

Monday 25th September 2017

Pathways Parents Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

The new term is now well and truly under way and it has been a busy couple of weeks with lots of changes taking place. I can honestly say that the impact of these changes in school has been amazing.

Calendar of Dates and Events

Last week parents received a Calendar of Dates and Events for this academic year. The calendar has many of the important dates of the school year including: Training Days, Parents Evenings, major assemblies (including class assemblies) and concerts. Whilst the information in the calendar is comprehensive it isn't exhaustive and so you will receive additional updates via MY WONDERFUL NEWSLETTERS!

Sharing Assemblies

I really must apologise that our Friday sharing assemblies are yet to begin. There has been a delay at the printers with the certificates. I have been promised that they will arrive in the next few days. The plan is that children will be chosen on a Friday and a text message will be sent out to invite parents to the following Friday's assembly where the children will receive their certificate. This is so parents have a weeks' notice so that they can attend.

This year Sharing Assemblies will be as follows:

Key Stage 1	Friday 9.00am (Reception will join after Easter)
Key Stage 2	Friday 10.10am

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. It lets them know just how proud you are of their achievements. Please remember, if your child has received an award or certificate for an out of school activity and you would like me to mention it in assembly, please let me know and bring it in.

Harvest Festival

This year's Harvest Festival assembly will take place on:

Friday 6th October at 9.10am.

Please come and join us. If you would like to help those less fortunate, can you send in tinned and packet goods donations rather than perishables as these can be stored until needed. All donations will be given to a local charity supporting the homeless.

Changes to School Dinners

I have noticed that there is lots of confusion over the way that school dinners are currently organised. After October half term we intend to simplify the system so that it is much easier for everyone involved.

After half term we will no longer operate a system where pupils can change between school dinners and packed lunch on a daily basis. Children will either have a school dinner or a packed lunch each week. If you wish your child to change from a school dinner to a packed lunch or visa-versa, the office will require a weeks' notice for this to take effect. All dinners will need to be paid for at the start of each week.

The reason for the changes is so that staff can quickly take the dinner register and move onto learning. It will also allow the kitchen staff to order food much more accurately. Finally it will free up office staff to deal with parents far more quickly and efficiently on a morning.

Parents Forum

I would like to get parents views and opinions about the school, the recent changes and how they feel we could make Pathways even better moving forward. Therefore I would like to hold half termly parents meetings. The dates of this year are:

Tuesday 24th October @ 2.15pm
Tuesday 19th December @ 2.15pm
Tuesday 13th February @ 2.15pm
Tuesday 27th March @ 2.15pm
Tuesday 22nd May @ 2.15pm
Tuesday 10th July @ 2.15pm

These meetings are open to all parents. A text message will be sent out the week before each meeting just as a reminder. If you would like to attend, you just need to turn up. We also have coffee and biscuits!

Year 6 SATs Meeting (Thursday 28th September @ 3.30pm)

Next Thursday we are organising a short SATs meeting for the parents of all our Year 6 pupils to find out about the work that the children will be doing in preparation for next year's SATs. I am sure you will find it informative and interesting. If you have a child in Year 6, it's really important that you find out how you can support your child and make sure that they complete any homework provided. We will be running after school and Easter revision clubs this year and it is important that they attend these revision and Easter clubs so that they do their best both in Year 6 and in preparation for High School.

Parkwood Open Evening

Parents of children in years 5 and 6 may be interested to know that Parkwood Academy (our local E-Act secondary) are holding an open evening on:

Thursday 28th September 2017
5.00pm to 7.00pm

There are loads of activities and events taking place to help you and your child find out all about life at Parkwood. There is even the opportunity to meet a 2017 X-Factor finalist. If you are wondering, which secondary school to choose for your child, then this is the perfect opportunity to find out what Parkwood has to offer.

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

Yours Faithfully



Headteacher