 8.45am and is open to all Pathways pupils and has a range of food on offer. Children can attend with or without parents but we ask that they sign in each day (for health and safety reasons) and follow the breakfast club rules. Parents and carers are welcome to attend breakfast club also.

## Parents Meeting (Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September @ 3.30pm)

Next Tuesday all class teachers are holding short informal meetings, about 15mins, to give parents the chance to meet staff, see the classrooms and ask any questions that they may have about their children's new classes. Meetings will take place in teacher's classrooms.

You will shortly receive a termly flier from each class with information regarding curriculum and homework. Next week you will also receive a calendar of dates and events for the year, which will include training days and other major activities.

## Attendance

Attendance at school is really important for a child's education. If your child is off school for 2 weeks each year to go on holiday they will miss half a year's primary school education. If they are also absent for 2 weeks through illness that will mean that they will miss a year of their primary education (to put it another way they will only attend school for 6 years instead of 7). The DfE spent tens of thousands of pounds and commissioned Glasgow University to undertake a study which told them what every teacher knows, children who have a lot of time off school don't do as well as those who attend every day. Please make sure that your child attends school every day as a days lost education can never be got back.

## Uniform, Hair & Jewellery

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents who ensured that their children returned to school in uniform. Can I ask parents to make sure all clothes, footwear, bags and lunchboxes have names in them?

This year we intend to issue all pupils in Yr.6 with a school blazer. We feel that as role models and ambassadors for school they deserve something that makes them stand out. These blazers are purchased at a considerable expense to school and therefore we ask parents to sign to say that if your child loses theirs, parents will purchase a replacement. We will also be selling school ties to Yr.6 pupils at a cost of £3.50 each

Regarding the school's policy on hair and jewellery, we ask parents to send their children dressed and prepared in a sensible way e.g. long hair tied back, no nail varnish, sensible hair (this means no sculpted, Mohican, multi-coloured or rat tail hairstyles) and no body piercings (only stud earrings are allowed). We also ask that no jewellery be worn apart from watches.

## Sharing Assemblies

This year Sharing Assemblies will be as follows:

<b>Key Stage 1</b>	<b>Friday 9.00am (Reception will join after Easter)</b>
<b>Key Stage 2</b>	<b>Friday 10.10am</b>

Whilst I know that this might be a little inconvenient for some parents, especially those in Key Stage 2, please try and attend, especially if your child is receiving a certificate as it means so much to them. Also if your child has received an award or certificate outside school and you would like it mentioned in assembly, please let me know.

Finally, if you have any worries or concerns then please don't hesitate to contact me.

Yours Faithfully



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